



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CONTRACT REQUEST FORM (CRF)

CEC-94 (Revised 12/2019)

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

A) New Agreement # 700-22-004 (to be completed by CGL office)

B) Division	Agreement Manager:	MS-	Phone
700 Siting Transmission Environmental Pro	Hilarie Anderson	16	916-661-8462

C) Contractor's Legal Name	Federal ID #
Aspen Environmental Group	95-4337914

D) Title of Project
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Planning Support

E) Term and Amount

Start Date	End Date	Amount
010/ 03 / 2022	04 / 30 / 2026	\$ 2,000,000

F) Business Meeting Information

☐ Operational agreement (see CAM Manual for list) to be approved by Executive Director

☐ ARFVTP agreements \$75K and under delegated to Executive Director

Proposed Business Meeting Date 09 / 14 / 2022 ☒ Consent ☐ Discussion

Business Meeting Presenter Time Needed: minutes

Please select one list serve. Select

Agenda Item Subject and Description:

Aspen Environmental Group. Proposed resolution approving Agreement 700-22-004 with the Aspen Environmental Group for a \$2,000,000 contract for professional engineering and environmental services to support the state's environmental, conservation, engineering, infrastructure, economic, and land use planning activities in terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments. These planning activities are intended to guide responsible energy and infrastructure development to help California meet its future energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. (General Fund and ERPA Funding) Contact: Paul Marshall.

G) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

1. Is Agreement considered a "Project" under CEQA?

☐ Yes (skip to question 2) ☒ No (complete the following (PRC 21065 and 14 CCR 15378)):

Explain why Agreement is not considered a "Project":

Agreement will not cause direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because activities will only include data gathering, research, analysis, report writing, map making, policy development and planning, and report writing.

2. If Agreement is considered a "Project" under CEQA:

a) ☐ Agreement **IS** exempt.

☐ Statutory Exemption. List PRC and/or CCR section number:

☐ Categorical Exemption. List CCR section number:

☐ Common Sense Exemption. 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3) Explain reason why Agreement is exempt under the above section:



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- b) ☐ Agreement **IS NOT** exempt. (consult with the legal office to determine next steps)

Check all that apply

- ☐ Initial Study
☐ Negative Declaration
☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration
☐ Environmental Impact Report
☐ Statement of Overriding Considerations

H) List all subcontractors (major and minor) and equipment vendors: (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Legal Company Name:	Budget
See attached form	\$ 0.00
	\$ 0.00
	\$ 0.00

I) List all key partners: (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Legal Company Name:

J) Budget Information

Funding Source	Funding Year of Appropriation	Budget List Number	Amount
General Fund	FY 21/22	700.128LGT	\$750,000
General Fund	FY 21/22	700.128HC	\$750,000
State - ERPA	FY 22/23	TBD	\$500,000
Funding Source			\$
Funding Source			\$

R&D Program Area: Select Program Area TOTAL: \$

Explanation for "Other" selection

Reimbursement Contract #:

Federal Agreement #:

K) Contractor's Contact Information**1. Contractor's****Administrator/Officer**

Name: Hamid Rastegar

Address: 5020 Chesebro Rd, STE 200

City, State, Zip: Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Phone: (818) 597-3407

E-Mail: hrastegar@aspeneg.com

2. Contractor's Project Manager

Name: Tom Murphy

Address: 8801 Folsom Blvd, STE 275

City, State, Zip: Sacramento, CA 95826

Phone: (916) 712-1881

E-Mail: tmurphy@aspeneg.com

**CONTRACT REQUEST FORM (CRF)****L) Selection Process Used**

- ☒ Solicitation RFQ Solicitation #: RFQ-21-702 # of Bids: 1 Low Bid ☒ No ☐ Yes
- ☐ Non Competitive Bid (*Attach DGS-GSPD-09-007 <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Forms>*)
- ☐ Exempt Select Exemption (see instructions)

M) Contractor Entity Type

- ☒ Private Company (*including non-profits*)
- ☐ CA State Agency (*including UC and CSU*)
- ☐ Government Entity (*i.e. city, county, federal government, air/water/school district, joint power authorities, university from another state*)

N) Is Contractor a certified Small Business (SB), Micro Business (MB) or DVBE?

