

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

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SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on a Contract with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for The Climate Policy Implementation Project
(For Commission consideration on February 20, 2014)

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to contract with NOAA for up to \$193,963 for the Climate Policy Implementation project and any necessary subcontracts to implement the grant. The grant funding will support Commission staff and sub-contractors in: (1) updating the Commission's current permit application instructions to assist applicants in providing the information that will be required pursuant to revisions to the Commission's regulations; (2) producing a guidelines publication for use by project applicants, Commission staff, the Commission, and the general public that provides guidance on risk assessment preparation, including suggestions and examples of risk assessment approaches, resilient design, and adaptation strategies that can address identified risks; (3) amending the Commission's regulations, including the application form, to specify the new information that will be needed for a completed application based on the new climate policy requirements; and (4) conducting a public outreach effort, including a stakeholder advisory panel, public workshops, and material to be placed on BCDC's website, such as summary translations in non-English languages of the guidance.

Staff Report

In the fall of 2013, BCDC was awarded a grant of \$193,963 from the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Project of Special Merit (PSM) Competition, for its proposed Climate Policy Implementation project. This project will build capacity among BCDC permit applicants, BCDC staff, the Commission, and the public to understand and comply with BCDC's climate policies that were adopted in the fall of 2011. The amended policies introduced new requirements and terminology, including the need to conduct risk assessments in some cases; design projects that will be resilient to sea level rise; and develop and implement adaptive management plans for some projects.



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Successful implementation of these policies is contingent on increasing the capacity of BCDC staff, the Commission, and applicants to interpret the policies for projects along the Bay shoreline. Guidance must address the variety of land uses and shoreline configurations around the Bay, as well as the public access and Bay protection objectives of the Commission. This project will expand the library of helpful guidance documents that the Commission has published over the years to assist applicants in complying with Commission policies. These documents include, for example, the trilogy of *Shoreline Spaces*, *Shoreline Plants*, and *Shoreline Signs*, which have proven successful in assisting applicants to design and plan shoreline public access and post it with signage in ways that facilitate public enjoyment of the Bay and its shoreline.

An inter-departmental agency team is ready to begin work on this project when this contract is authorized in order to provide much-needed guidance to the public, BCDC staff, and the Commission. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to contract with NOAA for up to \$193,963 and grant any necessary sub-contracts. The staff also recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to execute any amendments to the contracts that do not alter substantially the scope or amount of the contracts. The funding will be primarily for staff costs, with a minor amount for contractual services for graphics, document production, and translation.