



Los Angeles World Airports

REPORT TO THE

BOARD OF AIRPORT COMMISSIONERS

Item Number
2


Approved by: Tim Dazé


Reviewed by: Tim Dazé


City Attorney

Justin Erbacci, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Meeting Date:

2/6/2020

CAO Review:

☐ Completed
☒ Pending
☐ N/A

| Reviewed for | Date | Approval Status | By |
|--------------------|-----------|--|----|
| Finance | 1/17/2020 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> NA | RW |
| CEQA | 1/16/2020 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | PI |
| Procurement | 1/22/2020 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> Cond | LK |
| Guest Experience | 1/22/2020 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N | BY |
| Strategic Planning | 1/16/2020 | <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA | KV |

SUBJECT: Award of one year contract to Sohagi Law Group

Award a one year contract to Sohagi Law Group ("SLG") in the amount of \$825,000 to provide support to the City Attorney regarding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and related environmental legal issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Management RECOMMENDS that the Board of Airport Commissioners:

1. ADOPT the Staff Report.
2. DETERMINE that this action is administratively exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article II, Section 2.f of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.
3. FIND that the work can be performed more economically or feasibly by an independent contractor than by City employees.
4. FIND that action qualifies for approval under Charter Sections 371 (e)(2) and (e)(10) because SLG is co trial counsel on a CEQA writ matter set for trial on February 6, 2020, and it would therefore not be practical or advantages to conduct competitive bidding and it would be undesirable, impractical or impossible to comply with competitive bidding requirements for these services.

5. APPROVE the award of a one year contract with SLG in the amount of \$825,000 to provide support to the City Attorney regarding CEQA and related environmental issues.
6. AUTHORIZE the Interim Chief Executive Officer to execute the one year contract with SLG in the amount of \$825,000.

DISCUSSION:

1. Purpose

The requested one year contract is needed to support to the City Attorney regarding ongoing complex, high-stakes, and technically dense environmental legal issues. The current SLG contract will expire February 3, 2020 with a remaining balance of approximately \$1,290,000. The one year contract sought is for \$825,000; a reduction of more than \$400,000. SLG is a member of the outside counsel trial team for a matter going to trial on February 6, 2020, and is also a member of the legal team providing advice on several ongoing LAWA matters.

2. Prior Related Actions

- **February 2, 2017 – Resolution No. 26164 (DA-5172)**

The Board of Airport Commissioners (BOAC) authorized the Chief Executive Officer and the City Attorney's Office to enter into a three-year services agreement with SLG. The initial Contract amount was for \$550,000. The Contract called for work to be paid on an hourly basis.

- **July 11, 2018 – Resolution No. 26537 (DA-5172A)**

The BOAC approved a First Amendment to the SLG Contract, adding funds in the amount of \$1,775,000.

3. Current Action

The requested contract would keep in place the existing outside counsel legal team needed for (a) LAWA's robust response to the ongoing The Parking Spot (TPS) LAMP CEQA writ set for trial February 6, 2020, and (b) review and advice on potential LAWA development projects, such as the proposed Airfield and Terminal Modernization Project (ATMP), as they move through the environmental planning process. The City Attorney had intended to seek an amendment to the contract to add an additional one year term in January; however, there were no available board meetings in January for the matter to be heard. The existing contract will expire prior to the February 6 board meeting, therefore, the action requested is the award of a one year contract rather than an amendment to the existing contract to add an additional year.

Action Requested

Award a one year contract to Sohagi Law Group ("SLG") in the amount of \$825,000 to provide support to the City Attorney regarding California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and related environmental legal issues.

Fiscal Impact

The expiring contract had a remaining balance of approximately \$1,290,000. The new contract seeks authority in the amount of \$825,000; a net reduction of more than \$400,000.

Alternatives Considered

- ***Take No Action***

Taking no action would impact the City Attorney's ability to provide LAWA with critical and timely environmental legal analysis and could delay legal analysis regarding time sensitive environmental issues including response to the TPS CEQA Writ and analysis of the ATMP.

APPROPRIATIONS:

The expiring contract had a remaining balance of approximately \$1,290,000. The new contract seeks authority in the amount of \$825,000; a net reduction of more than \$400,000. Staff is not requesting an appropriation of funds at this time. Funds for additional periods will be requested as part of the annual budget process.

STANDARD PROVISIONS:

1. This item, as a continuing administrative, maintenance and personnel-related activity, is administratively exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements pursuant to Article II, Section 2.f of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.
2. The City Attorney has approved this item.
3. Actions taken on this item by the Board of Airport Commissioners will become final pursuant to the provisions of Los Angeles City Charter Section 373.
4. Sohagi Law Group will comply with the provisions of the Living Wage Ordinance.
5. This item is not subject to the Business Enterprise Programs.
6. Sohagi Law Group will comply with the provisions of the Affirmative Action Program.
7. Sohagi Law Group has been assigned Business Tax Registration Certificate No. 0002218728-0001-4.
8. Sohagi Law Group will comply with the provisions of the Child Support Obligations Ordinance.
9. Sohagi Law Group has approved insurance documents, in the terms and amounts required on file with the Los Angeles World Airports.
10. Pursuant to Charter Section 1022, it has been determined that the work specified in this contract can be performed more feasibly or economically by an Independent Contractor than by City employees.

11. Sohagi Law Group must submit the Contractor Responsibility Program Questionnaire and Pledge of Compliance and must comply with the provisions of the Contractor Responsibility Program.
12. Sohagi Law Group must be determined by Public Works, Office of Contract Compliance, to be in compliance with the provisions of the Equal Benefits Ordinance prior to execution of contract.
13. Sohagi Law Group will comply with the provisions of the First Source Hiring Program for all non-trade LAX Airport jobs.
14. Sohagi Law Group will be required to comply with the provisions of the Bidder Contributions CEC Form 55.
15. This action is not subject to the provisions of the Iran Contracting Act.