

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Administration Committee

June 12, 2024

Agenda Item 2b-24-0635

Contract – Plan Bay Area 2050+ Environmental Impact Report: Ascent Environmental, Inc. (\$1,100,000)

Subject:

Authorization to negotiate and enter into a contract in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,100,000 with Ascent Environmental, Inc. (Ascent) to provide environmental analysis services and prepare the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plan Bay Area 2050+ (“Project”).

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). 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.

Procurement

On March 19, 2024, MTC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant or consultant team to conduct the Project for the period from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, with an option to extend for an additional year. The RFP was posted on MTC’s website and shared with interested individuals and firms via MTC’s Bonfire procurement system. The RFP materials were downloaded by 56 document takers.

Staff hosted a non-mandatory pre-submittal conference on April 5, 2024, via Zoom, providing firms the opportunity to ask questions about the Project and the procurement process. The conference was attended by nine individuals representing eight different firms.

On May 1, 2024, MTC received two qualified proposals, one led by Ascent Environmental, Inc. and one led by PlaceWorks. Both proposals were supported by subconsultants. An evaluation

panel, consisting of three MTC staff members, reviewed the submittals based on the following evaluation criteria:

1. Individual and team expertise and experience providing similar consulting services (30%)
2. Approach to completing the project (30%)
3. Cost effectiveness (20%)
4. Price (10%)
5. Presentation (10%)

Based on the evaluation panel's review of the consultant submittals, the panel determined that Ascent had the highest total score. The Ascent proposal was supported by a highly qualified team with significant knowledge and staff experience, a clear understanding of the Project, and effective solutions to potential challenge areas, including ways to manage risk. Therefore, the evaluation panel recommends Ascent for the Project.

Neither Ascent nor its subconsultant is a small or disadvantaged business enterprise.

Issues:


None identified.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Committee authorize the Executive Director or his designee to negotiate and enter into a contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 with Ascent to prepare the EIR for Plan Bay Area 2050+.

Attachments:

- Request for Committee Approval – Summary of Proposed Contract



Andrew B. Fremier

Request for Committee Approval

Summary of Proposed Contract

Work Item No.:	1121
Consultant:	Ascent Environmental, Inc.
Work Project Title:	Plan Bay Area 2050+ Environmental Impact Report
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:	\$1,100,000
Funding Source:	1121 - General Fund (MTC FY 2024-25 Consulting Budget)
Fiscal Impact:	\$1,100,000 is available in the FY 2024-25 agency budget, subject to adoption.
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 June 12, 2024, and the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to set aside funds in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000 for such contract, subject to approval of the FY 2024-25 agency budget.
Administration Committee:	<hr/> <p>Gina Papan, Chair</p>
Approved:	June 12, 2024