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August 22, 2006

Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Board Members:

Subject: Agreement with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to Prepare for and Conduct Two Workshops Related to the El Dorado County General Plan Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Complete Other Related Tasks

Recommendation:

Development Services/Planning Services recommends that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Make findings that it is more economical and feasible to obtain an outside contractor to conduct workshops related to preparation of an INRMP and/or alternatives and related tasks in accordance with Government Code 31000 and pursuant to County Charter Section 210(b)(6);
2. Approve the Contract with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in an amount not to exceed \$36,225 to prepare for and conduct two workshops related to the El Dorado County General Plan Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and alternatives and related tasks;
3. Authorize the Chair to execute the Contract; and
4. Set two Monday workshops with suggested dates including, October 9, October 16, and October 30, 2006.

Reason for Recommendation:

The General Plan addresses the loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat through policies included in the Open Space and Conservation Element. Policy 7.4.2.8 requires the development and implementation of an INRMP within five years of the date of adoption of the General Plan. The INRMP is intended to identify important habitat in the County and establish a program for effective

habitat preservation and management. Policy 7.4.2.8 states: the INRMP shall include; habitat inventory, habitat protection strategy, provide for mitigation assistance, habitat acquisition program, habitat management actions, monitoring, public participation, and funding mechanisms. Policy 7.4.2.8 outlines a programmatic approach to regional conservation planning that is intended to address the needs of El Dorado County but could also fulfill some of the legal requirements of federal Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and state Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs) and other state and federal permits.

Development Services issued a Request for Proposals in *May* to obtain preliminary proposals – scope of services, cost estimates, and schedule to prepare an INRMP pursuant to General Plan Policy 7.4.2.8 addressing HCP and NCCP requirements as well. Three well qualified firms responded to the RFP in *June*: EN2/Pacific Municipal Consultants, Jones & Stokes, and SAIC. The proposals were evaluated by a broad group of County and Agency staff in *July*, including; El Dorado Irrigation District, El Dorado County Water Agency, City of Placerville, California Department of Fish & Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, EDC Agricultural Commission, U.C Cooperative Extension, EDC Department of Transportation, County Counsel, CAO's Office, and Development Services. Evaluators used a pre-prepared evaluation form which included the evaluation criteria published in the RFP, established a numeric scoring system, and provided opportunity to record written observation about each proposal. In addition, each firm was required to attend an interview in *July*, each lasting approximately three hours. The interview panel consisted of representatives of the City of Placerville, El Dorado Irrigation District, and County Staff representing the CAO's Office, DOT, and Development Services. As a result of the intensive proposal evaluation and interview process, the consultant evaluation team agreed that SAIC provided a consultant team with requisite experience and knowledge that best addressed the County's needs. SAIC is an employee owned firm, with 150 offices internationally and nation-wide, including offices throughout the State of California, with a local office in the Sacramento area (see www.saic.com/about/overview.html for further information about SAIC).

The SAIC team for this project is based in Northern California and led by Dr. Paul Cylinder who co-authored the leading publications in the field of conservation planning and permitting processes and has been involved in numerous conservation planning projects throughout California (e.g. "*Understanding the Habitat Conservation Planning Process in California*", Institute for Local Self Government, 2004, Cylinder, et al, and "*Wetlands, Streams, and Other Waters: Regulation, Conservation and Mitigation Planning*", Solano Press, 2004, Cylinder, et al). Dr. Cylinder and various members of the team have been involved in all stages of the preparation of HCP's and NCCP's throughout California. Some examples in Northern California include: CalFed Bay-Delta Program MSCS, Natomas Basin HCP, East Contra Costa County NCCP/HCP, Yuba/Sutter County NCCP/NCP, South Sacramento HCP, PG&E Bay Area HCP, Santa Clara County HCP/NCCP, City of Livermore HCP, and City of Chico HCP. The SAIC team includes CEQA/NEPA experts with more than 20 years of experience managing the preparation of environmental documents; a firm specializing in public involvement, outreach, and grant funding development (Kearns & West); an economic consultant to develop fee/funding options and implementation cost estimates (ENTRIX); a registered professional forester (Steve Holl Consulting); biologists specializing in endangered species and habitat conservation issues (Dittes & Guardino Consulting) ; and outside legal counsel with extensive expertise in endangered species and habitat conservation issues (Ebbin, Moser & Skaggs, LLC). A full statement of qualifications for the SAIC team is attached for your consideration.

