



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: March 1, 2022
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director
Director(s) (805) 568-2467

Contact Info: Ashley Watkins, Division Chief
(805)568-3514

SUBJECT: First Amendment to Agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for the Regional Planning Grant Program

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair of the Board to execute a First Amendment to the agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Contractor) for consulting services for the Regional Planning Grant Program to increase the total maximum contract amount by \$20,070 for a new total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$130,070 (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15306, as the actions consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource, and Section 15378(b)(4), as the actions are the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project, and Section 15378(b)(5), as the actions are the organizational and administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

Staff requests Board approval to amend the Agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Attachment A) to expand the contract amount from \$110,000 to an amount not to exceed \$130,070. The additional \$20,070 allows Rincon to include a State-and-transition simulation model (ST-SIM) in the current scope of work to develop two land cover scenarios for 2030. The 2030 land covers are critical inputs to running TerraCount. TerraCount estimates and quantifies the carbon stock and natural resource implications from various land-use and land management practices. Approving this amendment allows the Community Services Department to complete a crucial project deliverable in the grant agreement with the California Department of Conservation (DOC). The DOC has approved the increased cost associated with the amendment by allowing the County to reallocate funds from other grant tasks.

Background:

On July 16, 2019, the Board adopted Resolution No. 19-199, approving the submittal of an application for the California Department of Conservation’s Local and Regional Planning Grant. Funding for this program is made available through the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68). The Department of Conservation subsequently awarded the County \$154,327 to evaluate the County’s carbon stock on natural and working lands by utilizing a land-use scenario planning tool called TerraCount. TerraCount models and quantifies the carbon stock and natural resource implications of various land use and management practices. For example, planners can quantify the benefits and tradeoffs of applying compost to different land-use types. The benefits and tradeoffs can then inform the Natural and Working Lands Component of the County’s 2030 Climate Action Plan.

On October 6, 2020, your Board approved an Agreement for Services with Rincon Consultants, Inc. for \$110,000 to run TerraCount (Attachment B). In conjunction with developing the project, County staff has been part of a State-wide cohort organized by the Department of Conservation to share best practices on utilizing TerraCount. Through this process, the Department of Conservation recommended grantees adopt ST-SIM as a critical step in running TerraCount. TerraCount estimates and quantifies how land use and management activities might affect a suite of co-benefits. To estimate and quantify the values of co-benefits in 2030, TerraCount requires a 2030 spatial land cover scenario generated by ST-SIM.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

The added scope to include ST-SIM is covered through the existing grant agreement with the Department of Conservation.

Key Contract Risks:

Low risk. Rincon has provided environmental consulting services in Santa Barbara County for 26 years. Rincon has previous and existing contracts for work on various projects for the County.

Staffing Impacts:

Special Instructions:

After Board action, please distribute as follows to Ashley Watkins, Community Services Department:

1. Minute Order
2. Signed First Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor

Attachments:

- A. First Amendment to the Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor
- B. Executed 10.06.20_Rincon Consultant Service Agreement

Authored by: Frank Chen, Department Business Specialist II

cc: Ashley Watkins, Sustainability Division Chief