

C O N T R A C T

This Contract is entered into this 9th day of April, 2024, by, and between, the County of Ventura, a political subdivision of the State of California, hereinafter called "County" and EMC Research, Inc., hereinafter called "Contractor."

W I T N E S S E T H

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2024, County requested proposals for Public Opinion Research Services seeking public polling services for a potential local housing bond on the November 2024 ballot and Contractor submitted a proposal dated February 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Contractor represents it is specially trained, experienced, expert and competent to perform the special services hereinafter described, and it is necessary and desirable that County engage Contractor to do so;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED by the parties as follows:

1. **SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED BY CONTRACTOR**

Contractor shall perform the services and tasks described in Exhibit A hereto, and incorporated herein by reference, and all services and tasks reasonably necessary for the completion of the same (the "Work"). Contractor shall furnish, at Contractor's own cost and expense, all personnel, services, tools, vehicles, and equipment or any other materials, necessary to perform the Work. Contractor shall perform, and ensure all subcontractors perform, the Work in a safe, professional, skillful, and workmanlike manner. All Work and any portion thereof separately identified shall be completed within the timeline provided in page 10 of Exhibit A.

2. **PAYMENTS**

In consideration of the services rendered in accordance with all terms, conditions and specifications of this Contract, County will make payment to Contractor monthly, according to the percentage of task completion as specified in page 11 of Exhibit A. The County will select the price proposal option in the table on page 10 of Exhibit A on or before April 22nd, before the first billing cycle. The maximum payment amount of this contract is not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars and zero cents (\$75,000.00).

3. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

No relationship of employer and employee is created by this Contract, it being understood that Contractor is an independent contractor, and neither Contractor nor any of the persons performing services for Contractor pursuant to this Contract, whether said person be member, partner, officer, employee, subcontractor, or otherwise, will have any claim under this Contract or otherwise against County for any salary, sick leave, vacation pay, retirement

benefits, social security, workers' compensation, disability, unemployment insurance benefits, federal, state or local taxes, or other compensation, benefits or taxes of any kind.

It is further understood and agreed by the parties hereto that, except as provided in this Contract, County will have no control over the means or methods by which Contractor will perform services under this Contract.

If, in the performance of this Contract, any third persons are employed by Contractor, such persons will be entirely and exclusively under direction, supervision and control of Contractor. All terms of employment, including hours, wages, working conditions, discipline, hiring and discharging or any other terms of employment or requirements of law, will be determined by Contractor, and County will have no right or authority over such persons or the terms of such employment, except as provided in this Contract.

The Contractor will comply with all of the provisions of the Worker's Compensation Insurance and Safety Acts of the State of California, the applicable provisions of Division 4 and 5 of the California Labor Code and all amendments, thereto; and all similar State and Federal acts or laws applicable; and will indemnify and hold harmless the County from and against all claims, demands, payments, suits, actions, proceedings and judgments of every nature and description, including attorney's fees and costs, presented, brought or recovered against the County, for or on account of any liability under any of said Acts which may be incurred by reasons of any work to be performed under this Contract.

Contractor agrees to defend, through attorneys approved by County, indemnify and hold harmless Indemnatee (as defined elsewhere herein) from and against all Third-Party Claims (defined elsewhere herein) made against indemnatee based upon any contention by any third party that an employer-employee relationship exists by reason of this contract. Contractor further agrees to hold Indemnatee harmless from and to compensate Indemnatee for any Third-Party Claims against Indemnatee for payment of state or federal income or other tax obligations relating to Contractor's compensation under the terms of this contract. Contractor will not settle or otherwise compromise a Third-Party Claim covered by this paragraph without County's advance written approval. This subsection does not apply to any penalty imposed by any governmental agency that is not caused by or the fault of Contractor.

4. **NON-ASSIGNABILITY**

Contractor will not assign this Contract or any portion thereof, to a third party without the prior written consent of County, and any attempted assignment without such prior written consent will be null and void and will be cause, at County's sole and absolute discretion, for immediate termination of this Contract.

5. **TERM**

This Contract will be in effect from April 9, 2024, through October 9, 2024, subject to all the terms and conditions set forth herein.

Time is of the essence in the performance of this contract.

