



REPORT to the MAYOR and MEMBERS of the CITY COUNCIL  
From the CITY MANAGER

DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving an Award and Professional Services Agreement in substantial form as presented, subject to the final review and approval by the City Attorney, for Request for Proposals 22-13 for Climate Action Plan Amendment No. 2 Consulting Services

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: Public Works

SUMMARY:

Issues:

Should the City Council approve an award and professional services agreement in substantial form as presented, subject to the final review and approval by the City Attorney, for Request for Proposals 22-13 for Climate Action Plan Amendment No. 2 Consulting Services to the University of San Diego Energy Policy Initiatives Center for \$100,000?

Recommendation:

The City Council should approve an award and professional services agreement in substantial form as presented, subject to the final review and approval by the City Attorney, for Request for Proposals 22-13 for Climate Action Plan Amendment No. 2 Consulting Services to the University of San Diego Energy Policy Initiatives Center for \$100,000.

Fiscal Impact:

The FY2022-2023 cost for this service is \$100,000 and funds are budgeted in the FY2022-2023 budget in account 1311-6430.

City's Strategic Goals:

- Continue to improve high quality municipal services
- Foster community health by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving environmental quality

Climate Action Plan Reduction Strategy:

This item supports all measures within the Climate Action Plan (CAP).

BACKGROUND:

In March 2018, the City Council approved the Climate Action Plan (CAP), which charts a course to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 15% by 2020, and 53% below 2010 levels by 2035. Development of a Climate Action Plan was identified as a mitigation measure in La Mesa's 2012 General Plan Update. La Mesa prepared the CAP and established targets consistent with State goals and guidance. The CAP provides a roadmap by which La Mesa can reduce its contributions of GHG emissions with 23 measures and 142 key actions in energy, transportation, solid waste, water, and green infrastructure. The CAP requires Annual Reports updates to the City Council on CAP progress, the creation of an Implementation Plan which is updated every two years, and an update of the CAP 5 years after adoption.

The City Council adopted the CAP as a qualified greenhouse gas reduction plan (Qualified Plan) under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15183.5 (Tiering and Streamlining the Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions). This CEQA section states that cities may analyze and mitigate the significant effects of GHG emissions at a programmatic level, such as a general plan or separate plan to reduce GHG emissions. The consultant hired to prepare the CAP ensured the document is consistent with Section 15183.5, and the City can use the CAP rather than project-level analysis for GHG emissions impact assessment under CEQA. Since the CAP is a Qualified Plan under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5, any revisions of the existing CAP must maintain compliance with the State CEQA Guidelines.

Since the City Council adopted the CAP in 2018, staff developed the CAP Implementation Team made up of representatives from key departments within the City. The Implementation Team serves as the primary team responsible for the ongoing coordination, implementation, and monitoring efforts of the CAP, led by the Environmental Program Manager.

## DISCUSSION:

The CAP is scheduled to be updated in 2023. On August 2, 2021 the City Council created the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Ad Hoc Subcommittee (CAP Subcommittee), comprised of Vice-Mayor Shu and Councilmember Baber, to discuss recommendations for the 2023 CAP update. The CAP Subcommittee met three times and reviewed recommendations from staff and the Environmental Sustainability Commission. Generally, the CAP Subcommittee expressed interest in ensuring that qualified consultants with technical training provide recommendations regarding the efficacy of GHG reduction targets and performance measures contained within the CAP.

On January 25, 2022, the City Council adopted the following CAP Subcommittee recommendations: 1) Use the adopted 2018 CAP to update the 2023 CAP, 2) Request proposals from qualified firms with the necessary technical background to assist with the preparation of a comprehensive amendment to the existing CAP, and 3) Appropriate an additional \$50,000 from the General Fund to increase the total budget to \$100,000 for the CAP update.

## **Contract Scope of Services**

The scope of the CAP update includes three main tasks: public engagement, CAP revisions, and plan adoption. Staff has listed the key elements of each main task in the following section for the City Council's information.

### Public Engagement

- Develop and implement an engagement plan that effectively involves interested and affected stakeholders in identifying needs, priorities and values related to the CAP update.
- Include strategies to reach groups and individuals traditionally under-represented in local government decision making.
- Identify staff and subconsultants, if any, who would lead the engagement effort and provide their qualifications, as well as a detailed cost estimate to support your approach. These tasks will be conducted in close coordination with the City's Environmental Program Manager and Communications Manager.

### CAP Revisions

- Support implementation of the public engagement plan including, but not limited to, preparation of informational materials and attendance at public engagement events.
- Review existing CAPs in the region and state, particularly regarding their GHG reduction measures.

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- Based upon early input and external CAP review, develop potential revised and/or new CAP measures regarding GHG reduction.
- Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of all candidate GHG reduction measures using the methodology contained in SANDAG's ReCAP. Identify any co-benefits of candidate measures, both through supporting other GHG reduction measures and in providing climate adaptation benefits.
- Evaluate the City of La Mesa's existing GHG reduction targets.
- Develop CAP implementation monitoring procedures.
- Prepare appropriate CEQA documentation in coordination with the City's Planning Division.
- Develop justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) initiatives, and incorporate strategies addressing environmental justice and social equity into the CAP.
- Develop climate adaptation strategies based off existing CAP implementation measures which address City needs.

### Plan Adoption

- Complete a draft CAP Amendment No. 2
- Complete the final CAP Amendment No. 2
- Attend and present at public meetings, such as Commission meetings and City Council meetings
- Adoption of updated CAP

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for the CAP update was prepared and posted on the City's PlanetBids website on March 31, 2022. A total of one proposal was received. Following review, ranking, and interview by the selection panel, University of San Diego Energy Policy Initiative Center (EPIC), was determined to be highly qualified. EPIC and their partner, Ascent Environmental, Inc. (Ascent) and EPIC have developed most of the adopted CAPs in the San Diego region and many of the 16 cities covered by SANDAG's Energy Roadmap Program. The EPIC-Ascent team has developed the technical appendices that comprise SANDAG's ReCAP Framework, including the City of La Mesa's. Staff recommends that the City Council approve a professional services agreement in substantial form as presented, subject to the final review and approval of the City Attorney, with EPIC, in the amount of \$100,000.

### CONCLUSION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve an award and professional services agreement in substantial form as presented, subject to the final review and approval by the City Attorney, for Request for Proposals 22-13 for Climate Action Plan Amendment No. 2 Consulting Services to the University of San Diego Energy Policy Initiatives

Center in the amount of \$100,000. Based on the schedule proposed by EPIC, staff anticipates the CAP updated to be completed by July 2023.

Reviewed by:



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Greg Humora  
City Manager

Respectfully submitted by:



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Carlo Tomaino  
Assistant City Manager



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Michael Throne  
Director of Public Works / City Engineer



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Hilary Ego  
Environmental Program Manager

Attachments: Attachment A. Resolution  
Attachment B. Professional Services Agreement