Request for Qualifications

Environmental Review Services

The Sonoma County Community Development Commission (Commission) is requesting qualifications from firms to provide consulting services related to federal environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act and 24 CFR Part 58, HUD Environmental Review Regulations, as well as other types of environmental review services as needed.

The selected Consultant (Consultant) will review the scope of work of projects funded by the Commission, determine the appropriate level of environmental review, conduct the environmental review, and submit two copies of the completed review for execution by the Certifying Officer.

Background

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding to the Commission on behalf of the County of Sonoma, the recipient, to administer programs to assist low-and moderate-income individuals and households throughout Sonoma County. Through an annual funding cycle, the Commission advertises the availability of the funds and receives proposals from nonprofit organizations and units of local government. Through a defined public participation process, the proposals are reviewed, and recommendations are made to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for funding approval. In the spring of each year, the Board affirms funding approval for the sponsors of programs and projects (the subrecipients) that best meet the current needs of the target populations.

All projects or programs approved for funding must meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and 24 CFR Part 58, HUD Environmental Review Regulations, before the Commission may enter into an agreement to provide funding to the subrecipient. The projects fall into four categories:

- Exempt per 24 CFR 58.34
- Categorically Excluded not subject to statutes per 24 CFR 58.35(b)
- Categorically Excluded subject to statutes per 24 CFR 58.35(a)
- Environmental Assessment per 24 CFR 58.36

It is unlikely that the Commission will fund projects requiring an Environmental Impact Statement due to funding limitations. The environmental review of projects subject to §58.34 will be completed by Commission staff. All others will be undertaken by the Consultant selected under this request for qualifications (RFQ). The composition of the projects will change with each funding year, but it can be anticipated that two to three projects, but generally not more than five, will be subject to §58.36, and five to seven projects, but generally not more than 10, subject to §58.35(a) and (b).
Some projects may involve CEQA considerations, but such instances are rare. If CEQA evaluations are required, a separate proposal will be requested. Projects are situated in diverse areas throughout Sonoma County. Some projects may be located in FEMA-identified special flood hazard areas or may contain wetlands. All projects are subject to a thorough Section 106 review. All environmental services performed under the professional service contract, attached, shall be under contract with the Commission and not the subrecipient receiving the project funding. The Certifying Officer is the Executive Director of the Commission.

Other types of environmental review services, outside of the federal funding cycle, may be requested by the Commission on an as-needed basis.

Prior agreements have had five-year terms and annual expenditures of roughly $10,000 - $20,000 and total not-to-exceed provisions of roughly $300,000.

**Scope of Services**

Through the annual funding cycle described above, projects for an upcoming fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) will be approved by the Board of Supervisors typically in the first week of May. Other projects funded through state and local sources may also require environmental review on an ad-hoc basis. Upon approval of conditional funding awards to projects, the following will ensue:

1. The Commission will compile a listing of all projects funded and forward it to the Consultant. Included will be electronic copies of the applications for funding as submitted and contact information for the entity submitting the application.

2. The Consultant will review the project descriptions and contact the subrecipient to garner additional information as necessary to determine the appropriate level of environmental review and required timeframe for completion of the environmental review. Commission staff will serve as a liaison between the Consultant and subrecipient, as needed.

3. The Consultant will provide the Commission with the determination of the level of environmental review, the projected start date, completion date, understanding of the project, scope of work, and fee schedule for each of the funded projects. The Consultant may, with prior approval of the Commission, complete all of the environmental reviews at the start of the fiscal year or spaced throughout the course of the year as individual projects near commencement, but in no case will any project be delayed waiting for the completion of the environmental review due to actions or inactions of the Consultant.

4. Once the Commission has reviewed and approved the above, a notice to proceed will be issued, and the Consultant is authorized to begin the work.

5. The Consultant will initiate all necessary consultations and studies to complete the environmental review as described in the HUD Environmental Review Regulations. The scope of this RFQ covers only the items necessary to complete that review. Separate studies (Phase I, geotechnical, biotic, archaeological, noise, traffic, etc.) that are required and known during the scoping stage shall be supplied to the Consultant by the subrecipient or, if not already obtained, included as an additional cost item in the Consultant’s original fee schedule. Additional studies and consultations required that arise after the scoping stage may be included; only if the Consultant has notified the Commission of the need for the additional services, along with the cost, prior to initiating those services, and has received an amended Notice to Proceed reflecting
the increased cost. Section 106 review shall be conducted by the Consultant and included in the scope of work for each project. The Consultant will make a minimum of one site visit to examine and photo-document the location and surrounding environs and shall make additional visits as warranted.

6. The Commission will publish all required public notices. The Consultant will provide the publication’s text to Commission staff. The Consultant will also provide the Commission with the text of all correspondence with other regulatory agencies required (SHPO, COE, ACHP, etc.) and then package and mail/ship the information to the appropriate agency.

7. The Consultant will compile all necessary information in the format specified by HUD for that level of environmental review and provide the Commission with one bound and one unbound copy for execution by the Certifying Officer. The final environmental review record will include all necessary source documentation presented in an orderly, easily understandable manner.

8. The Consultant will assist the Commission in response to any public comments or questions received from HUD or any other federal or state regulatory agencies pertaining to the environmental review process.

The Consultant will be solely responsible for all costs incurred during the environmental review process, including, but not limited to, travel time and costs, food, lodging, postage, shipping, reproductions, and subcontract. The Consultant may submit one interim and one final payment request. The Commission will issue payment within 30 days of receipt of the invoice.

Submission Requirements

Responses to this RFQ shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

Cover Letter and Introduction

A letter of introduction, which includes the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the contact person(s) authorized to represent your firm. This letter should be signed by an officer of the firm authorized to bind the firm to all commitments made in the response.

