

Recommendation to BOS re INRMP Consultant Selection – Aug. 25, 2009 BOS Agenda

Development Services Department recommending the Board select Sierra Ecosystems Associates as the consultant to prepare the first phase of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), and direct staff to work with Purchasing and County Counsel to return with the contract.

FUNDING: County General Fund.

Background: On May 8, 2009 a Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted for the preparation of the first phase of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). Planning staff worked with Purchasing and Procurement to facilitate a competitive bidding process. Bidding closed on June 11, at which time six firms had submitted proposals to prepare the plan. Staff has reviewed and ranked each proposal and has worked with Purchasing to recommend selection of a consultant to whom the contract should be awarded.

Discussion: Due to the broad interest in the community on this General Plan mitigation/implementation measure, staff provided an opportunity for members of the Plant and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee (PAWTAC) and the INRMP Stakeholders Advisory Committee (ISAC) to review the proposals and comment on them. They were then discussed at meetings of both committees held in early July. The consensus among both advisory committees and staff was that there were four firms that were responsive to the RFP and met the qualifications that the County is looking for to prepare the plans, but none of the four clearly stood out above the others. Each seemed to have different strengths and weaknesses.

As required by the purchasing ordinance, three staff members, including one from outside of the department, reviewed and ranked the proposals. All three independently came up with the same number one ranking. Staff used a weighted ranking system where points were given to each category, with the highest rated criteria given to experience in similar types of projects. Other selection criteria included seniority of personnel assigned to the project, responsiveness to the RFP and County priorities, biological expertise, creativity in approach, technical quality, and ability to provide a local presence, as well as cost and timeline. Based on the weighted ranking system, Sierra Ecosystem Associates was the top-scoring firm. Staff also felt that firm had the best understanding of the project and the County's goals with regard to adopting the INRMP.

Provided below is the proposed costs and time frames to complete the first phase of INRMP, as provided by each of the firms determined to be qualified by staff and the advisory committees.

Firm / Cost / Time

Sierra Ecosystem Associates / \$199,871 / 16 months

Planning Partners / \$197,904 / 14 months

RECON Environmental, Inc. / \$242,974 / 12 months
Dudek / \$329,000 / 8 months

Action to be taken following Board approval: Development Services Department to work with Purchasing and County Counsel to return to the Board with the contract.

Contact: Roger Trout x5369