

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
RE: Cooperative Agreement and Consultant Selection for
the Regional Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve the attached Cooperative Agreement (Attachment 1) for the development of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) covering the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/ or the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC);
 2. Approve the interview panel's recommendation to contract with the consulting firm Lamphier-Gregory to prepare the EIR; and,
 3. Authorize the expenditure of up to \$29,790 to pay the one-third SCCRTC share of the EIR.
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BACKGROUND

Every three years, the SCCRTC and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) are required by the State of California to update their Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs). These documents set forth a twenty to twenty five-year plan of transportation improvements according to a set of goals, policies and anticipated revenue levels. Most state funding sources require that projects be included in the RTP. In conjunction with these updates, AMBAG updates its three-county long-range transportation plan, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The MTP responds to federal laws and requirements, including an analysis of the air quality impacts of the proposed transportation network.

To improve efficiencies, AMBAG, TAMC, and the Commission are coordinating their long-range planning efforts. In this manner, duplication of effort is kept to a minimum, yet agencies retain autonomy over transportation planning policy issues. The group has been working together to prepare these plan features:

- Project database format
- Financial estimates (Approved by the SCCRTC on April 1, 2004)
- Environmental justice/public outreach plan
- Environmental document preparation

Each participating agency is sharing information, but retains control over these plan features:

- Format
- Goals, policies and objectives (Approved by the SCCRTC on February 5, 2004)
- Performance measures
- Constrained and unconstrained project lists and priorities (Approved by the SCCRTC on April 1, 2004)

DISCUSSION

At the September 4, 2003 meeting, the Commission approved participation in a shared Environmental Impact Report (EIR) of the three-county Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan updates. The purpose of the coordinated effort is to improve consistency of information throughout the region as well as to reduce expenses and staff time.

EIR Consultant Selection

In March, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the joint EIR production. Two firms responded to the RFP, Rincon Consultants, Inc and Lamphier-Gregory. An interview panel was assembled to review the proposals and select a consultant.

The interview panel, consisting of David Murray, Caltrans, Andy Cook, TAMC, Mary Dinkuhn, San Benito Council of Governments, Kathy Urlie, AMBAG and Sean Co, Commission staff, met on May 11, 2004 to review the written statements of qualifications. The panel agreed to invite Rincon Consultants, Inc and Lamphier-Gregory to interview. The panel ranked Lamphier-Gregory the higher of the two environmental review consultants.

Cooperative Agreement

AMBAG will oversee the EIR consultant work, with each participating agency providing input on the development of the EIR content and the response to comments generated by the EIR. This approach represents substantial savings in staff time to our agency. **Staff recommends that the Commission approve the attached Agreement (Attachment 1) between AMBAG, TAMC, and the RTC to prepare a shared EIR document.** County Counsel has reviewed and approved this Agreement. This joint approach will result in cost savings and staff time efficiencies for all the agencies involved. Due to the technical nature of the environmental review process, a cooperative effort will not jeopardize agency autonomy in preparation of the overall plan. If the Commission approves this Agreement, work on the EIR would begin in June 2004, with the EIR document estimated to be completed by June 2005.

Scope of Work Highlights

The environmental review will be a program level environmental review as is typical for RTPs, rather a project-by-project review. The consultant will work with staff to identify projects for the Commission to consider as part of the constrained or unconstrained project lists of the Action Element of the Regional Transportation Plan. AMBAG is preparing the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and expects to send it out the week of May 24, 2004. The consultant will prepare the Draft and Final EIR. The consultant will also attend a public scoping meeting, committee

meetings, and public hearings on the EIR. Public input will be encouraged. The draft scope of work is attached (Attachment 2).

Cost

If prepared separately, three individual supplemental environmental impact reports would be required within the three-county Monterey Bay region. Consultant preparation of three separate documents is estimated to cost each agency (the RTC, TAMC and AMBAG) between \$30,000 and \$42,000 each. This single, new environmental impact report covering the three-county MTP and each of the counties' RTPs is estimated to cost just under \$30,000 per agency. The total cost of the joint document as listed in the Lamphier-Gregory proposal is \$89,370. TAMC's prior consultant estimated that the cost for the supplemental EIR for the updated RTP would be \$42,000—the higher end of the estimated cost for other agencies. The cost savings of joining with the other agencies to prepare the environmental document could therefore be at least \$12,000 for each agency. The RTC has \$30,000 budgeted for FY 03/04 for this joint agreement.

SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the attached Cooperative Agreement for the development of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/ Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) to contract with the consulting firm Lamphier-Gregory. Staff also recommends that the Commission authorize the expenditure of up to \$29,790 to pay the one-third SCCRTC share of the EIR.

Attachments: 1. Cooperative Agreement
2. Draft Scope of Work

Prepared by: Sean Co

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