



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE:	February 23, 2016
SUBJECT:	Authorize Technical Services Agreement for Far-Northern California Goods & Freight Hub Study
AGENDA ITEM:	18
STAFF CONTACT:	Daniel Wayne, Senior Transportation Planner

SUMMARY:

SRTA circulated a request for proposals (RFP) to complete the grant-funded *Far-Northern California Goods & Freight Hub Study*. Three proposals were received and evaluated. Results are provided for consideration by the board of directors.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the board of directors authorize the executive director to enter into a standard technical services agreement (TSA) with New Venture Advisors to carry out the *Far-Northern California Consolidated Goods & Freight Hub Study*, for a term ending June 30, 2019, not to exceed \$110,000.

DISCUSSION:

SRTA was awarded \$125,000 through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program to study the feasibility and potential benefits of an intermodal goods and freight hub located in Shasta County. In addition to enhancing freight efficiency and economic development, the hub is identified in the 2015 Regional Transportation Plan as a key strategy for reducing congestion and meeting future regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets pursuant to Senate Bill 375.

At the December meeting, the board of directors authorized an RFP for consultant services to complete the study. Three proposals were received and evaluated by a panel of staff and external stakeholders who will be participating in the project. Results of the evaluation are provided by Attachment A and summarized below:

Lead Consultant	Budget	Average Score (out of 100)
New Venture Advisors (Chicago, IL)	\$110,000	78.75
Applied Development Economics (Walnut Creek, CA)	\$110,000	73
Matson Consulting (Aiken, SC)	\$109,980	62.5

New Venture Advisors' proposal was ranked highest. Deciding factors included: 1) a finer understanding of the nuances of operating a successful food hub in the real world, beyond the technical analysis of data; 2) a unique approach to identifying the most suitable food hub operator-broker; and 3) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise status. A copy of the proposal is provided by Attachment B and will be incorporated into the TSA. .

ALTERNATIVES:

The board of directors may select another proposer or direct staff to recirculate the RFP.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Representatives from the California Energy Commission and the California Air Resources Board visited the region in November to learn more about the project, at which time the city of Anderson provided a site tour of a potential food hub site located just south of the Deschutes Road roundabout.

The *Far-Northern California Goods & Freight Hub* was shortlisted by the California Air Resources Board as a possible 'sustainable freight pilot project' pursuant to Governor's Executive Order B-32-15. Approximately 80 pilot project proposals were submitted statewide, of which five were selected for further evaluation. Should the *Far-Northern California Goods & Freight Hub* make the final cut, it will be featured in the California Sustainable Freight Action Plan and be the focus of coordinated financial and technical support from the California State Transportation Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Natural Resources Agency.

FINANCING:

Consultant costs (up to \$110,000) and SRTA costs required for project management and grant administration (up to \$15,000) will be funded through a \$125,000 Caltrans Strategic Partnerships grant. Local matching funds of \$31,250 will be provided in the form of in-kind support from project partners, including Superior California Economic Development, Growing Local, and the Center for Economic Development at California State University, Chico.

Daniel S. Little, AICP, Executive Director

Attachments: A: Summary of Proposal Evaluations
B: New Venture Advisors Proposal