



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Administration Committee

DATE: May 4, 2016

FR: Executive Director

WI: 1121

RE: Contract – Plan Bay Area 2040 Environmental Impact Report Consultant: Ascent Environmental, Inc. (\$550,000)

This memorandum requests the Committee's approval of a contract in an amount not to exceed \$549,761 with Ascent Environmental, Inc. to prepare the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the update of *Plan Bay Area*, Plan Bay Area 2040. This work is anticipated to commence on or before May 16, 2016, and to be complete by July 30, 2017.

Background

The purpose of the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2040 – the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) – is to comply with the requirements of CEQA, as well as applicable provisions in the FAST Act (Title 23 CFR Parts 450 and 500), SB 375 and other relevant state and federal environmental laws. The EIR will be designed to inform decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies, and the general public of the proposed actions and the range of potential environmental effects of implementing the transportation and land-use strategies in Plan Bay Area 2040. The EIR will propose a broad range of feasible and effective mitigation measures to minimize the significant adverse regional impacts of the RTP/SCS, and evaluate a range of alternatives to the proposed RTP/SCS. As a programmatic EIR, it will also be prepared at a level of detail necessary to facilitate effective tiering from this document by lead agencies of future transportation and development projects, particularly those development projects that can benefit from the SB 375 CEQA streamlining provisions. The preparation of this document is required under state law.

Procurement Process

On Monday, April 4, 2016, MTC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consulting assistance in the above-described project. An email advertising the availability of the RFP on MTC's website was sent to individuals/firms. By the proposal due date of 4:00 p.m. (PST), Monday, April 25, 2016, MTC had received two proposals led by the following teams: Ascent Environmental, Inc. and Dyett & Bhatia. It was determined that both Proposers met the minimum qualifications.

A panel of three members comprised of staff from MTC and Tschudin Consulting Group performed an initial evaluation of the proposals and held interviews. Following the interviews a Best and Final Offer (BAFO) was initiated to modify the scope of work to remove the final phase of the project due to uncertainty in the level of effort required for completion. The panel scored the final proposals based on the evaluation criteria as listed in the table below:

Proposer	Ascent Environmental	Dyett & Bhatia
1. Individual and team expertise and experience providing similar consulting services (25%)	23	19
2. Approach to completing the project (25%)	23	18
3. Cost effectiveness (15%)	13	10
4. Cost (20%)	15	20
5. Written and oral communication skills (15%)	15	11
Total	89	78

The panel recommends the Ascent Environmental team (firm) as the proposer most advantageous to MTC based on the evaluation criteria stated in the RFP. The culmination of a number of identified strengths led to the panel's recommendation, including:

- Ascent proposed a talented technical team and their responses to questions were detailed and thoughtful.
- They clearly demonstrated their understanding of the connection between CEQA and the SCS.
- Their firm specializes in CEQA documents, has superior in-house depth in CEQA, and proposes a superior team of CEQA experts. They exhibited strong prior past experience with CEQA through their responses.
- They have excellent team experience in the areas of GHG emissions, sea level rise, and air quality emissions analysis and control. The firm and proposed principles have exhibited statewide leadership in policy and regulation in these areas.
- They proposed assignment of budget by task and position that is superior, and more cost effective on a unitized basis.
- The proposal was better written and the interview was excellent. They provided specific recommendations for method and approach. They demonstrated that they are solution oriented.
- There was a strong team dynamic evident throughout the interview. The team was cohesive and collaborative. They demonstrated superior fit for the job.
- They provided superior responses regarding integration of the settlement agreements and SB 375 streamlining into the document and the process.

- The strength and leadership of the project manager was clear in the proposal and throughout the interview. She has extensive experience (over two decades) managing EIRs. She demonstrated superior confidence, knowledge, and skill.

Ascent Environmental, Inc. is a registered Small Business Enterprise (SBE) as shown in Attachment A.

Recommendation

Staff recommends this Committee authorize the Executive Director or his designee to negotiate and enter into a consulting contract in an amount not to exceed \$549,761 with Ascent Environmental, Inc. to prepare the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2040.



Steve Heminger

SH:AN

Attachment A

	Firm Name	Role on Project	DBE* Firm			SBE** Firm		
			Yes	If Yes, List #	No	Yes	If Yes, List #	No
Prime Contractor	Ascent Environmental	project management, environmental analysis			X	X	#1208561	
Subcontractor	Kittleson and Associates	transportation analysis			X			X

*Denotes certification by the California Unified Certification Program (CUCP).

**Denotes certification by the State of California.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

Summary of Proposed Consultant Contract

Work Item No.:	1121
Consultant:	Ascent Environmental, Inc. (Sacramento, CA)
Work Project Title:	Plan Bay Area 2040 – the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)
Purpose of Project:	To prepare the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plan Bay Area 2040
Brief Scope of Work:	The preparation of the EIR will inform decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies, and the general public of the proposed actions and the range of potential environmental effects of implementing the transportation and land-use strategies in Plan Bay Area 2040. The EIR will propose a broad range of feasible and effective mitigation measures to minimize the significant adverse regional impacts of the Plan, and evaluate a range of alternatives.
Project Cost Not to Exceed:	\$549,761
Funding Source:	General Fund
Fiscal Impact:	\$320,000 is available in the FY 2015-16 Agency Budget. \$229,761 is subject to inclusion in the FY 2016-17 Agency Budget.
Motion by Committee:	That the Executive Director or his designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a consulting contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc., to prepare the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2040 as described above and in the Executive Director's memorandum dated May 4, 2016, and the Chief Financial Officer is directed to set aside funds in the amount of \$549,761 for such contract.
Administration Committee:	<hr/> Adrienne J. Tissier, Chair
Approved:	Date: May 11, 2016