If yes, check appropriate box(es): ☒ SB ☐ MB ☐ DVBE

O) Civil Service Considerations

- ☐ Not Applicable (Agreement is with a CA State Entity or a membership/co-sponsorship)
- ☐ Public Resources Code 25620, et seq., authorizes the Commission to contract for the subject work. (PIER)
- ☒ The Services Contracted:
- ☐ are not available within civil service
 - ☐ cannot be performed satisfactorily by civil service employees
 - ☒ are of such a highly specialized or technical nature that the expert knowledge, expertise, and ability are not available through the civil service system.
- ☒ The Services are of such an:
- ☐ urgent
 - ☒ temporary, or
 - ☒ occasional nature that the delay to implement under civil service would frustrate their very purpose.

Justification:

Services provided under this contract will be of a technical nature and will primarily be for highly specialized personnel not found in civil service. The Aspen Environmental Group, the proposed contractor, performs a variety of complex engineering and environmental services, as well as the ability, education, experience, expertise, knowledge, skills, and stakeholder relationships to provide the highly specialized environmental and engineering services. For example, there are not civil servants in the areas of: design and development of harbors and ports for support of offshore wind energy construction and development, or incorporation of the latest climate change science into analysis of renewable energy development envisioned under SB100. The Aspen Team experts will also be utilized to train and transfer knowledge to in-house staff. This contract may also be utilized to secure qualified personnel to perform temporary, occasional, or urgent work when qualified civil servants are not available or when Energy Commission civil servants have full workloads and cannot take on an additional assignment. SB100 and AB525 work is time sensitive and work can be urgent in order for the Energy Commission to comply with statutory deadlines. Other work, such as data acquisition and management and tools for storage and utilization of data, including GIS analysis and mapping, will also be needed occasionally as need arises when program workload peaks and a critical need arises that cannot be filled by civil service employees. To hire civil service employees to perform this work would be impractical because it is not long-term and by the time hiring is completed the need would have passed. For these reasons, the services proposed



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under this contract are of such an occasional, temporary, and urgent nature that the delay to implement them under civil service would frustrate their very purpose.

P) Payment Method

1. ☒ Reimbursement in arrears based on:
 - ☒ Itemized Monthly ☐ Itemized Quarterly ☐ Flat Rate ☐ One-time
2. ☐ Advanced Payment
3. ☐ Other, explain:

Q) Retention

Is Agreement subject to retention? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If Yes, Will retention be released prior to Agreement termination? ☐ No ☐ Yes

R) Justification of Rates

Rates were negotiated under the RFQ process based on a salary survey of comparable entities for like work.

S) Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program (DVBE)

1. ☐ Exempt (Interagency/Other Government Entity)
2. ☒ Meets DVBE Requirements DVBE Amount:\$ 0 DVBE %:3%
 - a. ☐ Contractor is Certified DVBE
 - b. ☒ Contractor is Subcontracting with a DVBE: Blackhawk Environmental Inc.
3. ☐ Contractor selected through CMAS or MSA with no DVBE participation
4. ☐ Requesting DVBE Exemption (attach CEC 95)

T) Miscellaneous Agreement Information

1. Will there be Work Authorizations? ☐ No ☒ Yes
2. Is the Contractor providing confidential information? ☒ No ☐ Yes
3. Is the contractor going to purchase equipment? ☒ No ☐ Yes
4. Check frequency of progress reports
 - ☒ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Other...
5. Will a final report be required? ☒ No ☐ Yes
6. Is the Agreement, with amendments, longer than three years? If yes, why? ☒ No ☐ Yes