Continuation of the Contract is subject to the appropriation of funds for such purpose by the County's Board of Supervisors. If funds to effect such continued payment are not appropriated, County may terminate this project as thereby affected and Contractor will relieve County of any further obligation therefor.

6. TERMINATION

The County may terminate this Contract at any time for any reason by providing 10 days' written notice to Contractor. In the event of termination under this paragraph, Contractor will be paid for all work provided to the date of termination, as long as such work meets the terms and conditions of this Contract. On completion or termination of this Contract, County will be entitled to immediate possession of, and Contractor will furnish on request, all computations, plans, correspondence and other pertinent data gathered or computed by Contractor for this particular Contract prior to any termination. Contractor may retain copies of said original documents for Contractor's files. Contractor hereby expressly waives any and all claims for damages or compensation arising under this Contract except as set forth in this paragraph in the event of such termination.

This right of termination belonging to the County of Ventura may be exercised without prejudice to any other remedy which it may be entitled at law or under this Contract.

7. DEFAULT

If Contractor defaults in the performance of any term or condition of this Contract, Contractor must cure that default by a satisfactory performance within 10 days after service upon Contractor of written notice of the default. If Contractor fails to cure the default within that time, then County may terminate this Contract without further notice.

The foregoing requirement for written notice and opportunity to cure does not apply with respect to paragraph 6 above.

8. INDEMNIFICATION, HOLD HARMLESS AND WAIVER OF SUBROGATION

All activities and/or work covered by this Contract will be at the risk of Contractor alone. Contractor agrees to defend, indemnify, and save harmless the County, including all of its boards, agencies, departments, officers, employees, agents and volunteers (collectively, "Indemnitee"), against any and all claims, lawsuits, judgments, debts, demands and liability (including attorney fees and costs) (collectively, "Third Party Claims"), whether against Contractor, County or others, including without limitation, those arising from injuries or death of persons and/or for damages to property, arising directly or indirectly out of the obligations herein described or undertaken or out of operations conducted or subsidized in whole or in part by Contractor, save and except Third Party Claims litigation arising through the sole negligence or

wrongdoing and/or sole willful misconduct of Indemnitee. Contractor shall not settle or otherwise compromise a Third Party Claim covered by this section without County's prior written approval. Contractor agrees to waive all rights of subrogation against Indemnitee for losses arising directly or indirectly from the activities and/or work covered by this Contract.

9. **INSURANCE PROVISIONS**

- A) Contractor, at its sole cost and expense, will obtain and maintain in full force during the term of this Contract the following types of insurance:
 - 1) General Liability "occurrence" coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 combined single limit (CSL) bodily injury & property damage each occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate, including personal injury, broad form property damage, products/completed operations, and broad form blanket contractual.
 - 2) Commercial Automobile Liability coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 CSL bodily injury & property damage, including owned, non-owned, and hired automobiles. Also to include Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists coverage in the minimum amount of \$100,000 when there are owned vehicles.
 - 3) Workers' Compensation coverage, in full compliance with California statutory requirements, for all employees of Contractor and Employer's Liability in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.
 - 4) Professional Liability coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 each occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate.
- B) All insurance required will be primary coverage as respects County and any insurance or self-insurance maintained by County will be excess of Contractor's insurance coverage and will not contribute to it.
- C) County is to be notified immediately if any aggregate insurance limit is exceeded. Additional coverage must be purchased to meet requirements.
- D) The County, and any applicable Special Districts are to be named as Additional Insured as respects to work done by Contractor under the terms of this Contract for General Liability Insurance.
- E) Contractor agrees to waive all rights of subrogation against the County, Its Boards, Agencies, Departments, any applicable Special Districts, Officers, Employees, Agents and Volunteers for losses arising from work performed by Contractor under the terms of this Contract.
- F) Policies will not be canceled, non-renewed or reduced in scope of coverage until after sixty (60) days written notice has been given to the County of Ventura, Risk Management Division.

G) Contractor agrees to provide County with the following insurance documents on or before the effective date of this Contract:

1. Certificates of Insurance for all required coverage.
2. Additional Insured endorsement for General Liability Insurance.
3. Waiver of Subrogation endorsement (a.k.a.: Waiver of Transfer Rights of Recovery Against Others, Waiver of Our Right to Recover from Others) for Workers' Compensation.

