

# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Board Memorandum

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**DATE:** JUNE 24, 2019

**ITEM NO:** 8

**SUBJECT:** FIRST AMENDMENT TO PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR MULTI-FACETED PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SERVICES FOR RIVERSIDE TRANSMISSION RELIABILITY PROJECT WITH CURT PRINGLE & ASSOCIATES EXTENDING TERM OF AGREEMENT TO JUNE 30, 2020 AND INCREASING AGREEMENT AMOUNT BY \$75,000 – FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT \$273,000

**ISSUE:**

Approve the First Amendment to the Professional Consultant Services Agreement for Multi-Faceted Public and Governmental Affairs Services for the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project with Curt Pringle & Associates extending the term of the Agreement by one year to June 30, 2020 and increasing the amount of the Agreement by \$75,000 – for a total contract amount of \$273,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Approve the First Amendment to the Professional Consultant Services Agreement for Multi-Faceted Public and Governmental Affairs Services for the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project with Curt Pringle & Associates extending the term of the Agreement by one year to June 30, 2020 and increasing the amount of the Agreement by \$75,000 – for a total contract amount of \$273,000; and
2. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute the First Amendment to the Professional Consultant Services Agreement with Curt Pringle & Associates, including making minor and non-substantive changes.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) is a joint project with Southern California Edison Company (SCE) to provide the City of Riverside a second connection to the State of California's electric transmission grid to address the capacity and reliability needs of Riverside. The Board of Public Utilities (Board) approved RTRP in January 2006 following Riverside Public Utilities' (RPU) application for the service in 2004 and SCE's System Impact and Facilities Studies in 2005.

Construction of the "second connection" (230kV facilities) is dependent on the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) issuing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to SCE.

Riverside is responsible for all project related costs until the CPUC issues the CPCN. Upon issuance of the CPCN, SCE assumes responsibility for all past and future project costs related to the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) controlled facilities (230 kV facilities) including reimbursing

Riverside its CAISO related costs. CAISO manages the flow of electricity across high-voltage, long distance power lines that transmit power statewide. RPU is responsible for the cost of facilities installed for the exclusive benefit of RPU.

The CPCN approval process is comprised of two (2) tracks; *CEQA Compliance* and *Administrative Proceeding*. CEQA Compliance is complete. The Administrative Proceeding began in November 2018. When complete, the CPUC Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will prepare a proposed decision for consideration by the CPUC Commissioners. The Commission's decision is anticipated by the end of the second quarter 2020.

Riverside City Council certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for RTRP in February 2013. Subsequent to that action, developers within Jurupa Valley began construction of residential and commercial developments. In July 2016, SCE and the developers jointly recommended undergrounding a portion of the line to avoid construction conflicts. The modified route, known as the Hybrid Route (see above map), triggered need for the CPUC to perform a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) to address changed conditions. The CPUC released the Draft SEIR in April 2018 and circulated it for public review and comment. The CPUC staff issued a Final SEIR in October 2018,.

The CPUC administrative law judge assigned to this project has scheduled a hearing for September 4, 5, and 6, 2019, with a decision from the CPUC anticipated by second quarter of 2020. RPU will attend this hearing.

RPU worked with Curt Pringle & Associates in developing a public and stakeholder communication strategy. They met with stakeholders and participated in coalition building, along with assisting in the development of collateral material and a website to use in outreach efforts. Their assistance with media monitoring has been important over the past year to ensure RPU is aware of the varied opinions of the project. Creating an approach that is both informative and responsive to RPU stakeholders while remaining conscientious of all perceptions and concerns is paramount.

## **DISCUSSION:**

As part of the Administrative Proceeding process, it is imperative that RPU keep all stakeholders associated with this project updated with accurate and timely information. This includes ongoing communications with municipalities impacted by the proposed project as well as the surrounding region.

In order to facilitate the necessary communication needs for the project, RPU sought and received approval from the Board of Public Utilities on July 9, 2018 to enter into a Professional Consultant Services Agreement with Curt Pringle & Associates to provide multi-faceted public and governmental affairs services for RTRP in an amount of \$198,000. To date, Riverside has expended \$113,016 of the total contract amount. The Agreement remains in effect until June 30, 2019 and includes an option to extend the Agreement for one (1) additional year.

The current agreement end date was based on a preliminary schedule that indicated that the CPUC would issue a final decision by mid-2019. However, because the CPUC decision is not anticipated to be issued until second quarter of 2020, additional services from Curt Pringle & Associates are needed. Both Riverside and Curt Pringle & Associates desire to amend the agreement to extend the term to June 30, 2020, and to increase the amount of the agreement by \$75,000 for a total contract amount of \$273,000. There are no changes to the existing scope of work or the consultant's rate schedule.

Curt Pringle & Associates has proven to be well qualified in developing appropriate responses to inquiries and has effectively advocated the need for the project in collaboration with RPU staff. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the recommended actions.

Subject to Board approval of this First Amendment to the Agreement, Curt Pringle & Associates will continue working with staff implementing the communication and outreach strategy.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total fiscal impact of this action is \$75,000. Sufficient funds are available in Public Utilities Electric Capital Account No. 6130000- 470685.

Prepared by: George R. Hanson, Utilities Assistant General Manager/Energy Delivery  
Approved by: Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager  
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Certifies availability  
of funds: Brian Seinturier, Utilities Fiscal Manager

**Attachments:**

1. Professional Consultant Services Agreement
2. Presentation