

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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Agenda Item #11

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

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SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation to Approve a Contract with the Consensus Building Institute for Facilitation and Process Support Service Related to a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Strategy

(For Commission consideration on March 5, 2020)

Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission approve a contract with the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) for \$30,580 beginning in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for facilitation and process support services related to the development of a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Strategy. The staff also recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, including revising the amount or duration of the agreement, so long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes to the scope of work or exceed \$35,000.

Staff Report

Rising sea level and flooding pose an unprecedented threat to the Bay, its people, natural resources, communities and infrastructure. Since 2011 when BCDC amended the San Francisco Bay Plan to address climate change, BCDC has proactively taken steps to address these impacts. The groundbreaking Adapting to Rising Tides Program has worked with stakeholders around the Bay Area to understand their vulnerability to sea level rise and how future flooding will affect communities, businesses, infrastructure, and natural systems. Two major amendments to the *San Francisco Bay Plan* in 2019 focused on promoting shoreline resilience for natural habitats and socially vulnerable communities in light of climate change.

Much of the responsibility for adaptation lies at the local jurisdictional level, as no Bay-wide flood control authority exists. While many local governments and special districts recognize the inevitability of a major flooding disaster and inundation of their Bayfront populations and commerce, jurisdictions lack the financial ability and incentives to develop adaptation plans that prevent both local flooding and flooding in adjacent cities or counties or across the Bay. At the same time, sea level rise threatens vulnerable frontline communities who are least resourced to respond, as well as the near-term loss of wetlands. Evolving climate projections, complex regional governance and competition from other pressing regional issues, such as housing and wildfires, complicate the policy landscape around regional adaptation.



To address these cross jurisdictional, Bay-wide concerns, BCDC, in collaboration with regional and local agencies and a wide array of stakeholders, is prepared to lead the development of a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Strategy. Building on the strong foundation of science, research and planning that exists in the Bay Area, the strategy will stitch together local and sub-regional efforts, create coordinated regional action and priorities, and seek resources and support to accelerate adaptation action. Through a six-month, collaborative action-setting process, this initiative will provide a set of guiding principles for Bay Area adaptation and lay out a “Joint Platform” comprised of 10 to 15 priority actions that the region must take around planning, funding, permitting, and governance. At the end of this process, BCDC will seek the commitment of Bay Area leaders to adopt and endorse the Joint Platform in their various roles and play a leadership role in its implementation.

To support this effort, BCDC seeks to enter into a contract with CBI for facilitation and process support services. Founded in 1993, CBI is a nationally and internationally recognized nonprofit organization that provides strategic planning, organizational development and facilitation services for public agencies, nonprofits and international development agencies around the world. As CBI’s West Coast Director, Senior Mediator Gina Bartlett has over twenty years of experience as a mediator and facilitator in consensus building and collaborative planning on policy issues over a broad range of areas.

Under the contract, CBI will: (1) facilitate at least four meetings of a Leadership Advisory Group to seek their input and commitment to the strategy, striving for consensus; (2) help design a collaborative, six-month process to ensure that the development of the strategy addresses key regional priorities and incorporates a wide range of stakeholder perspectives, including the Leadership Advisory Group, Working Groups, and others; and (3) support the planning and developing of up to two public workshop events to support the regional strategy, with substantial involvement and support from BCDC staff. CBI will provide BCDC with monthly invoices to enable Commission staff to track and manage all aspects of the BCDC budget.

Accordingly, the staff recommends that the Commission approve a contract with CBI for \$30,580 beginning in Fiscal Year 2019-2020 for facilitation and process support services related to the development of a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Strategy. The staff also recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, including revising the amount or duration of the agreement, so long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes to the scope of work or exceed \$35,000.