Failure to provide these documents will be grounds for immediate termination or suspension of this contract.

10. **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

A) General.

No person will on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religious affiliation or non-affiliation, sex, age, handicap, disability, or political affiliation, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits, or be subjected to discrimination under this Contract.

B) Employment.

Contractor will ensure equal employment opportunity based on objective standards of recruitment, selection, promotion, classification, compensation, performance evaluations, and management relations, for all employees under this Contract. Contractor's personnel policies will be made available to County upon request.

11. **SUBSTITUTION**

If particular people are identified in Exhibit A as working under this Contract, the Contractor will not assign others to work in their place without written permission from the Chief Procurement Officer. Any substitution will be with a person of commensurate experience and knowledge.

12. **INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH**

Contractor by investigation and research has acquired reasonable knowledge of all conditions affecting the work to be done and labor and material needed, and the execution of this Contract is to be based upon such investigation and research, and not upon any representation made by the County or any of its officers, agents or employees, except as provided herein.

13. **CONTRACT MONITORING**

The County will have the right to review the work being performed by the Contractor under this Contract at any time during Contractor's usual working hours. Review, checking, approval or other action by the County will not relieve Contractor of Contractor's responsibility for the thoroughness of the

services to be provided hereunder. This Contract will be administered by Sevet Johnson, CEO or her authorized representative.

14. **ADDENDA**

County may from time to time require changes in the scope of the services required hereunder. Such changes, including any increase or decrease in the amount of Contractor's compensation which are mutually agreed upon by and between County and Contractor will be effective when incorporated in written amendments to this Contract.

15. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Contractor covenants that Contractor presently has no interest, including, but not limited to, other projects or independent contracts, and will not acquire any such interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required to be performed under this Contract. Contractor further covenants that in the performance of this Contract no person having such interest will be employed or retained by Contractor under this Contract.

16. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Any reports, information, data, statistics, forms, procedures, systems, studies and any other communication or form of knowledge given to or prepared or assembled by Contractor under this Contract which County requests in writing to be kept confidential, will not be made available to any individual or organization by Contractor without the prior written approval of the County except as authorized by law.

17. **NOTICES**

All notices required under this Contract will be made in writing and addressed or delivered as follows:

TO COUNTY: County of Ventura
County Executive Office
Sevet Johnson, CEO
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#1940
Ventura, CA 93009

TO CONTRACTOR: EMC Research, Inc.
Emily Kirby Goodman, Sr. Principal
2001 Broadway, Ste. 110
Oakland, CA 94612

Either party may, by giving written notice in accordance with this paragraph, change the names or addresses of the persons or departments designated for receipt of future notices. When addressed in accordance with this paragraph and deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, notices will be deemed given on the third day following such deposit in the United States mail.

In all other instances, notices will be deemed given at the time of actual delivery.

18. **MERGER CLAUSE**

This Contract supersedes any and all other contracts, either oral or written, between Contractor and the County, with respect to the subject of this Contract. This Contract contains all of the covenants and contracts between the parties with respect to the services required hereunder. Contractor acknowledges that no representations, inducements, promises or contracts have been made by or on behalf of County except those covenants and contracts embodied in this Contract. No modification, waiver, amendment or discharge of this Contract shall be valid unless the same is in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives of both parties.

19. **GOVERNING LAW**

The validity of this Contract and any of its terms or provisions, as well as the rights and duties of the parties under this Contract, will be construed pursuant to and in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

20. **SEVERABILITY OF CONTRACT**

If any term of this Contract is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be void or unenforceable, the remainder of the Contract terms will remain in full force and effect and will not be affected.

21. **CUMULATIVE REMEDIES**

The exercise or failure to exercise of legal rights and remedies by the County in the event of any default or breach hereunder will not constitute a waiver or forfeiture of any other rights and remedies and will be without prejudice to the enforcement of any other right or remedy available by law or authorized by this Contract.

22. **COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

Each party to this Contract will comply with all applicable laws.

23. **CONSTRUCTION OF COVENANTS AND CONDITIONS**

Each term and each provision of this Contract will be construed to be both a covenant and a condition.

