



COUNTY of VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
County Executive Officer

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Mike Pettit
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County Chief Financial Officer

July 23, 2024

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: **Approval of, and Authorization for the Ventura County Executive Officer to Sign, a Contract with Rincon Consultants, Inc. to Develop a Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, in the Amount of \$384,397, Effective July 23, 2024, through September 30, 2025; Authorization for the County Executive Officer or Designee to Extend the Term and Make Limited Amendments to the Contract; Authorization for the Auditor Controller to Process the Accounting Transactions Necessary to Establish Appropriations and Revenue for this Contract. RECOMMENDATION NO. 4 REQUIRES 4/5TH VOTE.**

Recommendation:

1. Approval of, and authorization for the Ventura County Executive Officer (CEO) or designee to sign, a contract with Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) to develop a Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reductions Grant (CPRG) Program in the amount of \$384,397, effective July 23, 2024, through September 30, 2025(Contract). (Exhibit 1)
2. Authorization for the CEO or designee to extend the term of the Contract up to three (3) times for a period not to exceed one (1) year each time on the same or more favorable terms and conditions (with any changes in the scope of work to be consistent with the original purpose of the Contract) so long as any such extension does not result in additional costs to the County and is reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

3. Authorization for the CEO or designee to make clarifying and technical amendments and modifications to the Contract, so long as the amendments and modifications are consistent with the original purpose of the Contract, do not result in the loss of any revenue to the County, do not subject the County to additional costs, and are reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.
4. Authorize the Auditor Controller to process the necessary budgetary transactions to establish appropriations and revenues for this contract **(4/5ths vote required)**:

INCREASE 1010-1021	Services and Supplies	\$300,000
INCREASE 1010-1021	Intergovernmental Revenue	\$300,000

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

Mandatory: No
 Source of Funding: Environmental Protection Agency

Funding Match Required: No
 Impact on Other Departments: None

Summary of Revenues and Costs:	FY 2024-25	FY2025-26
Revenues:	\$325,259	\$59,138
Costs:		
Direct	\$325,259	\$59,138
Indirect-Dept	\$	\$
Indirect-County CAP	\$	\$
Total Cost	\$325,259	\$59,138
Net County Cost	\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$0	\$0

FY 2024-25 Budget Projection for County Executive Office – Sustainability Division 1021				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$ 12,422,538	\$ 12,422,538	\$ 12,422,538	\$ 0
Revenue	\$ 11,954,561	\$ 11,954,561	\$ 11,954,561	\$ 0
Net Cost	\$ 467,977	\$ 467,977	\$ 467,977	\$ 0

A portion of the appropriations for this contract is included in the FY 2024-25 adopted budget.

Strategic Plan:

The County of Ventura CEO Sustainability Division's (Sustainability Division) efforts towards meeting the CPRG Planning Grant deliverables supports the *Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability Strategic Priority* of the Board's Strategic Plan. The Regional CCAP that will be created will support all three goals under that Strategic Priority. The CCAP will give the County and other local jurisdictions the opportunity to collaborate and leverage future grant funds for projects that support Goal (1): *Maintain and improve dependable public resources to serve the needs of our diverse communities* and Goal (3): *invest in sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, and preservation of our natural resources*.

BACKGROUND:

The CPRG program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Authorized under Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act, this two-phase program provides \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and approximately \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

Phase 1 of the CPRG program provides flexible support to states, local governments, tribes, and territories regardless of where they are in their climate planning and implementation process. Planning grant recipients are using the funding to design climate action plans that incorporate a variety of measures to reduce GHG emissions from across their economies in six key sectors (electricity generation, industry, transportation, buildings, agriculture/natural and working lands, and waste management).