U) The following items should be attached to this CRF (as applicable)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Exhibit A, Scope of Work | ☐ N/A | ☒ Attached |
| 2. Exhibit B, Budget Detail | ☐ N/A | ☒ Attached |
| 3. DGS-GSPD-09-007, NCB Request | ☒ N/A | ☐ Attached |
| 4. CEC 95, DVBE Exemption Request | ☒ N/A | ☐ Attached |
| 5. CEQA Documentation | ☒ N/A | ☐ Attached |
| 6. Resumes | ☐ N/A | ☒ Attached |
| 7. CEC 105, Questionnaire for Identifying Conflicts | | ☒ Attached |



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<i>Hilarie Anderson</i>	<i>8/23/22</i>
Agreement Manager	Date
<i>Kyle Emigh</i>	<i>8/23/22</i>
Office Manager	Date
<i>Shawn Pittard</i>	<i>8/23/22</i>
Deputy Director	Date

700-22-004
STEP Planning Support
Subcontractor List

Business Name

- Applied EarthWorks, Inc.
- Applied Marine Sciences
- Arellano Associates, LLC
- Big Language Solutions, LLC
- Black Eagle Consulting, Inc.
- Blackhawk Environmental Inc.
- Conservation Biology Institute, Inc
- Creation-Z, Inc. dba 3DSCAPE
- Board of Regents Nevada System of Higher Education, dba Desert Research Institute
- EDM Services, Inc.
- Fehr & Peers
- Guidehouse Inc.
- Horizon Water and Environment, LLC
- Triple HS, Inc. dba HT Harvey & Associates
- Hydrofocus, Inc.
- Katin Engineering Consulting
- Kearns & West, Inc.
- Mead and Hunt, Inc.
- Michael B Clayton and Associates, a Law Corporation
- Moffatt & Nichol
- NetCentric Technologies
- Oregon State
- Pacific Legacy, Incorporated
- Peter Raimondi,
- RCH Group, Inc
- Resource Systems Group, Inc.
- Risk Sciences Group
- Rod Walker & Associates Consultancy, Inc.
- Spectrus, Ltd
- Tatsumi and Partners, Inc.
- West Peak Energy, LLC
- WJV Acoustics, Inc.
- Xodus Group

Exhibit A SCOPE OF WORK

TASK LIST

Task #	Task Name
1	Contract Management and Administrative Duties
2	Document Production
3	Interpreting and Translation Services
4	Outreach, Communication, Technical Support, and Facilitation Services
5	Energy Facility and Energy Infrastructure Planning, Studies, Analysis, and Reports
6	Environmental, Conservation, and Land Use Planning for Energy Infrastructure and Implementation
7	Train Staff, Commissioners and Advisors, Agencies, and Stakeholders

ACRONYMS/GLOSSARY

Specific acronyms and terms used throughout this scope of work are defined as follows:

Acronym	Definition
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BOEM	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
CAM	Commission Agreement Manager
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
DOD	Department of Defense
DRECP	Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
EIR	Environmental Impact Report;
EIS	Environmental Impact Statements
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IOU	Investor Owned Utility
LUPA	Land Use Plan Amendment
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
REAT	Renewable Energy Action Team
RETI	Renewable Energy Transmission Initiatives
RPS	Renewables Portfolio Standard
SB 100	Senate Bill 100
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council

BACKGROUND STATEMENT

Senate Bill 100 (De León, Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) (SB 100) sets an ambitious target of powering all retail electricity sold in California and state agency electricity needs with renewable and zero-carbon resources by 2045 and increasing the state's RPS target to 60 percent of retail sales by December 31, 2030. Moving toward 100 percent clean electricity will increase access to clean energy for Californians, reduce air pollution, improve public health, and support emissions reductions in other sectors, such as transportation and buildings.

Effectively integrating 100 percent zero-carbon electricity and achieving carbon neutrality in the state by 2045 will require rigorous analysis of various scenarios and pathways, as well as coordinated planning across state agencies, local governments, investor-owned utilities, publicly owned utilities, and community choice aggregators. This planning must also include developing strategies to increase the resiliency of California's electricity system to the effects of climate change.

