



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

September 4, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION
PROJECT VERMONT AVENUE FROM I-105 FREEWAY TO
PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY AWARD OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT
CITIES OF GARDENA, LOS ANGELES, AND
UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF ATHENS, TORRANCE, AND HARBOR CITY
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 2 AND 4)
(3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Award and authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with RBF Consulting to prepare plans, specifications, estimates, and provide construction assistance services for the Vermont Avenue Traffic Signal Synchronization Project and to establish the effective date following your Board's approval. The agreement will be for a not-to-exceed fee of \$167,300 to be financed with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Grant Funds and matching County funds.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to improve traffic flow on Vermont Avenue with grant funds the Department of Public Works has received. Your action will provide the Department of Public Works with consultant assistance to perform engineering work.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs that we provide Organizational Effectiveness (Goal 3) by securing sufficient staffing resources to ensure an efficient, effective, and goal-oriented project delivery system.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no impact to the County General Fund. The recommended Consultant Service Agreement is for a not-to-exceed fee of \$167,300, including \$15,250 for unforeseen additional work, which may arise during progress of the work. Funding for this agreement is included in the Fiscal Year 2007-08 Proposition C Local Return Fund Budget.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will reimburse \$133,840 of the project cost from the 2001 Call for Projects Proposition C Discretionary Grant Funds for the South Bay Cities Traffic Signal Forum. The remaining \$33,460 will be funded by the County's Proposition C local return revenue.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We are recommending that your Board award and authorize the Director of Public Works or his designee to execute a Consultant Services Agreement with RBF Consulting, for the preparation of construction documents, to provide for construction support and as-built plan preparation for the proposed Vermont Avenue Traffic Signal Synchronization Project located in the Cities of Gardena, Los Angeles, and the unincorporated County areas of Athens, Torrance, and Harbor City; and to establish the effective date following Board approval.

When construction documents and jurisdictional approvals are completed, tentatively scheduled for September 2008, the Department of Public Works will return them to your Board to adopt plans, specifications, and advertise for bids to construct the project. The recommended Consultant Services Agreement will provide design and construction support services for the Vermont Avenue Project in support of the Public Works Traffic Signal Synchronization Program. The project includes Vermont Avenue from the I-105 Freeway to Pacific Coast Highway. The Department of Public Works has successfully used consulting firms to perform design work of a similar nature on other projects.

A standard agreement in the form previously approved by County Counsel will be used. The standard Board-directed clauses that provide for contract termination, renegotiation, and hiring qualified displaced County employees will be included.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the Consultant Services Agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees, and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees, that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal Income Tax laws.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration of a contract award, RBF Consulting is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) and General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) Program participants for future employment.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the project specifications stating that the contractor shall notify its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify its employees, about Board Policy 5.135 Newborn Abandonment Law (Safely Surrendered Baby Law).

RBF Consulting is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program).

RBF Consulting adheres to the provisions of the County's ordinance entitled Contractor Employee Jury Service as codified in Sections 2.203.010 through 2.203.090 of the Los Angeles County Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

In accordance with Section 15378(b)(4) of the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, approval of the recommended action does not constitute a project and, hence, is not subject to the requirements of CEQA.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On September 7, 2006, the Department of Public Works issued a Request for Proposals to 26 firms to develop a select list of qualified consultants to provide as-needed traffic design services, and 18 firms submitted proposals for review and evaluation. An evaluation committee, consisting of the Department of Public Works engineering staff, evaluated the proposals. These evaluations were based on technical expertise, proposed work plans, experience, personnel qualifications, and understanding of the work requirements. These evaluations were completed without regard to race, creed,

color, or gender. Based on the review and evaluation of these proposals, the committee developed a select list of eight qualified firms. The firms selected were ADVANTEC Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Katz, Okitsu and Associates; Kimley-Horn and Associates; RBF Consulting, Inc.; Lin Consulting, Inc.; VA Consulting, Inc.; Albert Grover and Associates; and Transportation Engineers.

As stated in the Request for Proposals, the Department of Public Works shall select consultants from the select list of qualified consultants for each project in order of established evaluation ranking. RBF Consulting is the next firm on the list.

Participation by Community Business Enterprise (CBE) in the project is encouraged through the Department of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good faith effort to utilize CBE.

RBF Consulting is aware of the Department of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program, and their proposed CBE participation is on file with the Department of Public Works.

The Department of Public Works has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended agreement, as this agreement is for non-Proposition A services.

As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with the Department of Public Works, the Request for Proposals to develop the select list of qualified consultants was posted on the County's "Doing Business with Us" website. Attached is a copy of the website posting for your reference.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

By hiring a consultant to perform this specific engineering service, we can align the Department of Public Works staff with the performance of routine traffic services.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
September 4, 2007
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CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Public Works,
Traffic and Lighting Division.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:DLW
WJW:pc

Attachment

c: County Counsel
Department of Public Social Services (GAIN/GROW Program)
Department of Public Works (Architectural Engineering, Programs Development)

Bid Detail Information

Bid Number : AJX7001L

Bid Title : Traffic Design Services - Development of Select List

Bid Type : Service

Department : Public Works

Commodity : ENGINEERING -TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

Open Date : 9/7/2006

Closing Date : 10/5/2006 3:00 PM

Bid Amount : N/A

Bid Download : Not Available

Bid Description : The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide design services for a variety of traffic engineering projects throughout the County of Los Angeles.

The scope may range from the completion of traffic signal plan(s) for a minimum of one traffic signal to an undetermined number of traffic signals which may or may not be part of a linear coordinated system or a network of coordinated systems, and/or the completion of signing and striping plan(s) ranging in complexity from longitudinal lane lines along a highway reach to a complex intersection layout.

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