



## CITY OF COMMERCE AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Honorable City Council

**Item No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**FROM:** City Manager

**SUBJECT:** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COMMERCE, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ) FOR CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) ANALYSIS FOR A NEW TRANSPORTATION FACILITY PROJECT

**MEETING DATE:** AUGUST 4, 2020

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Council will consider for adoption a Resolution approving the issuance of a Request for Quotations (RFQ) for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Analysis for a new transportation facility project.

### **BACKGROUND**

On July 16, 2020, the City received approval from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to enter the "NEPA" compliance phase for a new transportation facility. This notice provided an FTA determination of the project need due to current and anticipated capacity constraints; including future needs such as modernized electric fleets; therefore, the City was granted "pre-award" authority to begin activities related to refining and preparing the project for future design and construction phases, prior to a full funding agreement.

To move forward with the project, there is a need to retain the services of an environmental firm to assist the City in developing a project description at a level of detail enough to conduct the required CEQA and NEPA environmental analysis. The consultant will be responsible for leading the City through both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental approval processes.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The scope of work includes the following deliverables:

1. The CEQA environmental work will include conducting a traffic analysis, greenhouse gas and air quality analysis, and a cultural assessment for CEQA compliance. Additionally, the consultant shall advise the City regarding the appropriate CEQA document for the proposed project.
2. Prepare documentation under NEPA, including any analysis required to comply with Categorical Exclusion. Additional NEPA compliance includes any investigation necessary to comply with Environmental Impact and Related Procedures under Title 23: Highways under § 771.117 Categorical exclusions.
3. Prepare an administrative draft of the appropriate CEQA document as well as the NEPA report(s). Based on input from City staff and legal counsel, the consultant firm will finalize the CEQA and NEPA documents.
4. Prepare the necessary documentation to enable the City to file/record, if appropriate, a Notice of Determination of the CEQA document and other documents required in consultation with City staff and legal counsel.
5. If necessary, the consultant firm will prepare an appropriate mitigation monitoring plan.
6. Prepare documentation to assist City staff and legal counsel in making the necessary CEQA and/or NEPA findings for approval of the project.
7. Prepare a timeline and a detailed schedule for CEQA and NEPA document completion.

Staff anticipates that the consultant firm contract will provide opportunities for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small and Local Business (SLBE) participation. Every effort will be made to reach out to these business entities and highlight this contracting opportunity. As part of the solicitation, staff will advertise in relevant websites, as well as hold pre-proposal meetings to assist smaller firms in contacting primes.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost of this environmental phase of the project shall be covered 100% with Federal Grant Funds (5307 Funds) and have no impact to the City's operating budget. This project has been approved by Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Los Angeles County Metropolitan Authority (Metro) and the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA); and included as part of the regional Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP - Project ID: LAOG1295).

## **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC GOALS:**

This agenda item relates to the 2016 Strategic Plan - Goal #6: "Enhance Quality of Life Goal"; as this project helps the City move one step closer to building affordable homes in the community; which improves the quality of life in Commerce.

Prepared and Recommended by: Claude McFerguson, Director of Transportation

Approved by: Jose Jimenez, Director of Economic Development and Planning  
Fiscal impact reviewed by: Josh Brooks, Acting Director of Finance  
Approved as to form by: Noel Tapia, City Attorney  
Respectfully submitted: Edgar P. Cisneros, City Manager

ATTACHMENT:

1. RFQ (Request for Quotations)