



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No. 650.06

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 2012
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Planning Division, Community Development Department
SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement For Safety Element Update

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Assistant City Administrator to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Rodriguez Consulting, Inc., in the amount of \$101,171 (including up to \$9,197 in contingency funds for extra services if deemed necessary) for preparation of the General Plan Safety Element update.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The Safety Element of the General Plan is a State-mandated element that characterizes physical hazards (e.g., seismic/geologic, wildfire, flooding, hazardous materials, accident risks) and identifies policies and programs to minimize these hazards for the existing population and new development.

The current City Safety Element has not received a comprehensive update since its adoption in 1979. The recent *Plan Santa Barbara* General Plan Update was focused primarily on land use, housing, and growth management, with the expectation that other Elements of the General Plan would be updated in subsequent planning phases. State law also now requires periodic updates of all city Safety Elements. Receipt of federal grant funding for this work allows the City to proceed with the update at this time.

Project Description

The new Safety Element would incorporate updated hazards information, updated policies and programs, and results of several technical studies of seismic, wildfire, and hazardous materials issues (Attachment A – Safety Element Scope of Work Summary). The planning process for this Element update will include public review of a draft Element, State agency reviews for geologic and wildfire issues, Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation, and City Council consideration for adoption.

Consultant Selection

A City request for proposals (RFP) was sent to a range of qualified firms. Proposals received were reviewed and rated by a staff committee based on proposal responsiveness to the City RFP and scope of work; project manager and team qualifications; local knowledge and experience; budget; and schedule.

The proposal by Rodriguez Consulting, Inc., teamed with Campbell Geo, Inc. was rated highest and is recommended by the proposal review committee. A draft contract has been prepared, reviewed for form and content, and agreed to by the firm.

The firms of Rodriguez Consulting and Campbell Geo are both located in Santa Barbara. Rodriguez Consulting has extensive local knowledge and experience preparing both planning and environmental documents. Campbell Geo has expertise and extensive local experience analyzing geotechnical and hydrological conditions.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

On October 4, 2011, Council accepted federal HUD grant funding for the Safety Element update as part of the Disaster Relief Initiative (DRI) grant in follow-up to recent wildfires affecting the City. This professional services agreement will be fully funded by the grant funding, which has already been appropriated.

In addition to this professional services work for the Safety Element update, the grant funding received will support associated technical studies identified in the grant scope of work, to be overseen by the Fire Department (wildfire foothill evacuation routes; tsunami coastal evacuation routes; wildfire operational safety areas; hazardous materials GIS data base update) and Public Works Department (vapor barrier study); and staff oversight and CEQA review for the Safety Element update.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The new Safety Element will provide updated hazards information and policies that will support the existing community and new development in avoiding and minimizing public safety risks from natural and man-made hazards, and planning for disaster response and community resilience.

ATTACHMENT: Safety Element Scope of Work Summary

PREPARED BY: Barbara Shelton, Project Planner/ Environmental Analyst

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Assistant City Administrator

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office

Note: The draft contract and proposal has been provided in the Council reading file.

Safety Element Scope of Work Summary

May 2012

Earthquake Hazards – Update Safety Element descriptions of earthquake hazards, including fault rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, tsunami/seiche; incorporate recently updated earthquake hazards maps and new consultant-produced liquefaction map; incorporate information from pending Fire Department study of tsunami evacuation routes; update goals, policies, programs.

Geology and Soils Hazards – Update Safety Element descriptions of conditions and hazards, including soil types, slope instability/landslide potential and subsidence, sea cliff retreat, depth to groundwater, erosive and expansive soils, and radon; incorporate updated geologic and soil hazards maps, and develop updated goals, policies and programs. Update the Element discussion and formula for sea cliff retreat to reflect updated information and guidance for the 75-year bluff setback line. Identify or reference new future programs for pre-planning/adaptation to address the effects of climate change, such as erosion rates from climate change-induced sea level rise (coordinated with pending City Climate Plan).

Flooding Hazards – Update description of flood hazard zones and incorporate the most updated associated flood hazard map for each zone. Update description of dam inundation areas and include most updated associated maps for inundation areas. Incorporate updated references for floodplain management regulations and policies (e.g., from FEMA, City *Plan Santa Barbara* General Plan Update, Storm Water Management Plan, and Ordinances) addressing storm water management and creekside development. Include future programs for adaptation pre-planning to address the effects of climate change on flooding hazards (coordinated with City Climate Plan).

Wildland and Urban Fire Hazards – Update description of wildland and urban fire hazards and incorporate updated associated maps. Incorporate information from pending Fire Department studies of firefighting operations safety areas and wildfire evacuation routes. Update guidelines related to vegetation clearance and water requirements to reflect current City provisions in plans and ordinances. Include description of wildfire hazard along creeks and develop policy/programs to address this hazard. Update design guidelines addressing post-fire rebuilding and to encourage green building. Include future adaptation/pre-planning program to address the effects of climate change on wildland and urban fire hazards.

Hazardous Materials – Incorporate references to existing hazardous materials and waste management regulations, guidelines and policies, including City pesticide policies to address hazardous materials use. Incorporate a program for establishing additional household hazardous waste collection facilities as directed by implementation action PS9.1 in the Public Services section of the *Plan Santa Barbara* General Plan Update (Dec 2011).

Incorporate information from pending City Public Works vapor barrier study for development near previously contaminated sites per implementation action PS9.4 in the *Plan Santa Barbara GPU*.

Public Safety – For transportation/accident risks, incorporate existing data and regulatory references for airport, highway, and railroad hazards. For pipelines and other utilities, incorporate locations and regulation information. For electromagnetic fields, incorporate existing prudent avoidance policy as directed by *PlanSB GPU* policies.

Emergency Preparedness – Incorporate updated information and City policies related to emergency preparedness and response, including critical facilities. Include a new future program for coordination on a regional effort to increase resilience and self-sufficiency of the South Coast for the post-disaster recovery period (outlined in July 2011 Planning Commission discussion).