

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Prepared on: August 3, 2006
Department Name: Planning & Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: August 15, 2006
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: N/A
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
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CONTRACT\BOS CONTRACT LETTER.DOC

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Baker, Director
Planning & Development

STAFF CONTACT: Doug Anthony, Deputy Director, 568-2046

SUBJECT: Lompoc Wind Energy Project

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Supervisors:

Approve and execute a professional services contract with CH2M HILL, Inc. (CH2M HILL) for preparation of an EIR for the proposed Lompoc Wind Energy Project for the period beginning August 15, 2006 and ending September 1, 2007 in the amount of \$492,199.77 (which includes an optional task and a 15% contingency).

ALIGNMENT WITH THE BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with actions required by law and by routine business necessity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY & DISCUSSION:

Pacific Renewable Energy Generation LLC has submitted an application for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a wind energy generation facility on private agricultural properties adjacent to San Miguelito Road, southwest of Lompoc. The project would include 60-80 wind turbine generators, standing 315-490 feet high. They would have a total electrical generating capacity of 80-120 megawatts, which would be sold to PG&E and enter the transmission grid. The project would include new onsite gravel access roads and improvement of existing farm roads, an operations and maintenance building, a new onsite electrical substation, electrical lines, and other ancillary facilities. A new power line would be constructed by PG&E from the project site

to the southeast corner of Lompoc, where it would tie into an existing power line outside PG&E's Cabrillo Substation.

The application was found complete on June 1, 2006. The applicant and Planning Development staff agreed that an Environmental Impact Report would be required, due to potential adverse impacts. Based on comments made at a Planning Commission Conceptual Review hearing (May 24, 2006) and an EIR Scoping Hearing (July 17, 2006), staff anticipates the two issues of greatest public concern will be potential visual impacts from the wind turbines and power lines and biological impacts, particularly possible avian collisions with the turbine blades.

The County solicited proposals to prepare an EIR through a competitive bidding process, sending the Request for Proposal to eight consultants. Five proposals were received. The project applicant chose the proposal from CH2M HILL as their preferred proposal. Staff concurred that the proposal was acceptable, with revisions agreed to by all parties. A copy of the CH2M HILL proposal is included as Attachment A of the contract.

The total not-to exceed cost of the EIR is \$492,199.77. This figure includes the base contract amount and \$8,400 for an optional task, which is to conduct a site survey to provide additional information of potential impacts to birds and bats, if necessary. It also includes a 15% contingency, which is only to be used to fund unanticipated work that is beyond the original scope of the EIR proposal. The authority to use the optional task and contingency lies with the Director of Planning & Development.

MANDATES & SERVICE LEVEL:

No change in programs or service levels would result. The Board-adopted process for using consultant services contracts for environmental impact report (EIR) preparation is a permissible method under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and allows the County to meet CEQA-mandated time lines for EIR preparation.

FISCAL AND FACILITIES IMPACTS:

Costs for consultant preparation of the EIR are to be borne by the applicant. Expenditures are budgeted in line-item "EIR Contracts" of the Energy Division's operating expenses (Program 5015), and offsetting revenues are budgeted in line-item "Reimbursable Contracts" on page D-302 of the approved 06/07 fiscal year budget.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Clerk of the Board will forward a copy of the Minute Order to Planning & Development; Attn: Cintia Mendoza.
- Clerk of the Board will forward two certified copies of the contract signature page to John Day, Planning and Development Department, Energy Division.

CONCURRENCE:

County Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and Risk Manager.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment: Contract between CH2M HILL and the County for preparation of the EIR for the Lompoc Wind Energy Project