

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

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SUBJECT: **Staff Recommendation on Contract with California High-Speed Rail Authority**
(For Commission consideration on October 3, 2019)

Executive Director's Summary

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into a contract with the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) under which the Authority would provide the Commission with up to \$50,000 to be used through December 31, 2022 to coordinate and consult with the Authority on permitting matters. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into amendments to the agreement, including revising the amount or duration of the agreement, so long as the amendments are consistent with the underlying purpose of the agreement.

Staff Recommendation

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) is responsible for planning, designing, building, and operation of the first high-speed rail system in the nation. The California High-Speed Rail System would connect the mega-regions of the state. By 2033, the system is anticipated to run from San Francisco to the Los Angeles basin in under three hours at speeds capable of over 200 miles per hour. The system would eventually extend to Sacramento and San Diego, totaling 800 miles with up to 24 stations.

At least one of the alternative designs for the San Francisco to San Jose section of the project would intersect with a portion of the Commission's jurisdiction, in the City of Burlingame, San Mateo County. The scope of this agreement consists of coordination and consultation activities needed to determine whether the Commission could grant a permit to do the work as planned under the alternatives under consideration by the Authority. Tasks required by the Commission staff under the contract would include: participation in meetings and conference calls; staff



time for identifying potential conflicts with the Commission's law and policies and potential approaches for addressing such issues, where possible; staff time for coordination with the Authority and its representatives; staff time for field reviews; staff time for design and revision review consultation; and sharing the most current planning, design, engineering, permitting, and environmental resource information and other applicable data.

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into a new interagency agreement (the legal mechanism used for contracts between two state agencies) with the Authority under which the Authority would provide BCDC with up to \$50,000 to be used through December 31, 2022. Due to the fluid nature of the Authority's budget and the unknown amount of funding the Authority may receive as part of the budget process, the staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into amendments to the agreement, including revisiting the amount or duration of the agreement, so long as the amendments are consistent with the underlying purpose of the agreement. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into any further similar agreements with the Authority in future years.