Development Services staff worked with SAIC in *August* to develop a two step process to ensure that input and direction is received from your Board before a final contract is developed to initiate the INRMP project. The contract before you today would only fund the first step in this process involving two workshops with the Board of Supervisors to identify issues and options for you to consider related to the possible structure of the INRMP. The first workshop will focus on various options for preparing the INRMP in relation to state and federal regulations and provide the public, public agencies, and the Board the opportunity to understand the pros and cons of various approaches, ask questions, and clarify issues. The second workshop will focus on obtaining direction from the Board of Supervisors concerning the approach and key components for the future INRMP scope of work. SAIC will lead and facilitate discussion at both workshops. The presentations for both workshops will be closely coordinated with federal, state and local agencies to encourage their participation in this process. Separately, through this contract, SAIC will be working closely with County staff this Fall to ensure that the Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) that will be prepared by a separate consultant team can be included, seamlessly, in the future INRMP as the "oak woodland portion" of the INRMP (a proposed scope of work, budget, and contract for preparation of the OWMP is planned to be on your Board's agenda for consideration next week).

We are requesting that your Board set the dates and times for the two proposed INRMP workshops as part of your action on this agenda item. In preparation for this, Development Services staff worked with Chairman Sweeney, your assistants, and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to identify potential workshop dates. Chairman Sweeney suggested that your Board consider Monday afternoons during October for this purpose, and three potential dates were identified: October 9, October 16, and October 30, 2006. The first workshop is estimated to last for three hours to allow for a one-hour presentation by SAIC, and two hours for questions, public input, and Board discussions. The second workshop is projected to require up to two hours to allow staff to present key information summarized from the first workshop and to receive direction from the Board concerning the key components to the approach for the INRMP. Informational materials in support of these workshops will be prepared by SAIC and will be made available in advance of each workshop.

As further background, Development Services staff has prepared an attachment to this Board of Supervisors Transmittal that is entitled, "Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan – General Plan Policy 7.4.2.8 – Briefing Paper." This Briefing Paper provides summary information concerning the INRMP, federal HCPs, state NCCPs and Section 2081 Permits, Local Agency Roles, Pros and Cons of various approaches, Lessons Learned from the state perspective, an overview of the collaborative efforts of the Northern California Conservation Planning Partners, and provides internet links to comprehensive conservation planning information.


Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact of approving this contract is \$36,225. These funds are included in the current fiscal year budget. Approval of this contract does not bind the County to enter into any subsequent contracts for services related to the preparation of the INRMP. The contract for preparation of the INRMP will be prepared pursuant to your Board's direction as a separate item after completion of the October workshops.

Action to be Taken Following Approval:

1. The Board Clerk's Office will forward the executed contract to the Development Services Department for distribution.
2. The Chief Administrator's Office, Procurement and Purchasing Division, will encumber the funds.
3. The Development Services Department will administer the contract consistent with generally accepted contract administration practices and government accepted accounting.

Respectfully,



Gregory L. Fuz
Development Services Director

Attachments

- A. Proposed Scope of Work
- B. Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan General Plan Policy 7.4.2.8 Briefing Paper

cc: Bill Stephens, Agricultural Commissioner
Dr. Bill Frost, University of California Cooperative Extension
Bill Hetland, El Dorado County Water Agency
Steve Calfee, City of Placerville
Dan Corcoran, El Dorado Irrigation District
Eric Tattersall, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Kent Smith, California Department of Fish & Game
Paula Frantz, County Counsel
Susan Varner, Department of Transportation
Steven Hust, Planning Services
Dr. Paul Cylinder, SAIC