Project Overview

Provide a brief narrative description of the Scope of Services outlined above. Include any issues you believe may require special consideration. Discuss any alternatives to the Scope of Work you might recommend. Commission staff will assess your understanding of the objectives based on this overview.

Qualifications and Experience

Provide descriptions of your firm’s role, experience, and capability in providing specific NEPA and CEQA compliance services to other HUD-funded clients in the past five years. Provide the name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of principal representatives of those clients. Include information about environmental review records (ERR) completed for as many different categories of projects as possible, identify the citation defining the category, and submit an example of at least one completed ERR for each category. Include qualifications and experience of sub-consultants, if any. Briefly describe your firm’s general business capabilities and your ability to meet the required timelines.
Methodology
Identify the appropriate level of environmental review and provide an outline of the process to complete the ERR for the two hypothetical projects listed below. Include an estimated timeline for completion and cost. (Assume these projects are not complicated by outside issues.)

a. $75,000 of CDBG funding provided to a local jurisdiction to remove architectural barriers and replace an existing path of travel along a partially paved road shoulder with 300 linear feet of ADA-compliant sidewalk, including pedestrian ramps, curbs, and gutters.

b. 22 Project-Based Vouchers awarded to an existing affordable senior multi-unit housing complex. A small portion of the project is located in a floodplain area that requires flood insurance. There is no rehabilitation or other activities proposed; the project is funding/grant related only.

c. $300,000 of HOME funds provided to a non-profit affordable housing developer for the construction of a new $9.7 million, 48-unit multi-family dwelling.

d. $80,000 of CDBG funding provided to a non-profit to assist 10–15 disabled households by installing accessibility improvements and performing minor rehabilitation. The specific locations and rehabilitation activities are not identified at the time the funding award is made.

e. Special Conditions
i. Additional procedure if any of the above projects were located in a special flood hazard area.

ii. Additional procedure if a circa 1860 house were located within the proposed footprint of the affordable housing project.

Cost Basis for Completion of the ERR
Provide:

1. The per-hour fee schedule upon which the cost of the ERR will be calculated. Include a description of which elements of the environmental review process may be completed by specific members of the consulting team and include the fee schedule for those positions.

2. The per-hour fee for additional activities that are undertaken by the respondent that is necessitated by unforeseen circumstances or additional consultations that were not known at the time the initial scope of work was submitted to the Commission.

   a. If the additional consulting services consist solely of work done by sub-consultants that is subsequently approved by the Commission and included in an amended Notice to Proceed, the percentage of administration fee added to the cost of the sub-consultation.

Authorization
The response must be signed by an individual authorized to bind the firm and shall contain a statement to the effect that the response is valid for at least 90 days.

Due Date
Electronic responses must be received by the Commission, no later than 2:00 p.m., August 14, 2020. The due date is subject to change. If the due date is changed, all known recipients of the original RFQ will be
notified of the new date, and any such changes will also be posted on the Sonoma County Purchasing Division's Supplier Portal as well as the Commission's website.

Questions/Answers
All questions must be submitted in writing no later than August 4, 2020. If any questions are received, all questions will be answered in an addendum issued and posted on the Sonoma County Purchasing Division's Supplier Portal as well as the Commission's website by August 7, 2020. The Commission will not provide verbal responses to any inquiries made by prospective respondents. The Commission will instead direct respondents to submit all questions in writing.

Questions should be submitted to:
Sonoma County Community Development Commission
Attn: Kirsten Larsen
1440 Guerneville Road
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Email: Kirsten.Larsen@sonoma-county.org

Timeline
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFQ Issued</td>
<td>July 28, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questions in writing due</td>
<td>August 4, 2020, 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to questions and addendum issued and posted to Sonoma County Supplier Portal and Commission website</td>
<td>August 7, 2020, 5:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposals due</td>
<td>August 14, 2020, 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal evaluation</td>
<td>August 17 - 24, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consultant notified of preliminary selection, pending Board of Commissioners approval</td>
<td>August 24, 2020</td>
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Instructions for Submission of Response
Please submit an electronic version to Kirsten.Larsen@sonoma-county.org. Due to the Shelter-In-Place requirements of COVID-19, we will not accept hard-copy applications.

Evaluation Criteria
Selection of the most qualified Consultant will determine the final contract award and be based upon:

- Understanding of the scope of work as evidenced by the approach outlined
- Competence, technical ability, and related experience
- Knowledge of NEPA and other federal environmental regulations
- Estimated cost projections
- Responsiveness to the Request for Qualifications
- References

Rules and Regulations
The issuance of this RFQ does not constitute an agreement by the Commission that any contract will be entered into by the Commission. The Commission expressly reserves the right at any time to:
a. Waive or correct any defect or informality in any response, submittal, or submittal procedure.

b. Reject any or all responses.

c. Re-issue this RFQ or change deadline dates.

d. Modify all or any portion of the selection procedures, before the submission deadline, including deadlines for accepting responses, the specifications or requirements for any materials, equipment, or services to be provided under this RFQ, or the requirements for contents or format of the responses.

All responses shall be deemed public records. In the event that a respondent desires to claim portions of its response exempt from disclosure, it is incumbent upon the respondent to clearly identify those portions with the word "Confidential" printed on the lower right-hand corner of the page. The Commission will consider a respondent's request for exemption from disclosure; however, the Commission will make a decision based upon applicable laws. Assertions by a respondent that the entire submittal or large portions are exempt from disclosure will not be honored. All responses to this RFQ shall become the property of the Commission and will be retained or disposed of accordingly.

The Commission shall not be liable for any pre-contractual expenses incurred by any respondent. The Commission shall be held harmless and free from any and all liability, claims, or expenses whatsoever incurred by, or on behalf of, any person or organization responding to this RFQ.

