



City of La Quinta

CITY / SA / HA / FA MEETING DATE: June 17, 2014

AGENDA CATEGORY:

ITEM TITLE: APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BENGAL ENGINEERING TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DUNE PALMS ROAD BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS

BUSINESS SESSION:

CONSENT CALENDAR: 15

STUDY SESSION:

PUBLIC HEARING:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Bengal Engineering, in the amount of \$1,176,781, to provide professional engineering services for the Dune Palms Road Bridge Improvements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The Dune Palms Road Bridge Project will replace a low water crossing at the Whitewater Channel with an all-weather, multimodal (car, golf cart, bike, pedestrian) bridge that will improve access and safety between north La Quinta and the commercial and residential areas to the south of the channel.
- Approval of the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) will initiate the engineering phase of the bridge improvements project including preparation of environmental documentation, bridge and roadway engineering, and right-of-way acquisition services.
- The project is partially funded with Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) Funds through the State's Highway Bridge Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The City currently has \$1,750,000 budgeted for the design of the Dune Palms Road Bridge Improvements. The PSA with Bengal Engineering is a fixed fee contract with a not-to-exceed total amount of \$1,176,781. The remainder of the design budget will be used for project management and agency permitting necessary to obtain environmental clearance for the project.

STP Funds will underwrite 88.53 percent of project costs, and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) has agreed to fund 75 percent of the required 11.47 percent local match. The design, project management and permitting costs will be allocated as follows:

STP Funds	\$1,549,275
CVAG	\$150,543
City	\$50,182

The City's share will be funded through Local Transportation Developer Impact Fee funds and Local Art in Public Places funds previously authorized in the Capital Improvement Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Dune Palms Road is an important link between north La Quinta, La Quinta High School, south La Quinta, and the City's commercial corridor on Highway 111. During severe winter and summer storms, the existing low water crossing at the Whitewater Channel is frequently inundated and damaged due to debris flows. The proposed improvements will replace the existing low water crossing with an all-weather access bridge to prevent the frequent road closures and provide a safe, reliable path for of travel across the Whitewater Channel.

In 2012, staff was successful in securing the maximum reimbursement of federal funds for the design and construction of Dune Palms Road Bridge. On October 16, 2013, City Council authorized staff to advertise a Request for Proposals to obtain professional engineering services to prepare the plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate for the Dune Palms Road Bridge Improvements, City Project No. 2011-05 and Federal Project Number BRLKS-5433(014).

Staff has since advertised the project and received four proposals on November 28, 2013. After interviewing the firms, the Consultant Selection Committee unanimously selected and began negotiations with Bengal Engineering as the most qualified design professional. Bengal, located in Temecula, had the strongest understanding and approach of the interviewed firms, has a local project manager with extensive design experience with the City, and had exemplary reference recommendations.

Due to the Federal STP Funds and the overall cost of the contract, the California Department of Transportation required the City and Bengal Engineering to submit contract documentation for a "Pre-Award" Audit. During this audit, the proposed contract language was reviewed as well as Bengal Engineering's financial statements. It was determined that the proposed contract and Bengal's financial statements were in conformance with Federal Cost Principals and the City has been authorized to execute the contract. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the PSA with Bengal Engineering. It has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney and, due to its length, is available for review at the Public Works Counter.

ALTERNATIVES:

Since this is a much needed improvement that is largely funded through Federal Highways and CVAG, no alternative is recommended.

Report prepared by: Bryan McKinney, Principal Engineer

Report approved for submission by: Timothy R. Jonasson, P.E.

Public Works Director/City Engineer

