

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 10, 2008

SUBJECT: Contract for Services - Regional Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Report

SUMMARY

Staff is requesting Board approval of a contract for services with PMC to prepare the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for SLOCOG's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). PMC received the highest ranking by a selection committee, following a proposal review and oral interview process. The firm has experience in the preparation of RTP EIR's and is well positioned to aid SLOCOG in ensuring a defensible programmatic EIR.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff: Approve the attached contract with PMC to prepare the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Regional Transportation Plan, summarized in the Scope of Work (Page B-3-8).

TTAC: No Meeting

CTAC: No Meeting

DISCUSSION

Staff has begun initial tasks in the preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The work program, schedule and status were presented at the June and August Board meetings. Next steps focus on preparing the policy element, initiating the environmental process, developing and analyzing planning scenarios, and a public outreach effort.

At the October Board meeting, staff will present an expanded analysis of the following:

Specific recommendations on implementing SB 375 - the widely anticipated law requires that regional planning agencies develop a "sustainable communities strategy," which is a regional planning alternative that will meet the requirements of AB 32 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Reduction). The law will also align three of the primary issues of regional planning:

- o Regional Transportation Plans
- o Regional Housing Needs Allocation
- o GHG assessments and CEQA streamlining

The interrelation of these issues is becoming increasingly critical. A recent court ruling on a GHG analysis in a Caltrans CEQA document for construction of a High-Occupancy Vehicle Lane on Highway 50 appears to be precedent-setting case law for GHG and CEQA. Staff will present its analysis of how to best address these issues as well as how to integrate Blueprint Planning.

Budget Implications: SLOCOG's FY 8/9 budget calls for \$75k in RTP EIR services. The contract is proposed at \$101,000. All but one of the submitted proposals were in excess of \$100K. Item B-1 amended the budget to reflect the current costs of preparing the environmental document.