All data and information furnished by Commission or referred to in this RFQ are furnished for the respondent's convenience. The Commission does not guarantee that such data and information are accurate and assumes no responsibility whatsoever as to its accuracy or interpretation. Respondents shall satisfy themselves as to the accuracy or interpretation of all such information and data.

By submitting a response to this RFQ, the respondent waives all rights to seek any legal remedies regarding any aspect of this RFQ, the Commission's selection of a consultant, and the Commission's rejection of any and all responses.

The Commission also reserves the right to negotiate any price or provisions and accept any part, or all parts of any or all responses, whichever is in the best interest of the Commission.

The Commission may, during the evaluation process, request additional respondent information, which the Commission deems necessary to determine the respondent's ability to perform the required services. If such information is requested, the respondent shall be permitted three (3) working days to submit this information.

All respondents submit their statements to the Commission with the understanding that the final approval of any agreement is contingent upon and subject to review and final approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Non-liability of Commission

The Commission shall not be liable for any pre-contractual expenses incurred by the respondent or selected Consultant or consultants. The Commission shall be held harmless and free from any and all liability, claims, or expenses whatsoever incurred by, or on behalf of, any person or organization responding to this RFQ.
Lobbying
Any party responding to this RFQ or a party representing a respondent shall not influence or attempt to influence any member of the selection committee, any member of the Board of Commissioners, or any employee of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission or the County of Sonoma, concerning the acceptance of a response to this RFQ. Any party attempting to influence the RFQ process through ex-parte contact may be subject to rejection of their response.

Form of Agreement
The selected Consultant will be expected to execute the Commission's standard form of professional services agreement, a sample copy of which is attached. The Consultant's response must specify, in writing, any objections consultant has to the Commission's standard form of Agreement and contain proposed alternatives to the standard language for consideration by the Commission. Matters not objected to by Consultant in its response will not be subject to later negotiation.

a) No agreement with the Commission shall have any effect until a contract has been signed by both parties.

b) A sample of the Agreement is included as Attachment A hereto. Respondents must be willing to provide the required insurance and accept the terms of this sample agreement. With few exceptions, the terms of the Commission's standard Agreement will not be negotiated. Indemnification language will not be negotiated.

c) Responses shall include a statement that (i) the respondent has reviewed the sample agreement and will agree to the terms contained therein if selected, or (ii) all terms and conditions are acceptable to the respondent except as explicitly noted in the response to this RFQ. A respondent taking exception to the Commission's sample agreement must also provide alternative language for those provisions considered objectionable to the respondent. Please note that any exceptions or changes requested to the Agreement may constitute grounds to reject the response.

d) Failure to address exceptions to the sample agreement in the response will be construed as acceptance of all terms and conditions contained therein.

e) Submission of additional contract exceptions after the submission deadline may result in the rejection of the Consultant’s response.

Living Wage
The Consultant shall comply with any and all federal, state, and local laws – including, but not limited to, the County of Sonoma Living Wage Ordinance – affecting the services provided by this professional services agreement. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Consultant expressly acknowledges and agrees that this professional services agreement is subject to the provisions of Article XXVI of Chapter 2 of the Sonoma County Code, requiring payment of a living wage to covered employees. Noncompliance during the term of the professional services agreement will be considered a material breach and may result in termination of the professional services agreement or pursuit of other legal or administrative remedies.

The link to the Living Wage Ordinance is: [http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CAO/Living-Wage-Ordinance/](http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CAO/Living-Wage-Ordinance/)
Attachments

Attachment A: Sample Professional Services Agreement

Attachment B: Sample Insurance Requirements
Standard Professional Services Agreement (“PSA”)  
Revision G – June 2016  
Adapted for Community Development Commission May 2019

AGREEMENT FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

This agreement (“Agreement”), dated as of __________, 20__ (“Effective Date”) is by and between the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, a public body corporate and politic (hereinafter “Commission”), and _______________ (hereinafter “Consultant”).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Consultant represents that it is a duly qualified environmental consultant, experienced in the preparation of environmental review documents and related services; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Commission, it is necessary and desirable to employ the services of Consultant for environmental review services.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals and the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. Scope of Services.

1.1. Consultant’s Specified Services.

Consultant shall perform the services described in Exhibit “A,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (hereinafter “Scope of Work”), and within the times or by the dates provided for in Exhibit “A” and pursuant to Article 7, Prosecution of Work. In the event of a conflict between the body of this Agreement and Exhibit “A”, the provisions in the body of this Agreement shall control.

1.2. Cooperation With Commission. Consultant shall cooperate with Commission and Commission staff in the performance of all work hereunder.

1.3. Performance Standard. Consultant shall perform all work hereunder in a manner consistent with the level of competency and standard of care normally observed by a person practicing in Consultant’s profession. Commission has relied upon the professional ability and training of Consultant as a material inducement to enter into this Agreement. Consultant hereby agrees to provide all services under this Agreement in accordance with generally accepted professional practices and standards of care, as well as the requirements of applicable federal, state and local laws, it being understood that acceptance of Consultant’s work by Commission
shall not operate as a waiver or release. If Commission determines that any of Consultant’s work is not in accordance with such level of competency and standard of care, Commission, in its sole discretion, shall have the right to do any or all of the following: (a) require Consultant to meet with Commission to review the quality of the work and resolve matters of concern; (b) require Consultant to repeat the work at no additional charge until it is satisfactory; (c) terminate this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Article 4; or (d) pursue any and all other remedies at law or in equity.

