

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

January 21, 2021

Agenda Item 6.c.

Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)

Subject: Authorization to amend a Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) contract with Grounded Research and Consulting, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$190,325 for services for BayREN implementation through December 31, 2022

Background: Since 2013, BayREN has implemented a portfolio of energy efficiency programs across the region. The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) serves as the program administrator and lead agency for a 10-member unincorporated association of local government entities.

On May 31, 2018, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued Decision 18-05-041¹ which among other things, authorized funding for BayREN through 2025, allowed for modifications to the existing portfolio, and increased the portfolio's total and annualized budget. PG&E – as directed by the CPUC – is the fiscal agent for BayREN. The CPUC has also allowed PG&E and BayREN to negotiate contract terms independent of the CPUC. ABAG and PG&E have a contract for funding through 2022. The overall BayREN budget is developed each calendar year and the contracts have historically been amended on an annual basis or as needed.

In 2017, ABAG issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to establish qualified consultants to perform evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) services for BayREN. Grounded Research and Consulting, LLC, a women-owned small business, responded to the RFQ and sufficiently demonstrated experience conducting EM&V studies of relevant program areas and of local government programs. Since then, Grounded Research and Consulting, LLC has completed seven studies for BayREN.

The funding associated with this amendment will permit Grounded Research and Consulting, LLC, to provide recommendations to conduct process evaluations for BayREN's Single Family and Multifamily programs. In addition, the funding provides support to refine BayREN's annual report² metrics and format. BayREN's

¹ <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M215/K706/215706139.PDF>

² <https://www.bayren.org/reports>

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annual report is provided to the California Public Utilities Commission, ABAG's Executive Board, and related stakeholders.

Issues: None

Recommended Action: The Executive Board is requested to authorize the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, or her designee, on behalf of the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Area Regional Energy Network, to enter into a contract amendment with Grounded Research and Consulting, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$190,325, for a total contracted amount of \$853,080, to provide services for BayREN evaluation, measurement, and verification through December 31, 2022.

Attachments: Summary Approval – Grounded Research and Consulting, LLC

Reviewed:



Therese W. McMillan