An important part of meeting these new goals will be investments in the state's renewable energy infrastructure and electric transmission system. With that in mind, the CEC, CPUC and the CAISO have initiated a number of renewable energy and transmission planning efforts to understand the potential challenges associated with meeting these goals.

One significant effort is the analysis and planning for offshore wind development required by Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525, Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2021). The bill took effect on January 1, 2022. The primary task under this bill is for CEC, in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies and a wide variety of stakeholders, to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments installed off the California coast in federal waters and submit it to the California Natural Resources Agency and the State Legislature.

The strategic plan will be informed by interim activities and products developed by the CEC, including a preliminary assessment of the economic benefits of offshore wind as they relate to seaport investments and workforce development needs and standards, and a permitting roadmap that describes timeframes and milestones for a coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the coast of California.

Examples of other applicable landscape-scale planning efforts include the DRECP, and the San Joaquin Valley Least Conflict Solar Project, and the RETI. These planning efforts relied on a science-based understanding of geographic areas, land uses, and critical species habitats and collaboration between state, federal, and local agencies and stakeholders to identify areas for renewable energy and transmission infrastructure development.

PURPOSE OF THIS CONTRACT

The purpose of this Contract is to select a Prime Contractor (Contractor) to lead a team of professional engineering and environmental services technical specialists to support the following goals, objectives, and policies of the State of California.

The prime contractor will be responsible for all contract administrative duties, analysis, project management, report preparation, quality assurance, graphics support services, directing team members in all contract provisions, and participating in technical work assignments.

SB 100 Planning and Implementation

California has made significant progress toward a clean energy future through many programs that promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, and the energy storage technologies that are needed to decarbonize its energy system. “The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018,” (Senate Bill 100 De León) builds on this progress by escalating the state’s renewable energy procurement requirement and makes the advancement to 100 percent clean electricity a state policy.

SB 100 is central to improving California’s energy system. Clean electricity works in synergy with other state efforts to reduce emissions and make the state’s electricity system more resilient, affordable, and environmentally sustainable.

The initial [SB100 joint agency report](#) released in March 2021, is a first step to evaluating the challenges and opportunities of implementing SB 100. It includes an initial assessment of the additional energy resources and the resource build rates needed to achieve 100 percent clean electricity, along with the associated costs. The report finds that to reach the 2045 target, California will need to roughly triple its current electricity power capacity. The projected increase is driven by the conversion to clean energy resources and growing electricity demand.

The major recommendations from the first report point to the need for the state to:

- Verify that scenario results satisfy the state’s grid reliability requirements.
- Continue to evaluate the potential effects of emerging resources, such as offshore wind, long-duration energy storage, green hydrogen technologies, and demand flexibility.
- Assess environmental, social, and economic costs and benefits of the additional clean electricity generation capacity and storage needed to implement SB 100.

California will need to sustain its expansion of clean electricity generation capacity at a record-breaking rate for the next 25 years. Under most scenarios analyzed in the SB 100 report, the state will need to build on average, 6 GW of new solar, wind and energy storage resources annually. The first report used a computer model to analyze different scenarios representing different factors under various conditions and technology deployment. The estimated results from the first report will change over time as additional factors are examined and zero-carbon technologies mature. Additional analysis will be needed to evaluate these changes and assist in developing scenarios that can be used for continued planning efforts.

The joint agency report is required to be updated and submitted to the legislature every four years and the next report will evaluate the measures needed to ensure California’s power needs are met under a wide range of conditions as the state transitions to 100 percent clean electricity.

The state's policies to vastly increase renewable energy and drastically reduce carbon emissions will not only help temper the effects of climate change globally but also improve the health of Californians and their economy. In addition to transitioning the electricity sector to 100 percent clean energy by 2045, the state has now committed to having an economy that is "carbon neutral" by 2045 (eliminating as much climate-warming pollution as it emits by that year). In order to ensure these timeframes are met and a resilient energy system is developed it will be critical to conduct economic, climate change, and other technical analyses that support investment in technologies and renewable energy development.