24. **LIVING WAGE ORDINANCE**

Unless otherwise exempt in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance, this contract is subject to the applicable provisions of the Living Wage Ordinance (LWO) Nos. 4464, 4233 and 4236, and as amended from time to time.

Payment of a minimum initial wage rate to employees as defined in the LWO and as may be adjusted each July 1 and provision of health benefits as defined in the LWO. Contractor further pledges that it will comply with federal law proscribing retaliation for union organizing and will not retaliate for activities related to the LWO. Contractor shall require each of its Subcontractors within the meaning of the LWO to pledge to comply with the terms of federal law proscribing retaliation for union organizing. Contractor shall deliver the executed pledges from each such Subcontractor to the County within 90 days of the execution of the Subcontract. Contractor's delivery of executed pledges from each such Subcontractor shall fully discharge the obligation of the Contractor to comply with the provision in the LWO contain in Section 4957 concerning compliance with the LWO.

25. **NON-EXCLUSIVITY**

The County reserves the right to contract with providers of similar services and/or equipment other than the Contractor when it is reasonably determined to be in the best interest of the County.

26. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- a. Third Party Beneficiaries. Except for indemnitees under sections 3 and 8 above, this contract does not, and the parties to this contract do not intend to, confer a third-party beneficiary right of action on any third party whatsoever, and nothing set forth in this contract will be construed so as to confer on any third party a right of action under this contract or in any manner whatsoever.
- b. Further Actions. The parties hereto agree that they will execute any and all documents and take any and all other actions as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the terms and conditions of this contract.
- c. Legal Representation. Each party warrants and represents that in executing this contract, the party has relied upon legal advice from attorneys of the party's choice (or had a reasonable opportunity to do so); that the party has read the terms of this contract and had their consequences (including risks, complications and costs) completely explained to the party by the party's attorneys (or had a reasonable opportunity to do so); and that the party fully understands the terms of this contract. Each party further acknowledges and represents that the party has executed this contract freely and voluntarily without the undue influence of any person, and the party has not relied on any inducements, promises or representations made by any person not expressly set forth in this contract.
- d. No Waiver. Failure by a party to insist upon strict performance of each and every term, condition and covenant of this contract shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of the party's rights to enforce any term, condition or covenant.

- e. Partial Invalidity. If any provision of this contract is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void or unenforceable, the parties intend, and it shall be so deemed, that the remaining provisions of this contract shall continue in full force without being impaired or invalidated in any way. If such provision is held to be invalid, void or unenforceable due to its scope or breadth, such provision shall be deemed valid to the extent of the scope or breadth permitted by law.
- f. Interpretation of Contract. For purposes of interpretation, this contract shall be deemed to have been drafted by both parties, and no ambiguity shall be resolved against any party by virtue of the party's participation in the drafting of the contract. Accordingly, Civil Code section 1654 shall not apply to the interpretation of this contract. Where appropriate in the context of this contract, the use of the singular shall be deemed to include the plural, and the use of the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine and/or neuter.
- g. Counterparts. This contract may be transmitted and signed by electronic or digital means by either or both parties and such signatures shall have the same force and effect as original signatures, in accordance with California Government Code Section 16.5 and California Civil Code Section 1633.7. This contract may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have executed this Contract.

COUNTY OF VENTURA

CONTRACTOR*

Authorized Signature

Sevet Johnson

Printed Name

County Executive Officer

Title

Date

Authorized Signature

Emily Kirby Goodman

Printed Name

Sr. Principal

Title

Date

Tax Identification Number

Secretary of State Entity Number

CONTRACTOR*

Authorized Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date

* If a corporation, this Contract must be signed by two specific corporate officers.

The first signature must be from either (1) the Chief Executive Officer, (2) the Chairman of the Board, (3) the President, or (4) a Vice President.

The second signature must be from either (a) the Secretary, (b) an Assistant Secretary, (c) the Chief Financial Officer (or Treasurer), or (d) and Assistant Treasurer.

In the alternative, a single corporate signature is acceptable when accompanied by a corporate resolution demonstrating the legal authority of the signatory to bind the company for this Contract.

EXHIBIT A

Scope of Work and Pricing Proposal/Payment Provisions

**(Attach EMC Research, Inc.'s full submittal in response to Request for Proposals for
Public Opinion Research Services dated April 2, 2024)**