



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 25, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager
 Submitted by: Timothy Burroughs, Director, Planning and Development Department
 Subject: Contract: Rincon Consultants, Inc. for Development of a Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments, extensions, or change orders with Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to develop a Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report for an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The project is funded by \$50,000 of funds allocated in budget code 011-53-583-611-0000-000-441-612990 and \$30,000 of funds allocated in budget code 621-53-583-611-0000-000-472-612990. A request for additional appropriation will be submitted as part of a subsequent amendment to the FY 2020 Annual Appropriations Ordinance. The Rocky Mountain Institute, a subconsultant to Rincon, is providing an additional \$25,000 of in-kind technical support to this project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In March 2019, the City of Berkeley released a Request for Proposals, Specification No. 19-11256-C (Re-Issued), from qualified firms or individuals to develop a Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report focused on how to equitably transition the existing building stock in Berkeley from natural gas to 100% clean energy (i.e., to carbon-free electricity). The report deliverables will include: (1) Existing building electrification policy analysis and proposed plan to achieve 100% Clean Energy Buildings; and (2) Implementation and funding plan that will identify required resources, costs, timelines, and measurable outcomes for the next two to five years.

The City received six valid proposals for this solicitation. Staff reviewed and assessed the proposals according to the selection criteria in the RFP, including the project approach, qualifications, references, and price proposal. The top three teams were invited for interviews, and reference checks were also conducted by staff.

Based on this thorough review, staff recommends selection of the Rincon team to lead the development of the Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report. The team

has demonstrated expertise in building electrification, state regulations, public outreach and social equity. In addition to its staff, the Rincon team includes as subconsultants: (1) the Rocky Mountain Institute, which brings technical expertise in building decarbonization; and (2) the Ecology Center, a local non-profit that brings experience in public outreach and social equity in the Berkeley community. These additional highly qualified firms will ensure that Berkeley's Pathway to Clean Energy Report is visionary, feasible and addresses the needs of all members of the Berkeley community.

This action supports the City's Strategic Plan goal of being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley has a long and strong commitment to climate action and community resilience. According to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions inventory, the City has achieved a 15% reduction below 2000 GHG levels. Building energy use constitutes about 37% of Berkeley's annual GHG emissions, and use of natural gas in buildings accounts for 27% of all emissions, the second largest contributor of carbon emissions after transportation.

On February 28, 2017, the Berkeley City Council referred to the City Manager and Berkeley Energy Commission the development of a comprehensive, integrated Deep Green Building Program¹ to improve the sustainability of Berkeley buildings. On April 24, 2018, the Berkeley City Council allocated \$50,000 to conduct an analysis to identify and develop a set of programs and policies to incentivize residential energy efficiency and electrification investments, based on a cost-benefit analysis to determine highest value energy-saving measures in support of the Deep Green Building Initiative.² In addition, in June 2018, Berkeley City Council declared a Climate Emergency and established a goal of becoming a Fossil Fuel Free City, with a focus on electrification of Berkeley's buildings.

The goal of the Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report is to provide the building energy policy analysis related to the Deep Green Building referral, as well as to identify the feasibility, timeline and costs to transition Berkeley's existing building stock to be 100% fossil fuel free, in response to the Climate Emergency and Fossil Free City declaration.

¹ See more information at:
https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/06_June/Documents/2018-06-26_Item_52_Referral_Response_Berkeley_Deep.aspx

² See more information at:
https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/04_Apr/Documents/04-24_Annotated.aspx

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Transitioning buildings away from natural gas and towards using clean electricity is a key strategy for achieving Berkeley's overall goal of an 80% GHG reduction from year 2000 levels by 2050, as well as Berkeley's goal of becoming a fossil fuel free city.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal from the Rincon team demonstrated a careful understanding of the needs of the City and ranked, in conjunction with the interview and reference checks, as the highest out of a field of strong proposals. Rincon has assembled a highly qualified team with specialized expertise to effectively lead the development of the Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report. The team also provided additional in-kind funding to support this project.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Billi Romain, Manager, Office of Energy and Sustainable Development, Planning and
Development Department, 510-981-7432

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CONTRACT: RINCON CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A BERKELEY
PATHWAY TO CLEAN ENERGY BUILDINGS REPORT

WHEREAS, the Planning and Development Department has determined that external consultant expertise and staff capacity is needed to effectively create the Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings Report, a stakeholder process to create an action-based implementation plan; and

WHEREAS, six teams responded to a Request for Proposals released on March 20, 2019 (Specification No. 19-11256-C (Re-Issued)); and

WHEREAS, a selection committee reviewed the proposals and determined that Rincon Consultants, Inc. were the best qualified to provide the services needed; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the contracted service is covered by funds allocated in FY 2020 in budget code 621-53-583-611-0000-000-472-612990; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager execute a contract and any amendments, extensions, or change orders with Rincon Consultants, Inc. to develop a Berkeley Pathway to Clean Energy Buildings for an amount not to exceed \$80,000 for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a record signature copy of said contract and any amendments will be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.