SB100 Local Government Coordination

To meet California's SB 100 goals, coordinated and focused planning, technical assessments, and improvements to State and local permitting processes are needed. Local governments are important partners in meeting California's SB100 clean energy goals and must increase their planning and permitting capacity for new energy infrastructure and participate in long-term State energy planning efforts. Ongoing climate change analysis and tools will also be needed to support local government planning. State agencies will continue working with local governments and stakeholders to build upon the SB 100 report and improve the preliminary analysis and better coordinate long-term and short-term state energy planning with local land use planning to support capital investments in energy storage, renewable energy generation, and transmission infrastructure projects.

SB100 Climate Change and Resilience Analysis

Future investments in electric generation, storage, distribution, and transmission facilities to meet SB 100 goals must be designed and operated with reliability and resilience in mind to account for a changing climate. In particular, planning for and developing these facilities require an understanding of the challenges posed by increasing wildfire risk, extreme heat, drought, and sea-level rise.

Cost-effective achievement of SB 100 goals requires that investments in electricity generation and integration technologies and infrastructure consider how climate change may alter the geographic and temporal distribution of renewable energy resources and other impacts to electric infrastructure. The impacts from climate change that must be better understood include:

- Hydropower availability and how declines in spring and summer snowmelt affect availability of this dispatchable resource and whether it could induce greater reliance on fossil resources.
- Effects warmer temperatures and potential changes in wind patterns may have on wind and solar resources.
- How the intensity of drought conditions would impact the availability of water needed for cooling of certain renewable energy technologies, such as solar thermal and geothermal power plants, and how it could increase pumping demands for groundwater.

- Increase in frequency and effects extreme heat events have on cooling loads, which can lead to supply reductions. Extreme heat can also compromise the performance and accelerate the degradation of generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure which can result in local power outages.
- Effects of wildfires that can directly damage transmission and distribution systems, and associated ash which can also impact performance of nearby solar generation. Windy and dry weather conditions raise the risk of fire ignitions from utility infrastructure and result in planned power shutoffs to protect public safety. These shutoffs can lead to indirect impacts that may have unintended consequences.
- How climate change-driven sea level rise, tidal inundation, flooding, and erosion can increase the risk of physical damage and disruption to coastal substations, transformers, power lines, and other equipment.
- Effects on out-of-state resources on the availability of real-time imports to balance the grid due to region wide extreme weather events.

CEC is working to better understand these impacts and incorporate the latest research into energy planning efforts. Through the [Electric Program Investment Charge Program](#), the CEC is advancing the next generation of climate projections and analytics to develop decision-relevant parameters for state agencies and energy sector stakeholders. State-funded climate research has also informed the state's Climate Change Assessments, which provide a scientific foundation for understanding climate related vulnerabilities. California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment is anticipated for release before the 2025 SB 100 update.

Through its ongoing climate adaptation rulemaking (R.18.04-019), the CPUC has also directed the IOUs to develop vulnerability assessments every four years, including anticipated climate change impacts to utility operations, services, and assets, over a 20–30-year horizon. The IOUs will also provide options to address identified vulnerabilities. A key part of the IOUs' development of the vulnerability assessment is engagement with disadvantaged vulnerable communities.

Several state agencies, including the CEC and Strategic Growth Council, administer grant programs focused on improving local resilience to climate impacts. These grants have enabled cities to develop local adaptation plans that consider regional climate threats and identify regionally relevant adaptation strategies. Local adaptation planning may benefit from more refined results from the SB 100 and related proceedings on the resource mix and likely location and operation of resources.

