



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  
**Department No.:** 057  
**For Agenda Of:** March 9, 2021  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

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

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

**SUBJECT:** Energy Assurance Assessment Service Consulting Agreement

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**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 an Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor with Arup North America Ltd (“Agreement”) in an amount not to exceed \$775,000 for implementation of the Energy Assurance Assessment Service for a term ending on April 2, 2024, subject to annual budget appropriations.
- B. Authorize the Community Services Director, or designee, to extend the Agreement with Arup North America Ltd for up to 1 year, no later than April 2, 2025.
- C. 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 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:**

The Sustainability Division was awarded \$828,000 from the California Energy Commission to implement the Energy Assurance Assessment Service. The Energy Assurance Assessment Service will facilitate increased resilience of critical facilities in Santa Barbara County by providing public and private sector commercial, multi-family residential, and other critical facilities with assessments, audits and technical assistance required to install clean energy resources. The Energy Assurance Assessment Service is a key component to the development of an Energy Assurance Plan that would assist the County with planning for and responding to events that result in a decrease or total outage of energy needed to sustain critical functions and essential services. Staff recommend selecting Arup North America Ltd (ARUP) for a contract amount not to exceed \$775,000 to implement the Energy Assurance Assessment Service after being identified as the most responsible bidder through a Request for Proposal process.

**Background:**

On September 10, 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the Strategic Energy Plan (SEP), which includes a clean energy potential study and a county-wide clean energy roadmap. Development of the SEP was motivated by the County's Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) and increased interest in local energy reliability resulting from events such as the Thomas Fire, 1/9 Debris Flow Event and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. To meet local climate goals, stimulate renewable energy development, and improve grid reliability, the SEP provides specific recommended actions including the development of an Energy Assurance Plan.

The Sustainability Division was awarded \$828,000 from the California Energy Commission to implement the Energy Assurance Assessment Service. The Energy Assurance Assessment Service is a key component to the development of an Energy Assurance Plan that would assist the County with planning for and responding to events that result in a decrease or total outage of energy needed to sustain critical functions and essential services. Staff plans to release a request for proposals for development of an Energy Assurance Plan that builds upon the work of the Energy Assurance Assessment Service in Fall 2021.

The Energy Assurance Assessment Service will facilitate increased resilience of public and private sector commercial, multi-family residential, and other critical facilities (such as emergency operations centers, healthcare, data centers, supportive housing) in Santa Barbara County by identifying critical facilities and offering customers who have critical utility loads a high-level assessment survey of their facilities, policies, energy infrastructure, vulnerabilities, and clean energy opportunities. Customers may opt to receive progressively more detailed audits and assessments with guidance and technical assistance to install clean energy resources.

**Consultant Selection**

On August 28, 2020, staff released a Request for Proposals for consulting services to implement the Energy Assurance Assessment Service. Staff received five proposals and interviewed three consultant teams. Based on the experience, innovation, and program implementation approach, staff recommend selecting Arup North America Ltd (ARUP) for a contract amount not to exceed \$775,000. As part of this contract ARUP will provide the following services:

- Develop a qualitative framework for which buildings are considered eligible and/or critical for participation in the program.

- Identify buildings with critical functions and loads and those subject to AB802 benchmarking requirements.
- Conduct outreach to property owners and building managers.
- Conduct an Energy Assurance Survey which provides a high-level assessment of building energy infrastructure and identifies potential resiliency upgrades.
- Assist property owners with EnergyStar Portfolio Manager benchmarking set-up and training.
- For properties that qualify, conduct more detailed Energy Assurance Audits that include:
  - Energy management and demand response strategies;
  - Solar photovoltaic and battery storage site assessments;
  - Microgrid assessments; and
  - Electrical vehicle charging site assessments.
- Identification of funding opportunities and development of scopes of work and requests for proposals.

Services provided by ARUP would primarily be free to building owners who opt to participate. ARUP has been providing energy consulting services for over twenty years and has experience implementing similar projects for the City of San Francisco, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Community Choice Energy providers such as Clean Power Alliance.

**Performance Measure:**

N/A

**Contract Renewals and Performance Outcomes:**

N/A

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

CSD was awarded \$828,000 in grant funding from the California Energy Commission to implement the Energy Assurance Assessment Service. Funding will be used to engage ARUP with a contract for consulting services in an amount not to exceed \$775,000. The remaining funding will be used for staff time.

**Key Contract Risks:**

N/A

**Staffing Impacts:**

No additional staffing requests are being made at this time.

**Special Instructions:**

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Please send one copy of the signed Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor and minute order to Ashley Watkins.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Agreement for Services of Independent Contractor

**Authored by:**

Ashley Watkins, Division Chief, Sustainability Division