1.4. Assigned Personnel.

a. Consultant shall assign only competent personnel to perform work hereunder. In the event that at any time Commission, in its sole discretion, desires the removal of any person or persons assigned by Consultant to perform work hereunder, Consultant shall remove such person or persons immediately upon receiving written notice from Commission.

b. Any and all persons identified in this Agreement or any exhibit hereto as the project manager, project team, or other professional performing work hereunder are deemed by Commission to be key personnel whose services were a material inducement to Commission to enter into this Agreement, and without whose services Commission would not have entered into this Agreement. Consultant shall not remove, replace, substitute, or otherwise change any key personnel without the prior written consent of Commission.

c. In the event that any of Consultant’s personnel assigned to perform services under this Agreement become unavailable due to resignation, sickness or other factors outside of Consultant’s control, Consultant shall be responsible for timely provision of adequately qualified replacements.

2. Payment.

For all services and incidental costs required hereunder, Consultant shall be paid on a time and material/expense basis in accordance with the budget set forth in Exhibit __, provided, however, that total payments to Consultant shall not exceed $_____ without the prior written approval of Commission. Consultant shall submit its bills in arrears on a monthly basis in a form approved by Commission. The bills shall show or include: (i) the task(s) performed; (ii) the time in quarter hours devoted to the task(s); (iii) the hourly rate or rates of the persons performing the task(s); and (iv) copies of receipts for reimbursable materials/expenses, if any. Expenses not expressly authorized by the Agreement shall not be reimbursed.

Unless otherwise noted in this Agreement, payments shall be made within the normal course of Commission business after presentation of an invoice in a form approved by the Commission for services performed. Payments shall be made only upon the satisfactory completion of the services as determined by the Commission.

Pursuant to California Revenue and Taxation code (R&TC) Section 18662, the Commission shall withhold seven percent of the income paid to Consultant for services performed within the
State of California under this agreement, for payment and reporting to the California Franchise Tax Board, if Consultant does not qualify as: (1) a corporation with its principal place of business in California, (2) an LLC or Partnership with a permanent place of business in California, (3) a corporation/LLC or Partnership qualified to do business in California by the Secretary of State, or (4) an individual with a permanent residence in the State of California.

If Consultant does not qualify, Commission requires that a completed and signed Form 587 be provided by the Consultant in order for payments to be made. If Consultant is qualified, then the Commission requires a completed Form 590. Forms 587 and 590 remain valid for the duration of the Agreement provided there is no material change in facts. By signing either form, the Consultant agrees to promptly notify the Commission of any changes in the facts. Forms should be sent to the Commission pursuant to Article 12. To reduce the amount withheld, Consultant has the option to provide Commission with either a full or partial waiver from the State of California.

**CFDA/FEDERAL FUNDS-STATE FUNDING**

2.[ ] Payment. All or part of this Agreement will be paid with Federal awards. As a pass-through entity, the Commission is required to provide certain information regarding Federal award(s) to Consultant as a sub recipient. In signing this Agreement, Consultant acknowledges receipt of the following information regarding Federal award(s) that will be used to pay this Agreement:

- CFDA Title:
- CFDA Number:
- Award Name:
- Award Number:
- Award Year:
- Federal Agency:
- Pass-Through Agency:
- Federal Tax Identification Number:

As a sub recipient of Federal awards, Consultant is subject to the provisions of Office of Management and Budget Guidance for Grants and Agreements found at 2 CFR Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (hereinafter “2 CFR Part 200”). In signing this Agreement, Consultant acknowledges that it understands and will comply with the provisions of 2 CFR Part 200. One provision of 2 CFR Part 200 requires a sub recipient that expends $750,000 in Federal awards during its fiscal year to have a single audit performed in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200. If such an audit is required, Consultant agrees to provide Commission with a copy of the audit report within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditor’s report(s), or nine months after the
Consultant’s fiscal year end. Questions regarding 2 CFR Part 200 can be directed to the Sonoma County Auditor-controller Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office – General Accounting Division.

3. Term of Agreement. The term of this Agreement shall be from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 below.

4. Termination.

   4.1. Termination Without Cause. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, at any time and without cause, Commission shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to terminate this Agreement by giving 5 days written notice to Consultant.

   4.2. Termination for Cause. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, should Consultant fail to perform any of its obligations hereunder, within the time and in the manner herein provided, or otherwise violate any of the terms of this Agreement, Commission may immediately terminate this Agreement by giving Consultant written notice of such termination, stating the reason for termination.

   4.3. Delivery of Work Product and Final Payment Upon Termination. In the event of termination, Consultant, within 14 days following the date of termination, shall deliver to Commission all reports, original drawings, graphics, plans, studies, and other data or documents, in whatever form or format, assembled or prepared by Consultant or Consultant’s subcontractors, consultants, and other agents in connection with this Agreement and shall submit to Commission an invoice showing the services performed, hours worked, and copies of receipts for reimbursable expenses up to the date of termination.

   4.4. Payment Upon Termination. Upon termination of this Agreement by Commission, Consultant shall be entitled to receive as full payment for all services satisfactorily rendered and reimbursable expenses properly incurred hereunder, an amount which bears the same ratio to the total payment specified in the Agreement as the services satisfactorily rendered hereunder by Consultant bear to the total services otherwise required to be performed for such total payment; provided, however, that if services which have been satisfactorily rendered are to be paid on a per-hour or per-day basis, Consultant shall be entitled to receive as full payment an amount equal to the number of hours or days actually worked prior to the termination times the applicable hourly or daily rate; and further provided, however, that if Commission terminates the Agreement for cause pursuant to Section 4.2, Commission shall deduct from such amount the amount of damage, if any, sustained by Commission by virtue of the breach of the Agreement by Consultant.

   4.5. Authority to Terminate. The Commission’s Executive Director, in consultation with County Counsel, has the authority to terminate this Agreement on behalf of the Commission.

