

MERA: E-Board Comments in re: Federal Engineering contract thru 08/17/2015

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS:

1. The proposed scope of services nearly matches the proposal, which was approximately \$100K less.

I like that MERA Committees were recognized, unfortunately, the contract is still with the County, ultimately leaving MERA out of the loop.

Can a cap be established on travel and per diem expenses? Apparently, we have very little control in this area as well.

2. I like the idea of remote meetings and recognize in person meetings are desired and necessary. I think the problem is that there is no language to limit type of travel, (First Class, Coach, Business, Private Jet) or \$ amounts on McDonalds or Ruth Crist. Not a big deal in the scheme of things, just trying to avoid potential problems and various interpretations.

3. If possible and as effective, I would suggest we reduce the meeting costs.

REPLY AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF:

The original Federal Engineering proposal did not anticipate as much contact with MERA. The eventual contract is being let by the County and there has appeared to be a strong interest by MERA Boards Committees to remain informed and involved in the project. The current version is the result of several negotiating sessions involving DPW and MERA staff. We have continued to place MERA reviews and approvals into the process of the RFP and the System Vendor process. In addition, we have are developing a process so that all MERA Boards and Committees can have monthly updates.

As to a cap on travel and per diem, this is being proposed as a fixed cost contract, so first class tickets and expensive meals come out of their profit margin. If a need is identified for Federal Engineering to provide additional services, those change orders would be separately negotiated at the time.

As for meetings, we have planned for eight meetings/presentations to support the needs of the Governing Board, Executive Board, NGPOC, and Operations Committees. We anticipate most of this effort being focused on two points, the System RFP and the System Vendor Selection, which are two critical steps. System vendor selection alone will involve FE being present during vendor presentations, potentially on some site visits, presenting their analysis and supporting the NGPOC, Executive Board and Governing Board in their decision making processes.

We could potentially re-price this with 4 or 6 meetings, but would likely be requesting a change to add meetings in the future at negotiated prices. We have been clear that we will try to combine our various boards and committees to keep these presentations to a minimum.