

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 10600, San Francisco, California 94102 tel 415 352 3600 fax 415 352 3606

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

FROM: Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653;
larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov)
Sarah Richmond, Coastal Planner (415/352-3660; sarah.richmond@bcdc.ca.gov)

SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on a Contract with the Center for Collaborative Policy for Facilitation Services
(For Commission consideration on December 4, 2014)

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract (Interagency Agreement) with the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University, Sacramento for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to provide facilitation services for the Policies for a Rising Bay Project. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, so long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes in the amount or duration of the agreement, or the services provided.

Staff Report

In the fall of 2013, BCDC was awarded a grant of \$193,963 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Project of Special Merit (PSM) Competition to review its Bay fill laws and policies and provide guidance to staff, the Commission, and other stakeholders on the evaluation of Bay fill for shoreline adaptation strategies. The Policies for a Rising Bay Project funded by the grant responds directly to the Commission's request for staff to clarify how BCDC's core fill policies can be applied to projects that propose using Bay fill to improve shoreline resilience and whether policy changes are needed to increase sustainability in both natural and built environments facing sea level rise and storm event impacts. The Policies for a Rising Bay Project is timely because the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Update is concluding and includes a variety of shoreline adaptation strategies that involve Bay fill. In addition, the Commission has expressed a desire to explore the relationship between its recent Bay Plan policy amendments addressing climate change and adaptation to rising sea level and its existing policies addressing Bay fill. Also, there is considerable interest in the region to address laws and policies that may prevent authorization of adaptation strategies requiring Bay fill.

BCDC staff will engage representatives from agencies at the local, state, and federal level as well as business, environmental and equity organizations to serve on an Advisory Committee (AC) to ensure that a broad range of values and expertise is reflected. BCDC staff will plan and convene four to five AC meetings to solicit input at key points during the project. AC members will attend these meetings and provide input on the project information developed. As there will be a variety of views in these meetings, facilitation services will help to moderate strong opinions, engage minority perspectives, and create an open, unbiased environment that facilitates creative problem solving. By engendering trust, a facilitator will also help AC members feel a sense of ownership in Policies for a Rising Bay Project outcomes, which will improve their ability to communicate about the project to their decision makers and stakeholders and foster a regional conversation about the nature of appropriate policy changes given climate change. The project will also engage regularly with the Commission's new working group on Bay fill and will include periodic Commission briefings.

A project team consisting of individuals from Planning, Permits, Sediment Management, and Legal units has already begun work to develop a work program based on the PSM grant. Accordingly, staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to contract with the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University, Sacramento for up to \$20,000 to provide facilitation services, starting with the first AC meeting in January 2015.