5. Indemnification. Consultant agrees to accept all responsibility for loss or damage to any person or entity, including Commission, and to indemnify, hold harmless, and release Commission and the County of Sonoma, its officers, agents, and employees, from and against
any actions, claims, damages, liabilities, disabilities, or expenses, that may be asserted by any person or entity, including Consultant, that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to Consultant’s or its agents’, employees’, contractors’, subcontractors’, or invitees’ performance or obligations under this Agreement. Consultant agrees to provide a complete defense for any claim or action brought against Commission based upon a claim relating to such Consultant’s or its agents’, employees’, contractors’, subcontractors’, or invitees’ performance or obligations under this Agreement. Consultant’s obligations under this Section apply whether or not there is concurrent or contributory negligence on Commission’s part, but to the extent required by law, excluding liability due to Commission’s conduct. Commission shall have the right to select its legal counsel at Consultant’s expense, subject to Consultant’s approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. This indemnification obligation is not limited in any way by any limitation on the amount or type of damages or compensation payable to or for Consultant or its agents under workers’ compensation acts, disability benefits acts, or other employee benefit acts.

6. **Insurance.** With respect to performance of work under this Agreement, Consultant shall maintain and shall require all of its subcontractors, consultants, and other agents to maintain, insurance as described in Exhibit C, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

7. **Prosecution of Work.** The execution of this Agreement shall constitute Consultant’s authority to proceed immediately with the performance of this Agreement. Performance of the services hereunder shall be completed within the time required herein, provided, however, that if the performance is delayed by earthquake, flood, high water, or other Act of God or by strike, lockout, or similar labor disturbances, the time for Consultant’s performance of this Agreement shall be extended by a number of days equal to the number of days Consultant has been delayed.

8. **Extra or Changed Work.** Extra or changed work or other changes to the Agreement may be authorized only by written amendment to this Agreement, signed by both parties. Changes which do not exceed the delegated signature authority of the Commission may be executed by the Executive Director in a form approved by County Counsel. The Board of Commissioners must authorize all other extra or changed work which exceeds the delegated signature authority of the Department Head. The parties expressly recognize that, pursuant to Sonoma County Code Section 1-11, Commission personnel are without authorization to order extra or changed work or waive Agreement requirements. Failure of Consultant to secure such written authorization for extra or changed work shall constitute a waiver of any and all right to adjustment in the Agreement price or Agreement time due to such unauthorized work and thereafter Consultant shall be entitled to no compensation whatsoever for the performance of such work. Consultant further expressly waives any and all right or remedy by way of restitution and quantum meruit for any and all extra work performed without such express and prior written authorization of the Commission.

9. **Content Online Accessibility.** Commission and County policy requires that all documents that may be published to the Web meet accessibility standards to the greatest extent possible, and utilizing available existing technologies.

9.1. **Standards.** All consultants responsible for preparing content intended for use or publication on a Commission-managed or Commission-funded web site must comply with

9.2. Certification. Consultants must complete the Document Accessibility Certification Form attached hereto as Exhibit ___ which shall describe how all deliverable documents were assessed for accessibility (e.g. Microsoft Word accessibility check; Adobe Acrobat accessibility check, or other commonly accepted compliance check).

9.3. Alternate Format. When it is strictly impossible due to the unavailability of technologies required to produce an accessible document, Consultant shall identify the anticipated accessibility deficiency prior to commencement of any work to produce such deliverables. Consultant agrees to cooperate with Commission staff in the development of alternate document formats to maximize the facilitative features of the impacted document(s), e.g. embedding the document with alt-tags that describe complex data tables.

9.4. Noncompliant Materials; Obligation to Cure. Remediation of any materials that do not comply with County’s Web Site Accessibility Policy shall be the responsibility of Consultant. If Commission and/or County, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that any deliverable intended for use or publication on any Commission-managed or Commission-funded Web site does not comply with County Accessibility Standards, Commission and/or County will promptly inform Consultant in writing. Upon such notice, Consultant shall, without charge to Commission and/or County, repair or replace the non-compliant materials within such period of time as specified by Commission and/or County in writing. If the required repair or replacement is not completed within the time specified, Commission and/or County shall have the right to do any or all of the following, without prejudice to Commission and/or County’s right to pursue any and all other remedies at law or in equity:

a. Cancel any delivery or task order;

b. Terminate this Agreement pursuant to the provisions of Article 4; and/or

c. In the case of custom Electronic Information Technology (EIT) developed by Consultant for Commission, Commission may have any necessary changes or repairs performed by itself or by another contractor. In such event, contractor shall be liable for all expenses incurred by Commission in connection with such changes or repairs.

9.5. Commission’s Rights Reserved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Commission may accept deliverables that are not strictly compliant with County Accessibility Standards if Commission, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that acceptance of such products or services is in Commission’s best interest.


10.1. Standard of Care. Commission has relied upon the professional ability and training of Consultant as a material inducement to enter into this Agreement. Consultant hereby agrees that all its work will be performed and that its operations shall be conducted in accordance
10.2. Status of Consultant. The parties intend that Consultant, in performing the services specified herein, shall act as an independent contractor and shall control the work and the manner in which it is performed. Consultant is not to be considered an agent or employee of Commission and is not entitled to participate in any pension plan, worker’s compensation plan, insurance, bonus, or similar benefits Commission provides its employees. In the event Commission exercises its right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Article 4, above, Consultant expressly agrees that it shall have no recourse or right of appeal under rules, regulations, ordinances, or laws applicable to employees.

10.3. No Suspension or Debarment. Consultant warrants that it is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in covered transactions by any federal department or agency. Consultant also warrants that it is not suspended or debarred from receiving federal funds as listed in the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement or Non-procurement Programs issued by the General Services Administration. If the Consultant becomes debarred, Consultant has the obligation to inform the Commission.

10.4. Taxes. Consultant agrees to file federal and state tax returns and pay all applicable taxes on amounts paid pursuant to this Agreement and shall be solely liable and responsible to pay such taxes and other obligations, including, but not limited to, state and federal income and FICA taxes. Consultant agrees to indemnify and hold Commission harmless from any liability which it may incur to the United States or to the State of California as a consequence of Consultant’s failure to pay, when due, all such taxes and obligations. In case Commission is audited for compliance regarding any withholding or other applicable taxes, Consultant agrees to furnish Commission with proof of payment of taxes on these earnings.