Offshore Wind Planning

On March 29, 2021 the Biden-Harris Administration announced a nationwide goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030. Offshore wind is an established industry in Europe and quickly emerging on the East Coast, with developers investing heavily in job training, port infrastructure, and economic development. Given offshore wind conditions in California that are some of the best in the nation and new technologies (such as floating platforms and turbine designs) which enhance development potential, there is significant interest from developers and local communities in this renewable resource.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's BOEM is responsible for overseeing renewable energy development in federal waters of the OCS. Floating offshore wind energy projects are complex and will require close coordination between BOEM, the State of California, and other federal and local agencies and tribal governments. To help facilitate this coordination, the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force (Task Force) was established in 2016. The Task Force, which includes representatives from federal, state, local, and federally recognized tribal governments, work together to identify opportunities for renewable energy leasing and development off the coast of California. Through coordination with the Task Force, and an extensive stakeholder outreach and engagement process, BOEM has identified two areas, one off the north coast and one off the central coast, for additional evaluation of floating offshore wind development. These areas, referred to as the Humboldt Wind Energy Area and the Morro Bay Wind Energy Area, have the combined potential to generate up to 4.6 gigawatts of renewable energy.

AB525 Offshore Wind Planning

Consistent with SB100 and BOEM development activities, the state is pursuing offshore wind generation opportunities. Given the generation potential, floating offshore wind has emerged as a promising source of renewable energy that could play a significant role in achieving SB 100 goals. In addition to providing renewable energy, it will diversify the state's energy portfolio and provide an opportunity for good paying jobs and statewide economic benefits.

On September 23, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 525 (AB 525, Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2021), which took effect on January 1, 2022. AB 525 requires the CEC, in coordination with federal, state, and local agencies and a wide variety of stakeholders, to develop a strategic plan for offshore wind energy developments installed off the California coast in federal waters and submit the strategic plan to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the Legislature by no later than June 30, 2023.

AB525 also required CEC to complete three interim reports that will be used to inform the completion of the strategic plan. The first of these reports is the requirement to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, and decarbonization benefits and to establish offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045. [The AB525 Offshore Wind Report](#) is now complete.

The other two interim reports are due on or before December 31, 2022. One report will assess the economic benefits of offshore wind as they relate to seaport investments and workforce development needs and standards. The other will provide a permitting roadmap that describes time frames and milestones for a coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the California coast. In addition to the results of these reports, the strategic plan will include:

- Identification of seaport and harbor facilities that can support offshore wind development
- Assessment of transmission planning for incorporation of offshore wind energy
- Evaluation of potential impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and Indigenous peoples, and national defense, and strategies for addressing those potential impacts.

AB 525 also establishes priorities for the strategic plan. The priorities include:

- The strategic plan should emphasize and prioritize near-term actions, particularly related to port retrofits and investments and the workforce, to accommodate the probable immediate need for jobs and economic development.
- In considering port retrofits, the strategic plan shall strive for compatibility with other harbor tenants and ocean users to ensure that the local benefits complement other local industries.
- The strategic plan shall emphasize and prioritize actions that will improve port infrastructure to support land-based work for the local workforce. The development of the strategic plan regarding workforce development shall include consultation with representatives of key labor organizations and apprenticeship programs responsible for training the construction workforce.

The CEC is engaged in a range of initiatives to better understand the opportunities and actions for deploying floating offshore wind responsibly off the coast of California, including the creation of the [California Offshore Wind Energy Gateway](#). The CEC is also actively collaborating with state agencies, including:

- [California Coastal Commission \(CCC\)](#): implements the California Coastal Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act. The California Coastal Act requires Commission review and authorization of all development within California's Coastal Zone. The Coastal Zone Management Act provides for Commission review of federal activities or permits outside of the coastal zone, including [offshore wind](#) projects, that could have an effect on California's coastal resources.
- [Ocean Protection Council \(OPC\)](#): advises the governor and legislature on ocean and coastal issues and supports assessing the impacts of offshore wind to marine life, fisheries, tribal and cultural resources, and local economies. [OPC's Strategic Plan to Protect California's Coast and Ocean 2020-2025](#) includes a goal to support sustainable commercial offshore wind development.