In August 2023, the Sustainability Division was awarded \$1,000,000 in CPRG Planning Grant Program funds to create a Regional Climate Action Plan for the Thousand Oaks-Oxnard-Ventura Metropolitan Statistical Area. The grant has three main deliverables: (i) a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), (ii) a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, and (iii) a Status Report. In order to obtain assistance to prepare the PCAP, the Sustainability Division issued a Request for Information in August 2023 and received responses from four consultants to perform the work required for completing the PCAP. They were all reviewed and scored by a group of 4 county employees. Of the submitted proposals, Rincon's was the one that best qualified to fulfil the PCAP requirements. The Sustainability Division along with Rincon completed, published, and submitted the PCAP to the U.S. EPA, meeting the March 1, 2024, deadline. The PCAP prioritized the Building Energy (electricity generation), Transportation, and Solid Waste (waste management) sectors and included seven measures that touched on the three sectors. The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is due two years after the planning grant award, making the County of Ventura Sustainability Division's deadline August 2025.

Discussion:

Appendix B to the Ventura County 2040 General Plan serves as the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP). The County's CAP aims to reduce the region's GHG emissions, adapt to climate change, and respond to climate hazards. The CPRG award will support the County's implementation of two CAP climate policies and programs: (i) COS-AA: GHG Inventory Updates and (ii) COS-X: GHG Strategy Implementation. In general, CPRG funds will support the development, updating, and evaluation of plans to reduce GHG emissions. More specifically, CPRG funds will support the development of a greenhouse gas inventory, quantifying greenhouse gas reduction measures, conducting a low income and disadvantaged communities benefit analysis, and stakeholder engagement. These activities will be completed in cooperation and coordination with all cities in the County, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Ventura County Transportation Commission, Port of Hueneme, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and Southern California Association of Governments. These activities will also set up the region to apply for future funding opportunities.

Rincon was instrumental in helping the Sustainability Division complete the PCAP. They did an excellent job preparing the priority inventory for the region, formatting it similarly to the County's inventory that was prepared for the 2040 General Plan Appendix B (CAP). Rincon also facilitated meaningful engagement with the local jurisdictions and researched existing CAPs, which helped inform the measures included in the PCAP. The work they did helped the Sustainability Division meet all the requirements for the PCAP, which also included a Low-Income/Disadvantaged Communities (LIDAC) Benefits Analysis and has set the County up to successfully meet the second deliverable of a CCAP. For the CCAP, Rincon will build off the work done for the PCAP and complete a refined greenhouse gas emissions and carbon stock inventory and establish emissions reduction and sequestration targets that align with the State of California's goals. They will also work with the County, local jurisdictions, CBOs, resource agencies, and community members to develop additional measures and actions to further support emissions reduction goals. Additionally, an expanded LIDAC Benefits Analysis will be completed during this process and will include other locally identified disadvantaged communities, such as those included within adopted General Plans to meet the intent of Senate Bill (SB) 1000.

For these reasons, staff recommends that your Board approve and authorize the CEO, or designee, to sign the Contract with Rincon to develop a Regional Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, in the maximum amount of \$384,397, effective July 1, 2024, through September 2025. (Exhibit 1) Staff also recommends that your Board authorize the CEO, or designee, to extend the term of the Contract up to three (3) times for a period not to exceed one (1) year each time on the same or more favorable terms (within any changes in the scope of work to be consistent with the original purpose of the Contract), subject to necessary prior appropriations and other budgetary approvals and County Counsel

review and approval as to form. Finally, staff recommends that your Board authorize the CEO, or designee, to make clarifying and technical amendments and modifications to the Contract, so long as the amendments and modifications are consistent with the original purpose of the Contract, do not result in the loss of any revenue to the County and do not subject the County to additional costs, and are reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel. Authorize the Auditor Controller to process the necessary budgetary transactions to establish appropriations and revenues for this contract.

The County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this item. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Sustainability Officer, Alejandra Téllez at (805) 654-3835.

Sincerely,



Alejandra Téllez
Sustainability Officer



Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Exhibit 1 - County of Ventura Contract with Rincon Consultants, Inc.