10.5. Records Maintenance. Consultant shall keep and maintain full and complete documentation and accounting records concerning all services performed that are compensable under this Agreement and shall make such documents and records available to Commission for inspection at any reasonable time. Consultant shall maintain such records for a period of four (4) years following completion of work hereunder.

10.6. Conflict of Interest. Consultant covenants that it presently has no interest and that it will not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, that represents a financial conflict of interest under state law or that would otherwise conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of its services hereunder. Consultant further covenants that in the performance of this Agreement no person having any such interests shall be employed. In addition, if requested to do so by Commission, Consultant shall complete and file and shall require any other person doing work under this Agreement to complete and file a “Statement of Economic Interest” with Commission disclosing Consultant’s or such other person’s financial interests.

10.7. Statutory Compliance/Living Wage Ordinance. Consultant agrees to comply, and to ensure compliance by its subconsultants or subcontractors, with all applicable federal, state
10.8. Nondiscrimination. Without limiting any other provision hereunder, Consultant shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations in regard to nondiscrimination in employment because of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religious creed, belief or grooming, sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, transgender, pregnancy, childbirth, medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth or breast feeding), marital status, age, medical condition, physical or mental disability, genetic information, military or veteran status, or any other legally protected category or prohibited basis, including without limitation, the Commission’s Non-Discrimination Policy and Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity. All nondiscrimination rules or regulations required by law to be included in this Agreement are incorporated herein by this reference.

10.9. Title VI Discrimination. Consultant assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 24 CFR Part 1, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the performance of any services in this Agreement. Such discrimination includes, but is not limited to, a failure to provide sufficient language services to participants with Limited English Proficiency.

10.10. Section 504 Discrimination. Consultant shall comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and 24 CFR Part 8, which provides in part that no otherwise qualified individual shall be denied the opportunity to participate in a program or activity because of their disability, may not be required to accept a different kind or lesser program or service than what is provided to others without disabilities, may not be denied access to locations where services are offered because of physical impairments, and may not be required to participate in separate programs and services from those available to persons without disabilities. Generally, an otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall not, solely by reason of a disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in the performance of any services in this Agreement.

10.11. AIDS Discrimination. Consultant agrees to comply with the provisions of Chapter 19, Article II, of the Sonoma County Code prohibiting discrimination in housing, employment, and services because of AIDS or HIV infection during the term of this Agreement and any extensions of the term.

10.12. Assignment of Rights. Consultant assigns to Commission all rights throughout the world in perpetuity in the nature of copyright, trademark, patent, right to ideas, in and to all versions of the plans and specifications, if any, now or later prepared by Consultant in connection with this Agreement. Consultant agrees to take such actions as are necessary to
protect the rights assigned to Commission in this Agreement, and to refrain from taking any action which would impair those rights. Consultant’s responsibilities under this provision include, but are not limited to, placing proper notice of copyright on all versions of the plans and specifications as Commission may direct, and refraining from disclosing any versions of the plans and specifications to any third party without first obtaining written permission of Commission. Consultant shall not use or permit another to use the plans and specifications in connection with this or any other project without first obtaining written permission of Commission.

10.13 Ownership and Disclosure of Work Product. All reports, original drawings, graphics, plans, studies, and other data or documents (“documents”), in whatever form or format, assembled or prepared by Consultant or Consultant’s subcontractors, consultants, and other agents in connection with this Agreement shall be the property of Commission. Commission shall be entitled to immediate possession of such documents upon completion of the work pursuant to this Agreement. Upon expiration or termination of this Agreement, Consultant shall promptly deliver to Commission all such documents, which have not already been provided to Commission in such form or format, as Commission deems appropriate. Such documents shall be and will remain the property of Commission without restriction or limitation. Consultant may retain copies of the above described documents but agrees not to disclose or discuss any information gathered, discovered, or generated in any way through this Agreement without the express written permission of Commission.

10.14 Authority. The undersigned hereby represents and warrants that he or she has authority to execute and deliver this Agreement on behalf of Consultant.

11. Demand for Assurance. Each party to this Agreement undertakes the obligation that the other’s expectation of receiving due performance will not be impaired. When reasonable grounds for insecurity arise with respect to the performance of either party, the other may in writing demand adequate assurance of due performance and until such assurance is received may, if commercially reasonable, suspend any performance for which the agreed return has not been received. “Commercially reasonable” includes not only the conduct of a party with respect to performance under this Agreement, but also conduct with respect to other agreements with parties to this Agreement or others. After receipt of a justified demand, failure to provide within a reasonable time, but not exceeding thirty (30) days, such assurance of due performance as is adequate under the circumstances of the particular case is a repudiation of this Agreement. Acceptance of any improper delivery, service, or payment does not prejudice the aggrieved party’s right to demand adequate assurance of future performance. Nothing in this Article limits Commission’s right to terminate this Agreement pursuant to Article 4.

12. Assignment and Delegation. Neither party hereto shall assign, delegate, sublet, or transfer any interest in or duty under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other, and no such transfer shall be of any force or effect whatsoever unless and until the other party shall have so consented.