- [California State Lands Commission \(CSLC\)](#): manages lands owned by the State, including navigable waterways and submerged lands up to three nautical miles offshore. CSLC considers applications for leases to use State lands, such as applications for [offshore wind development in state waters](#).
- [California Department of Fish and Wildlife \(CDFW\)](#): has jurisdiction over conservation, protection and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitats necessary for biologically sustainable populations of the species. CDFW is also responsible for marine biodiversity protection in California's coastal marine waters.
- [California Public Utilities Commission \(CPUC\)](#): authorizes electric utility rates and procurement and conducts integrated resource planning to ensure development of the generation, energy storage and transmission resources needed to achieve the state's goal of 100 percent zero-carbon electricity by 2045 in a cost-effective manner.
- [Office of Planning and Research \(OPR\)](#): studies future research and planning needs with a focus on addressing climate risk, resilience, and economic development.

Offshore Wind Energy Community Outreach and Engagement

Engaging with all stakeholders early and often is pivotal to understanding and incorporating their concerns in the planning process. The CEC will lead a robust outreach process, supported by consultants that have demonstrated successfully working with a diverse range of coastal resource stakeholder groups, such as local communities, commercial fishers, port authorities, military representatives, and tribal governments. Continued outreach will be essential to ensure that the process around offshore wind reflects diverse issues and perspectives, the potential impacts of offshore wind are identified and adequately addressed, and that the opportunities presented by these new industries are understood. Outreach will also include stakeholders within the offshore wind supply chain and those within labor and workforce development. Needs for investment in port or other physical infrastructure and/or supply chain or capacity building will also be identified.

Landscape-Scale Planning

Landscape-scale planning approaches take into consideration a wide range of potential constraints and conflicts including environmental sensitivity, agricultural and other land uses, tribal cultural resources, and more. Landscape planning activities support environmental, conservation, land use, and transmission planning efforts intended to guide responsible renewable energy and transmission infrastructure development. These activities have proven to be an important part of meeting California's renewable energy mandates and climate goals. From the first RETI process to the joint REAT agency work on the DRECP and the stakeholder-led San Joaquin solar process, California agencies, local, state, and federal governments, Native American tribes, and stakeholders have become increasingly familiar with planning approaches that seek to identify the best areas for renewable energy development and new or expanded transmission lines and transmission corridors.

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and the Governor's Executive Order

The Governor's Executive Order S-14-08 directed the state agencies to work with the federal agencies to prepare the DRECP for the Mojave and Colorado Deserts in California, and to identify top priority areas where other similar plans should be developed based upon their renewable energy development potential. The Executive Order, and associated Memoranda of Understanding by and among several state and federal agencies, established a joint state-federal REAT, comprised of the CEC, the CDFW, the BLM, and the USFWS. Federal participation is supported by the Secretary of the Interior's Secretarial Order 3285 directing all Department of the Interior agencies and departments (which include the BLM and USFWS) to encourage the timely and responsible development of renewable energy, while protecting and enhancing the nation's water, wildlife and other natural resources.

The science-driven DRECP is intended to become the state road map for renewable energy project development that will advance state and federal conservation goals in these desert regions. It will also facilitate the timely permitting of renewable energy projects under the state and federal laws which protect critical natural resources. The DRECP will also serve to coordinate existing desert Conservation Plans within the Mojave and Colorado Deserts (i.e., the West Mojave Plan), renewable energy development project plans, the BLM Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, DOD renewable energy needs, and transmission planning into an integrated framework for balancing natural resource conservation and renewable energy development.

In March 2015, the REAT agencies announced that the DRECP planning process would move forward in a phased manner. Phase I focused on completing a BLM LUPA for the DRECP area. The LUPA was published in September 2016 and amended existing federal land designations to create areas for both energy development and conservation on public lands. This landscape-scale planning effort covered 22.5 million acres in seven California counties - Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. Because counties have land use and permitting authority for most projects on private land, they are key partners in meeting the state's renewable energy mandates and conservation goals. Phase 2 of DRECP will explore better alignment of renewable energy development and conservation goals and policies at the local, state, and federal levels, including opportunities for a tailored county-by-county approach that supports the overall set of renewable energy mandates and conservation goals in the DRECP area.

