

Metropolitan Transportation Commission Administration Committee

August 12, 2020

Agenda Item 5a - 20-1085

Contract – Plan Bay Area 2050 Environmental Impact Report: Ascent Environmental, Inc. (\$397,373.52)

Subject: Staff are seeking approval of a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$397,373.52 with Ascent Environmental, Inc. to provide environmental analysis services and prepare the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plan Bay Area 2050.

Background: The purpose of the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2050 – the long-range regional plan for transportation, housing, the economy, and the environment for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area – is to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as applicable provisions in the FAST Act (Title 23 CFR Parts 450 and 500), Senate Bill (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 range of potential environmental effects of implementing the transportation, housing, economic, and environmental strategies proposed in Plan Bay Area 2050. The EIR will also identify feasible mitigation measures and evaluate a range of plan alternatives to minimize the significant adverse impacts that are identified.

As a programmatic EIR, it will also be prepared at a sufficient level of detail to facilitate effective tiering from this document by lead agencies of future transportation and development projects, particularly those projects that can benefit from SB 375 CEQA streamlining provisions.

Procurement Process

MTC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on May 28, 2020 for consultant technical support to provide environmental analysis services. The RFP was posted on MTC's website and an e-mail advertising the opportunity was sent to 2,965 individuals and firms. The RFP materials were downloaded from MTC's online procurement portal by 70 firms. On June 4, 2020 MTC hosted a Pre-Proposal Conference which was attended by seven firms.

MTC received two qualified proposals, led by Rincon Consultants and Ascent Environmental, Inc. Each of these firms' proposals was supported by a team of subconsultants. A panel of three members comprised of staff from MTC performed an initial evaluation of the proposals and held interviews. The panel scored the final proposals based on the evaluation criteria as listed in the table on the following page:

Evaluation Criteria	Ascent Environmental	Rincon
Individual and Team Experience – 25 points	24.00	21.67
Approach to Completing the Project – 25 points	23.33	20.33
Cost Effectiveness – 15 points	13.00	12.00
Price – 20 points	18.00	20.00
Written and Oral Communications Skills - 15 points	14.33	12.67
Total	92.67	86.67

Based on its evaluation, the panel recommends the team led by Ascent Environmental, Inc. based on a number of identified strengths, including:

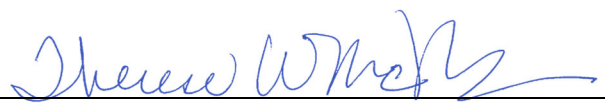
- A highly qualified team with demonstrated experience working on EIRs of similar size and scope;
- A team with a significant knowledge and staff expertise about key regional planning and environmental issues in the Bay Area;
- A clear understanding of the potential EIR implications of changes in the Plan's growth framework compared to past efforts; and
- A highly detailed and compelling approach to the project, which anticipated and proposed solutions to potential challenge areas.

Funds for this contract are available in the approved FY 2020-21 Agency Budget. Per the requirements of the RFP, the proposal from Ascent Environmental, Inc. included several optional subtasks focused primarily on technical assistance in key project areas. Funds for these optional subtasks, if needed, are available in the approved FY 2020-21 Agency Budget. The work under this contract is anticipated to commence on or before August 19, 2020, and to be complete by September 30, 2021. Attachment A includes a summary of Ascent Environmental, Inc. and its project team's small business and disadvantaged business enterprise status.

Issues: None identified

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Committee authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and enter into a contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$397,373.52 to prepare the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2050.

Attachments: Attachment A: Contractor DBE and SBE Status
Request for Committee Approval – Summary of Proposed Contract


Therese W. McMillan

Attachment A

Small Business and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Status

			DBE* Firm			SBE** Firm		
	Firm Name	Role on Project	Yes	If Yes, List #	No	Yes	If Yes, List #	No
Prime Contractor	Ascent Environmental, Inc.	Project management, environmental analysis			X	X	1208561	
Subcontractor	Kittelson & Associates, Inc.	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 Contract

Work Item No.: 1121

Consultant: Ascent Environmental, Inc. (Sacramento, CA)

Work Project Title: Plan Bay Area 2050 Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Purpose of Project: To prepare the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2050

Brief Scope of Work: The purpose of the EIR is to inform decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies, and the public of the potential environmental impacts of implementing the transportation, housing, economic and environmental strategies proposed in Plan Bay Area 2050. The EIR will also identify feasible mitigation measures and evaluate a range of plan alternatives to minimize the significant adverse impacts that are identified.

Project Cost Not to Exceed: \$397,373.52

Funding Source: General Fund

Fiscal Impact: \$397,373.52 is available in the FY 2020-21 Agency Budget.

Motion by Committee: That the Executive Director or designee is authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract with Ascent Environmental, Inc. to prepare the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2050 as described above and in the Administration Committee Summary Sheet dated August 12, 2020 and the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside \$397,373.52 for such contract.

Administration Committee:

Federal D. Glover, Chair

Approved: August 12, 2020