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Project name:
MERA Next Generation Radio
Communications System

Project ref:

From:
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Date:
June 16, 2021

To:
David Jeffries
MERA Deputy Executive Officer

CC:

Memo

Subject: CEQA Required Biological/Cultural Monitor

MERA adopted a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) based upon the findings of the Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) prepared for the MERA Next Generation Radio Communications System. This MMRP requires that MERA conduct surveys and monitor construction to mitigate potential impacts to natural resources as a result of project activities.

AECOM contacted several firms and requested proposals to implement the measures adopted by the MERA Governing Board. After some preliminary screening two proposals were received from qualified firms: Dudek and Helix Environmental Planning.

After careful review, both firms have qualified professionals available to provide the required services however there is a significant difference in cost and approach. AECOM interviewed both firms and determined that the Helix proposal does not provide MERA with a significant difference in service despite a much higher price.

AECOM recommends that MERA award the contract for Biological/Cultural monitoring to DUDEK. The Dudek proposal includes an "on call" task that would provide an initial response in the event that something is discovered that requires additional survey or monitoring beyond the baseline tasks. For example: If active nesting or other CEQA covered conditions are discovered, a change may be needed to cover extended monitoring on that site.

Since these services are responsive to field conditions, there is an indeterminate component of the services and that element is expected to be "time and materials" with a set rate sheet for the various professionals that may be required.

Dudek's Task 11 is unlikely to be needed as MERA has a separate contract with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) for tribal monitoring services but is included here to ensure coverage during construction operations.

The Dudek proposal is for \$ 19,390.28 and AECOM recommends that MERA approve this contract.