

SBCAG STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Sustainable Communities Strategy Public Outreach Professional Services Contract

MEETING DATE: June 20, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 4I

STAFF CONTACT: Marjie Kirn, Michael Becker

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement (Attachment A) between the Community Environmental Council and SBCAG for public outreach services associated with the Sustainable Communities Strategy update in an amount not to exceed \$75,000 with a term of July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021; and
2. Approve and authorize the Executive Director to extend the period of performance for up to one additional year in accordance with Section 4 of the Agreement.

DISCUSSION:

Senate Bill 375 (2008) requires SBCAG to conduct a defined public outreach phase for the development of a sustainable communities strategy (SCS). SBCAG is scheduled to adopt its next SCS in August 2021. The SCS defines how the region can achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions consistent with targets assigned to the region by the California Air Resources Board through the cooperative planning of transportation investments and land use development changes. Senate Bill 375 explicitly states that there is no requirement of consistency between local plans and city or county land use policies and a SCS.

In the last SCS update cycle, culminating in adoption in August 2017, SBCAG staff conducted the public outreach phase. The process was successful in meeting the requirements of Senate Bill 375; however, SBCAG staff feels there is room for improvement in the process. The introduction of Senate Bill 1 Sustainable Communities Formula funds, SBCAG has the budget capacity to employ professional services to improve the public outreach process and to better seek meaningful input of disadvantaged segments of the population. A \$75,000 budget for this project is included in the approved FY 19-20 Overall Work Program and Budget.

SBCAG released a Request for Proposals on March 29, 2019 with a proposal submittal deadline of May 3, 2019. Though numerous contractors contacted staff and expressed an interest in the project, only the Community Environmental Council submitted a proposal. SBCAG staff assembled a four-person proposal review committee that included a representative of Santa Barbara County Planning and Development and the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District, as well as two members of SBCAG staff. With several requested clarifications and modifications to the proposal provided, the review committee found the Community Environmental Council met the requirements to complete the project. SBCAG staff then presented the recommendation to the Executive Director and were directed to proceed with advancing the attached agreement.

The agreement provides for the Community Environmental Council to lead public outreach services through November 2020. From December 2020 through August 2021, the Community Environmental Council will provide support related to maintaining a project website and noticing community members of public engagement opportunities.

This action is not a project under CEQA 15378(b)(4) since it is a creation of a governmental funding mechanism.

COMMITTEE REVIEW:

During its June 6, 2019 meeting, the Joint Technical Advisory Committee recommended the SBCAG Board approve the agreement with the Community Environmental Council.

ATTACHMENT:

- A. SBCAG-CEC Professional Services Agreement (web posting only)