

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**SEPTEMBER 12, 2005– Water Resources**
Little, Baker**SEPTEMBER 26, 2005 – Board Meeting**

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Approved by: Richard Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOUTH BAY
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRWMP)
APPROVAL OF CONSULTING SERVICES

SUMMARY:

The District has been the lead agency in developing a Planning Grant application and an Implementation Grant application for the Dominguez, Ballona Creek and Lower Santa Monica Bay Watersheds for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funding.

Planning Grant Process

The District submitted a Planning Grant application in May and the State is currently reviewing them and will release their recommendations in September for adoption in October. The District submitted the application on behalf of stakeholders within the region in the amount of \$479,555. Therefore, the "Request for Proposals" (RFP) asked that the proposals not exceed \$480,000. Successful applicants are eligible to receive up to \$500,000 to prepare a comprehensive IRWMP for a viable region.

The District also submitted an Implementation Grant application in the amount of \$49,000,000 to implement projects that were included in the Draft IRWMP. In order to receive funding through this program, a completed IRWMP must be adopted by all of the necessary stakeholders by December 2006. Therefore, the District and many of its stakeholders have been committed to hiring a consulting firm to develop the IRWMP for the region.

A coalition of District staff, our South Bay region partner agencies, and representatives from the other regions within Los Angeles County pursuing IRWMP's are communicating with the agencies responsible for this grant program to impress upon them that the regions are proceeding with a high-level of coordination. In fact, a joint letter dated August 25, included as Exhibit "A", was sent to the Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board, to emphasize this message of coordination. This is in response to recent indications from Los Angeles Regional Board staff that the number of different regional applications within Los Angeles County could jeopardize their opportunity for Planning Grant funding.

Procurement Process

The District issued an RFP to 28 consulting firms to develop the IRWMP on July 28. The RFP was reviewed by numerous stakeholders prior to issuance for additional input. The District received three proposals from:

- Camp, Dresser and McKee (CDM);
- Psomas; and
- RMC Water and Environment.

District staff and Steering Committee representatives have reviewed the proposals and conducted interviews with each of the consulting teams on September 7 and 8. The panel included representatives from West Basin, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, the City of Los

Angeles, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles County Public Works, and the Water Replenishment District. An Evaluation form was also issued to assist in the review and selection process.

The panelists' scores reflect their judgment of each consultant's responsiveness to the following criteria, based on either a written proposal or performance during the interview, or both:

- Meeting all requirements as indicated in the RFP;
- Experience of individual project staff and firm(s) and understanding and approach to "Scope of Work";
- Capability of staff and firm to complete the Scope and all its requirements; and
- Flexibility, budget, and reasonableness of resource allocations.

The panel's averaged final scores for each consultant are as follows:

| Consulting Firm | Evaluation Score |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Camp, Dresser and McKee (CDM) | 81 |
| Psomas | 84 |
| RMC Water and Environment | 90 |

The average scores for each consultant by evaluation criterion are shown in Exhibit "B".

West Basin and the Steering Committee members felt unanimously that RMC Water and Environment was best suited to perform the work based on both their written proposal and interview. Besides being the most qualified team, they have the best understanding of the unique nature of the IRWMP process and have developed multiple Draft Plans throughout the State, including two in Los Angeles County. Of the three firms, RMC has been the most involved in the Los Angeles County regions with regards to cross-coordination efforts and issues across jurisdictional boundaries. In the South Bay region itself, the RMC team has extensive experience in existing watershed planning efforts and TMDL compliance issues.

Work will begin in October on the development of the IRWMP for the Los Angeles County South Bay Region that must be adopted by the end of December 2006 in order to comply with the regulations of this program within Proposition 50. In addition, \$220 million will become available next year in the second round of funding.

Staff's financing scenario for the consultant work on the South Bay IRWMP is based on a minimum Planning Grant award from the state of 50% of the \$489,000 requested, or roughly \$250,000, with the balance to be provided collectively by the Regional Steering Committee, including the District (\$50,000 share). Should the South Bay region application receive significantly less than \$250,000 from the state, staff will present the Board with new alternatives for moving forward.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds for these activities will either come from the State or funding contributions from each of the Steering Committee members listed above. Funding contributions from West Basin are designated in the Water Resources and Planning Budget for fiscal year 2005-06.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on September 12, 2005 and was recommended for approval at the September 26, 2005 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the Co-General Managers to enter into a contract with RMC Water and Environment for an amount not-to-exceed \$440,000, plus an approximate 10% contingency, or \$480,000, conditional upon a minimum of \$250,000 awarded from the Planning Grant. Should the District receive less than \$250,000, the execution of the contract will be withheld until the Board considers alternative financing scenarios.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

- Exhibit "A" - Joint Letter Dated August 25
- Exhibit "B" - Evaluation Form representing average scores

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