

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Environmental Impact Report Consulting Services

MEETING DATE: September 18, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6C

STAFF CONTACT: Michael Powers

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize amendment to contract with Rincon Associates revising the scope of services and increasing the contract budget by an amount not to exceed \$2,720, and extending the term of the contract to December 31, 2008.

SUMMARY:

SBCAG staff determined that a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was necessary in the development of the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). A Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultant services was developed and distributed and a contractor, Rincon Consultants was selected to prepare the EIR. An amendment to the contract is required to address time spent in responding to comments. This item was originally included as an optional task in the original Scope of Work.

DISCUSSION:

In the development of the RTP, Federal regulations require planning agencies to consider projects and strategies that protect and enhance the environment. The State also requires transportation plans to meet the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In accordance with CEQA, and the RTP Guidelines, SBCAG in preparing the Regional Transportation Plan determined that the proposed project (RTP) could have potential environmental impacts¹. Therefore, a Program EIR was prepared for the 2008 Regional Transportation Plan.

Following a competitive consultant selection process Rincon Consultants, Inc. was selected for this work. The board authorized a contract in the amount of \$49,670. The Scope of Services includes a discussion of the Environmental Setting, Plan Consistency, CEQA Analysis (consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15120-15132), Public Outreach and Agency

¹ "CEQA applies to activities that may result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. A project subject to CEQA means the whole of an action resulting in such an environmental effect that a public agency undertakes, funds, and/or permits by a discretionary permit. (*Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970*, as Amended, 4/8/97, Adopted by the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara, Pg. 6.)

Coordination. Due to significant delays and changes in the update of the RTP and changes in project configuration impacts the budget for the EIR was adjusted in December 2007. Following receipt of the responses to comments further adjustments are needed to address the responses and prepare findings. This item was originally included as an optional task in the original Scope of Work.

Staff recommends that the SBCAG Board authorize approval of a contract amendment in the amount of \$2,720 for project management services with Rincon Consultants, Inc. Sufficient funds exist in the Professional and Special Services Account of the SBCAG FY 08-09 budget; therefore, no additional appropriations are required.

COMMITTEE REVIEW:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

Contract Amendment No. 3

CONTRACT AMENDMENT NO. 3

September 18, 2008

It is mutually agreed the agreement between the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) and Rincon Consultants Inc. (CONSULTANT) for the *EIR on the Regional Transportation Plan*, is amended, as stated below, and itemized in the letter from Joe Power of Rincon Consultants, dated September 3, 2008 to Michael Powers of SBCAG.

» **Amend Article 2.0 to read:**

All work shall be completed by December 31, 2008

» **Amend Article 4.0 to read:**

Total not-to-exceed budget for this project is:

	Total Cost Plus Fee
Original	\$49,670
Amendment No. 1	\$2,590
Amendment No. 2	\$9,743
Amendment No 3	\$2,720
Total Contract	\$62,003

» **Amend Exhibit A “Scope of Services”**

New Task 9: Findings

Prepare findings and statements of overriding consideration for certification of Final EIR.

These modifications to the agreement are in compliance with Article 13, Contract Changes, of the above referenced project agreement for *the EIR on the Regional Transportation Plan*.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this amendment to the project agreement for the *EIR on the Regional Transportation Plan* on the day and year below written, but effective as of the day and year first set forth above.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC.

Brooks Firestone, Chair, SBCAG

(Consultant)

Date

Date

Jim Kemp, Executive Director

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kevin Ready, Sr.,
Deputy County Counsel

Date