



ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

AGENDA ITEM _____ December 8, 2015

Chris Bazar
Agency Director

November 19, 2015

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
Oakland, California 94612

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West Winton Ave
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94544

Dear Board Members:

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SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE CONTRACT NO. [for RFP 15-CCA-1] WITH MRW & ASSOCIATES LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PREPARE THE TECHNICAL STUDY FOR A POTENTIAL COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PROGRAM IN ALAMEDA COUNTY.

www.acgov.org/cda

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve authorize Contract No. 12910 with MRW & Associates LLC (Principal; Mark Fulmer, Principal; Location: Oakland) for \$195,330 for professional services to prepare a Technical Study for a potential Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program in Alameda County. Approve staff request to select peer review consultant from original pool of bidders should that process be deemed necessary.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

The Alameda County Community Development Agency, on behalf of the County, seeks to develop a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program for adoption by the County and interested participating incorporated city jurisdictions. Study of this program was authorized by the Board of Supervisors in June 2014, and County staff has been pursuing this task since that time. In a CCA program, a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) composed of the county and cities could pool its electricity load in order to purchase / develop power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts. Revenues could be used to reduce electric rates, improve energy efficiency and invest in local renewable energy resources and jobs. A successful CCA program could allow communities to pursue the goals of their respective Climate Action Plans.

There are a number of tasks necessary to form a CCA; one task that is fundamental to this process is the determination that a program is economically feasible within Alameda County. This requires a Technical Study which includes thorough analysis of the electrical load data for all land uses in the County; the costs and revenues associated with the start-up and implementation of the CCA program; and an analysis that overlays basic local policy concepts of energy, employment creation and program administration over the economic results to determine possible risks and benefits of the program.

This Technical Study would provide the necessary basis for the County to decide whether to establish a CCA program.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS:

The Community Development Agency (CDA) issued a “Request for Proposals” for this project in July 2015 for a period of 45 days. The RFP was sent directly to a total of 31 consultants in the fields of energy and economics/employment, and was publicized by both CDA (which handled press advertising) and the General Services Agency, which provided County website posting. Nine potential bidders attended a bidders conference held on August 27, 2015. Three qualified responses were received, including the three primary consultants and several subconsultants.

An interview panel consisting of two Planning staff and two members of the County's CCA Steering Committee (a City Councilmember from the City of Piedmont and a representative of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network) conducted interviews of the three consultant teams. The firm MRW & Associates, LLC (MRW) was selected by a narrow margin by the interview panel as the most qualified consultant overall to complete the analysis. Another consultant team led by The Energy Authority, Inc. (TEA), scored within a few percentage points of MRW and also made a strong presentation. However, MRW as the primary consultant benefits from greater affordability and SLEB eligibility; its participation would easily meet the 20% SLEB requirement.

While no peer review for any portion of the Technical Study analysis is currently envisioned, should one become necessary CDA Staff requests that the Board allow staff to select an appropriate reviewer from among the remaining qualifying consultants or subconsultants to conduct such a review. A peer review of the Technical Study would require specialized skills and experience which could be provided by the remaining consultants / subconsultants, and the ability by Staff to select from this pool would help to expedite any peer review process.

FINANCING:

The Board authorized CDA to allocate \$1,325,000 towards study of a potential CCA in June 2015; the cost of this Technical Study is fully covered by that allocation. No additional funds beyond those already allocated are required, and there is no additional Net County Cost as a result of this action.

Very truly yours,

Chris Bazar, Director
Community Development Agency

cc: Susan Muranishi, County Administrator
Donna Ziegler, County Counsel
Steve Manning, Auditor - Controller
Richard Conway, County Administrator's Office
Brian Washington, Office of the County Counsel
U.B. Singh, CDA Finance
Albert Lopez, CDA Planning Director