13. Method and Place of Giving Notice, Submitting Bills and Making Payments. All notices, bills, and payments shall be made in writing and shall be given by personal delivery or by U.S. Mail or courier service. Notices, bills, and payments shall be addressed as follows:
When a notice, bill or payment is given by a generally recognized overnight courier service, the notice, bill or payment shall be deemed received on the next business day. When a copy of a notice, bill or payment is sent by facsimile or email, the notice, bill or payment shall be deemed received upon transmission as long as (1) the original copy of the notice, bill or payment is promptly deposited in the U.S. mail and postmarked on the date of the facsimile or email (for a payment, on or before the due date), (2) the sender has a written confirmation of the facsimile transmission or email, and (3) the facsimile or email is transmitted before 5 p.m. (recipient’s time). In all other instances, notices, bills and payments shall be effective upon receipt by the recipient. Changes may be made in the names and addresses of the person to whom notices are to be given by giving notice pursuant to this paragraph.

14. **Miscellaneous Provisions.**

14.1. **No Waiver of Breach.** The waiver by Commission of any breach of any term or promise contained in this Agreement shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such term or provision or any subsequent breach of the same or any other term or promise contained in this Agreement.

14.2. **Construction.** To the fullest extent allowed by law, the provisions of this Agreement shall be construed and given effect in a manner that avoids any violation of statute, ordinance, regulation, or law. The parties covenant and agree that in the event that any provision of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of the provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated thereby. Consultant and Commission acknowledge that they have each contributed to the making of this Agreement and that, in the event of a dispute over the interpretation of this Agreement, the language of the Agreement will not be construed against one party in favor of the other. Consultant and Commission
acknowledge that they have each had an adequate opportunity to consult with counsel in the negotiation and preparation of this Agreement.

14.3. Consent. Wherever in this Agreement the consent or approval of one party is required to an act of the other party, such consent or approval shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

14.4. No Third Party Beneficiaries. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to create and the parties do not intend to create any rights in third parties.

14.5. Applicable Law and Forum. This Agreement shall be construed and interpreted according to the substantive law of California, regardless of the law of conflicts to the contrary in any jurisdiction. Any action to enforce the terms of this Agreement or for the breach thereof shall be brought and tried in Santa Rosa or the forum nearest to the city of Santa Rosa, in the County of Sonoma.

14.6. Captions. The captions in this Agreement are solely for convenience of reference. They are not a part of this Agreement and shall have no effect on its construction or interpretation.

14.7. Merger. This writing is intended both as the final expression of the Agreement between the parties hereto with respect to the included terms and as a complete and exclusive statement of the terms of the Agreement, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 1856. Each Party acknowledges that, in entering into this Agreement, it has not relied on any representation or undertaking, whether oral or in writing, other than those which are expressly set forth in this Agreement. No modification of this Agreement shall be effective unless and until such modification is evidenced by a writing signed by both parties.

14.8. Survival of Terms. All express representations, waivers, indemnifications, and limitations of liability included in this Agreement will survive its completion or termination for any reason.

14.9. Time of Essence. Time is and shall be of the essence of this Agreement and every provision hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the Effective Date.

—THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK—

SIGNATURES BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE
CONSULTANT

Dated: ___________  By: ______________________________

Name: ______________________________
Title: ______________________________

SONOMA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Dated: ___________  By: ______________________________

Barbie Robinson, Interim Executive Director

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE ON FILE WITH AND APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE BY THE COMMISSION

Dated: ___________  By: ______________________________

Barbie Robinson, Interim Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Dated: ___________  By: ______________________________

Alegría De La Cruz, Chief Deputy County Counsel

Dated: ___________  By: ______________________________

Chair, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

________________________________________

Clerk of the Board of Commissioners
Party Name  
Professional Services Agreement  
Date of Agreement

Exhibit A: Scope of Services

Background

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding to the Commission on behalf of the County of Sonoma, the recipient, to administer programs to assist low- and moderate-income individuals and households throughout Sonoma County. Through an annual funding cycle, the Commission advertises the availability of the funds and receives proposals from non-profit organizations and units of local government. The Commission makes recommendations to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for funding approval.

All projects or programs approved for funding must meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and 24 CFR Part 58, HUD Environmental Review Regulations, before the Commission may enter into an agreement to provide funding to the subrecipient or another awardee.

Services

Consultant shall determine the appropriate level of environmental review required for projects approved for HUD funding.

Consultant shall compile all information necessary to complete the proper Environmental Review Record, including consultations with the party receiving the federal funding, as well as other governmental agencies and private enterprises as may be required.

Consultant shall submit to Commission a written, complete, and comprehensive Environmental Review Record using the format prescribed by HUD at 24 CFR 58.

Schedule

Consultant may proceed with completion of the Environmental Review Record upon Commission’s approval of the timeline submitted by the Consultant and Commission’s issuance of a written Notice to Proceed specifying the authorized activities, the timeframe for completion of the work and the approved cost. Consultant, through dialogue with the entity receiving funds for the project and with Commission staff, shall determine the projected start date for the project and complete the Environmental Review Record at least thirty days prior to the commencement of the project. Any project delays caused by the action or inaction of the Consultant shall be considered a failure to meet the obligations of this Agreement and shall be grounds for Termination as described in Section 4.

Additional Services

As Commission may authorize from time to time in a written Notice to Proceed, Consultant shall perform specific additional services and shall prepare and submit a written report upon completion of the authorized services. Such additional services may include, but are not limited
to, Phase 1 and Phase 2 soil contamination reports, performance of the 8-Step Decision Making Process for projects located in special flood hazard areas, and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

If additional services are requested, Consultant shall provide Commission a written proposal describing the scope of the services, the timeline for completion of the work and the cost to complete the additional services. Consultant may commence these services upon receipt of an amended written Notice to Proceed.
Attachment 2: Sample Insurance Requirements

With respect to performance of work under this Agreement, Consultant shall maintain and shall require all of its subcontractors, consultants, and other agents to maintain insurance as described below unless such insurance has been expressly waived by the attachment of a Waiver of Insurance Requirements. Any requirement for insurance to be maintained after completion of the work shall survive this Agreement.

