

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)
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SUBJECT: **Staff Recommendation to Enter into a Contract with Arcadis to Develop Technical Assistance Guides and Outreach to Local Governments for Developing Economic Analysis**
(For Commission consideration on August 6, 2026)

Summary and Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into a contract for up to \$275,070 with Arcadis to develop guides for local jurisdictions and their consultants on developing economic analyses that are compliant with Senate Bill No. 272 (Laird 2023) (SB 272) and Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP) Guidelines, including stakeholder engagement, outreach, and trainings. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, so long as the amendment involves only non-substantive, or ministerial, changes.

Staff Report

Background

On December 5, 2024, the Commission adopted the Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan (RSAP), which contains the Guidelines that local governments within BCDC's jurisdiction must follow when developing local plans, as required by SB 272. Economic analyses are often conducted in adaptation planning to understand the implications of different choices, support prioritization of investments for adaptation, and justify funding for adaptation projects. SB 272 and the RSAP both contain language specific to development of economic analyses.

BCDC is building out a technical assistance program to support local jurisdictions in developing subregional plans, which include guides, webinars, outreach, templates, and other similar tools. As staff have engaged in conversations with local governments who have initiated subregional plans, many individuals have expressed an interest in more guidance and resources on how to best conduct these economic analyses.

To support local governments and their consultants on meeting RSAP requirements, BCDC sought a contract to provide a series of resources, guidance, and outreach to meet these needs.



Purpose

The RSAP requires local governments to provide an assessment on the cost of inaction, evaluate tradeoffs of different adaptation choices, and develop an implementation plan and funding strategy for adaptation strategies and projects. Additionally, SB 272 requires that updates to approved subregional plans include an economic analysis of, at a minimum, costs to critical public infrastructure and implementation strategies and projects.¹

The purpose of this contract is to develop a series of technical assistance guides that local governments can use when preparing subregional shoreline adaptation plans and seeking to comply with RSAP requirements and/or go beyond the requirements to form a more comprehensive approach to economic analysis and funding adaptation. The guides will be developed through external stakeholder engagement, including focus groups, other technical assistance providers in the Bay Area, and in coordination with the California Coastal Commission. The guides will be disseminated to the public and local governments through webinars and trainings. Additionally, the contract will also include a scope for a regional economic analysis to identify relevant information to BCDC in evaluating whether to proceed forward with a regional analysis in a future contract. This contract supports BCDC's 2023-2025 Strategic Plan Goal 1: "Lead regional planning efforts that result in successful and equitable adaptation, restoration, development, and public access projects for the Bay Area in light of rising sea levels."

Summary of Tasks

- **TASK 1: Program Management Support**
 - Arcadis will lead regular check-in meetings with BCDC staff and coordinate with the California Coastal Commission, other regional and other agencies focused on technical assistance, and other consultant teams, as needed.
- **TASK 2: Economic Analysis Guides**
 - Arcadis will develop four (4) economic analysis guides to support 1) costs of inaction, 2) costs of adaptation strategies, 3) benefit-cost analyses for sea level rise adaptation projects and strategies, and 4) funding and financing tools for paying for sea level rise adaptation.
- **TASK 3: Outreach and Training**
 - Arcadis will provide and implement an outreach plan to promote implementation of the guides for local governments and their consultants, including webinars for

¹ SB 272 states in relevant part: "A local government lying, in whole or in part, within the coastal zone or within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission shall develop a sea level rise plan..." which includes among other things "a timeline for updates" containing "economic impact analyses of, at a minimum, costs to critical public infrastructure and recommended approaches for implementing the sea level rise adaptation strategies and recommended projects..." (Pub. Res. Code § 30985(a)-(c).)

each guide, an in-person workshop, and a series of office hours for local governments to ask questions.

- **TASK 4: Scope of Work for Economic Analysis**

- Arcadis will develop a scope of work that examines the cost of inaction related to sea level rise across the local governments in the Bay Area. This analysis would provide a significant starting point for local analysis and reduce the amount of analysis required at a local level. BCDC will utilize this scope of work to evaluate whether to proceed forward with the regional analysis.

Selection Process

BCDC issued an RFP solicitation on April 24, 2026, with a deadline of May 15, 2026. On May 20, 2026, BCDC posted an addendum #1 for RFP SFBC-P-25-18 with updates to the project term, cost detail requirements, and method of payment, including a new deadline of June 3, 2026. BCDC received four complete proposals and conducted an initial review. Four consultant teams were selected for interviews between June 9 and 10, 2026. All proposals were scored and the highest scoring proposal was selected. The Notice of Intent to Award was posted June 16, 2026, and finalized June 23, 2026 after a five-day public notice period. Funding for this amended scope of work is provided through BCDC's General Fund. The contract period is August 1, 2026, through November 30, 2027, and is contingent on approval by the Department of General Services.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into a contract for up to \$275,070 with Arcadis to develop guides for local jurisdictions and their consultants on developing economic analyses that are compliant with SB 272 and RSAP Guidelines, including stakeholder engagement, outreach, and trainings. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, so long as the amendment involves only non-substantive, or ministerial, changes.