

# San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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**TO:** Commissioners and Alternates

**FROM:** Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653; [larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov](mailto:larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov))  
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**SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on an Amendment to a Contract with Resources Legacy Fund for Environmental Justice Advisors**  
(For Commission consideration on April 4, 2024)

## Summary and Recommendations

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to amend an existing contract with the Resources Legacy Fund from \$74,000 to up to \$180,000 to administer stipends to BCDC's EJ Advisors and extend the end date to June 30, 2025.

## Staff Report

### Background

In fall 2019, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission amended the San Francisco Bay Plan to incorporate policies on Environmental Justice and Social Equity, following a multi-year planning and outreach effort. Immediately thereafter, BCDC hired its first Environmental Justice Manager, and, in 2021, launched an Environmental Justice (EJ) Advisors program to help the agency implement its Environmental Justice and Social Equity policies. Through a competitive selection process, six individuals from frontline communities around the Bay were selected to serve as advisors. BCDC strives to develop and nurture long-term relationships with leaders of communities serving socially vulnerable, underrepresented, and EJ populations within the nine-county Bay Area to ensure their unique perspectives shape its programs and activities. The Environmental Justice Advisors helps BCDC advance these goals by providing independent analyses, recommendations, and other input.

The Resources Legacy Fund (RLF is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that partners with leaders in philanthropy, communities, government, science, and business to promote smart policies and secure equitable public funding for the environment, climate change resilience, and healthy communities. RLF has supported the EJ Advisors by funding \$6,000 annual stipends for six (6) EJ advisors in 2021, five (5) in 2022, and three (3) annual stipends in 2023.



Through this contract amendment, RLF will continue to provide fiscal sponsorship for the EJ Advisors for an additional year through June 30, 2025. RLF will continue to be responsible for administering the funds and distributing them via subawards with the EJ Advisors, as well as EJ Advisor reporting requirements. RLF will charge BCDC 17% per invoice for their services as fiscal sponsor. Each advisor will continue to be compensated at a rate of approximately \$125/hour for 80 hours per year, which equates to \$10,000 per year baseline pay, received as two grants. Additional funding will also support advisors to be members of the Bay Adapt Implementation Committee and the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan Advisory Group. Funding for this contract is provided by a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for Bay Adapt implementation, which includes the EJ Advisor program and its role in Bay Adapt implementation. The original contract, as well as this amendment, have received non-competitive bid approval from the CA Department of General Services.

BCDC's EJ Advisors program is a model in the State of California for public agencies and community involvement. Continued support of this program will advance State policy, including the Executive Order N-16-22 on embedding equity into California government, as well as BCDC's Strategic Plan Goal 3.1 and forthcoming Racial Equity Action Plan. Separately, the Commission approved a contract with MIG/Benchmark Consulting to conduct an Organizational Development assessment of the EJ Advisors program to help guide the program's future success. That work is ongoing, and findings and recommendations will be shared with the Commission later this Spring.

#### Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract with Resources Legacy Fund of up to \$180,000 and extend the contract end date to June 30, 2025.