County reserves the right to review any and all of the required insurance policies and/or endorsements, but has no obligation to do so. Failure to demand evidence of full compliance with the insurance requirements set forth in this Agreement or failure to identify any insurance deficiency shall not relieve Consultant from, nor be construed or deemed a waiver of, its obligation to maintain the required insurance at all times during the performance of this Agreement.

Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance

a. Required if Consultant has employees as defined by the Labor Code of the State of California.

b. Workers Compensation insurance with statutory limits as required by the Labor Code of the State of California.

c. Employers Liability with minimum limits of $1,000,000 per Accident; $1,000,000 Disease per employee; $1,000,000 Disease per policy.

d. Required Evidence of Insurance: Certificate of Insurance.

If Consultant currently has no employees as defined by the Labor Code of the State of California, Consultant agrees to obtain the above-specified Workers Compensation and Employers Liability insurance should employees be engaged during the term of this Agreement or any extensions of the term.

General Liability Insurance

a. Commercial General Liability Insurance on a standard occurrence form, no less broad than Insurance Services Office (ISO) form CG 00 01.

b. Minimum Limits: $1,000,000 per Occurrence; $2,000,000 General Aggregate; $2,000,000 Products/Completed Operations Aggregate. The required limits may be provided by a combination of General Liability Insurance and Commercial Excess or Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance. If Consultant maintains higher limits than the specified minimum limits, County requires and shall be entitled to coverage for the higher limits maintained by Consultant.

c. Any deductible or self-insured retention shall be shown on the Certificate of Insurance. If the deductible or self-insured retention exceeds $25,000 it must be approved in advance by County. Consultant is responsible for any deductible or self-insured retention and shall fund it upon County’s written request, regardless of whether Consultant has a claim against the insurance or is named as a party in any action involving the County.

d. Sonoma County Community Development Commission and the County of Sonoma, their
officers, agents, and employees, 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403 shall be endorsed as additional insureds for liability arising out of operations by or on behalf of the Consultant in the performance of this Agreement.

e. The insurance provided to the additional insureds shall be primary to, and non-contributory with, any insurance or self-insurance program maintained by them.

f. The policy definition of “insured contract” shall include assumptions of liability arising out of both ongoing operations and the products-completed operations hazard (broad form contractual liability coverage including the “f” definition of insured contract in ISO form CG 00 01, or equivalent).

g. The policy shall cover inter-insured suits between the additional insureds and Consultant and include a “separation of insureds” or “severability” clause which treats each insured separately.

h. **Required Evidence of Insurance:**
   i. Copy of the additional insured endorsement or policy language granting additional insured status; and
   ii. Certificate of Insurance.

Automobile Liability Insurance

a. Minimum Limit: $1,000,000 combined single limit per accident. The required limits may be provided by a combination of Automobile Liability Insurance and Commercial Excess or Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance.

b. Insurance shall cover all owned autos. If Consultant currently owns no autos, Consultant agrees to obtain such insurance should any autos be acquired during the term of this Agreement or any extensions of the term.

c. Insurance shall cover hired and non-owned autos.

d. **Required Evidence of Insurance:** Certificate of Insurance.

Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions Insurance

a. Minimum Limits: $1,000,000 per claim or per occurrence; $1,000,000 annual aggregate.

b. Any deductible or self-insured retention shall be shown on the Certificate of Insurance. If the deductible or self-insured retention exceeds $25,000 it must be approved in advance by County.

c. If Consultant’s services include: (1) programming, customization, or maintenance of software; or (2) access to individuals’ private, personally identifiable information, the insurance shall cover:
   i. Breach of privacy; breach of data; programming errors, failure of work to meet contracted standards, and unauthorized access; and
   ii. Claims against Consultant arising from the negligence of Consultant, Consultant’s employees and Consultant’s subcontractors.

d. If the insurance is on a Claims-Made basis, the retroactive date shall be no later than the commencement of the work.

e. Coverage applicable to the work performed under this Agreement shall be continued for two (2) years after completion of the work. Such continuation coverage may be provided by one of the following: (1) renewal of the existing policy; (2) an extended reporting period
endorsement; or (3) replacement insurance with a retroactive date no later than the commencement of the work under this Agreement.

f. **Required Evidence of Insurance:** Certificate of Insurance specifying the limits and the claims-made retroactive date.

**Standards for Insurance Companies**

Insurers, other than the California State Compensation Insurance Fund, shall have an A.M. Best’s rating of at least A:VII.

**Documentation**

a. The Certificate of Insurance must include the following reference: **Environmental Consulting**

b. All required Evidence of Insurance shall be submitted prior to the execution of this Agreement. Consultant agrees to maintain current Evidence of Insurance on file with County for the entire term of this Agreement and any additional periods if specified in Sections 1 – 4 above.

c. The name and address for Additional Insured endorsements and Certificates of Insurance is: **Sonoma County Community Development Commission and the County of Sonoma, their officers, agents and employees, 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

d. Required Evidence of Insurance shall be submitted for any renewal or replacement of a policy that already exists, at least ten (10) days before expiration or other termination of the existing policy.

e. Consultant shall provide immediate written notice if: (1) any of the required insurance policies is terminated; (2) the limits of any of the required policies are reduced; or (3) the deductible or self-insured retention is increased.

f. Upon written request, certified copies of required insurance policies must be provided within thirty (30) days.

**Policy Obligations**

Consultant’s indemnity and other obligations shall not be limited by the foregoing insurance requirements.

**Material Breach**

If Consultant fails to maintain insurance, which is required pursuant to this Agreement, it shall be deemed a material breach of this Agreement. County, at its sole option, may terminate this Agreement and obtain damages from Consultant resulting from said breach. Alternatively, County may purchase the required insurance, and without further notice to Consultant, County may deduct from sums due to Consultant any premium costs advanced by County for such insurance. These remedies shall be in addition to any other remedies available to County.