Solar Development on Least-Conflict Lands in the San Joaquin Valley

Over the last several years, the San Joaquin Valley has experienced a significant increase in the number of solar projects under development to meet the state's renewable energy goals. A variety of stakeholders expressed concern over continued solar development and the associated potential impact to both agricultural areas and sensitive habitats. In addition, there is a continued shortage of available water for irrigation needs and long-standing issues associated with the natural buildup of selenium and other chemicals on drainage-impaired agricultural lands and the retirement of impacted lands from agricultural production.

In June 2015, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research launched a stakeholder-led process to identify "least-conflict" lands in the San Joaquin Valley for solar development and provide input to policy makers for eliminating barriers to siting projects on those least-conflict areas. Using the best available data and information, stakeholder work groups identified and mapped a set of least-conflict lands for solar development. Evaluation of existing transmission facilities was completed to confirm the available capacity on the current transmission system ranging from 2,000 MW to 3,000 MW. The data and results of the San Joaquin Valley study informed RETI 2.0 planning activities and additional renewable energy development is expected in the San Joaquin Valley to meet California's energy goals.

The Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0 (RETI 2.0)

RETI 2.0 was introduced in September 2015 in response to Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s Executive Order B-30-015 and the subsequent Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (Senate Bill 350, De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015), major policy mandates setting new and ambitious renewable electricity and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals for California. In response to these new goals of a 50 percent RPS and a 40 percent statewide GHG emission reduction from 1990 levels by 2030, RETI 2.0 was undertaken to revisit the first RETI process from 2009.

RETI 2.0 examined where potential new renewable energy generation could be developed and assessed what transmission may be needed to deliver this energy to California's load centers. It also explored the emerging transmission implications of accessing a diverse and balanced renewable energy portfolio and the transmission system needed to accommodate a future electricity system based predominately on renewable energy.

RETI 2.0 also reviewed resource potential, costs and benefits of renewable energy resources in different areas of California and the western United States, and information regarding the ability of the existing bulk transmission capacity to access these resource areas. Information about new transmission proposals in various stages of development that could help facilitate substantial renewable energy development from various resource areas was also collected.

Current and Future Work

The activities and tasks included in this contract support the environmental, conservation, engineering, infrastructure, economic, and land use planning efforts for terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments. They are intended to guide responsible energy and infrastructure development to help California meet its future energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. Many of the tasks, activities, and initiatives have been identified but there may be other unknown and unidentified activities, tasks, initiatives, and policy direction that the contractor will be asked to assist the CEC in the future. Some of these unknown policy-related initiatives may relate to: geologic hazards exacerbated by climate change such as mudslide and debris flow risks, and land subsidence; facility vulnerability assessments; avian impacts from energy facilities; feasibility of desalination projects/proposals; tribal and cultural resource issues; local government planning processes; and other energy-related issues.

Therefore, the contractor must have a breadth of subject matter experts available (staff and/or subcontractors) with a broad range of skills to assist in the tasks and activities identified in the contract as well as future unknown new activities, tasks, and initiatives. In all these efforts, a strong scientific, engineering, economic, environmental, and analytical approach is required, coupled with an open process that encourages and facilitates wide participation by all levels of government, tribes and tribal communities, stakeholders, interest groups, and the public.

ABOUT THIS SECTION

In this section, the CEC describes the tasks the Firm (referred to as “Contractor” in the Scope of Work) will be asked to perform under the direction of the CEC Contract Agreement Manager (CAM). This section also describes the work assignment process, deliverables, and due dates.

WORK AUTHORIZATIONS

The Agreement that results from this solicitation shall be conducted as a “work authorization” Agreement. No work shall be undertaken unless authorized by the CAM through a specific written document called a “work authorization”.

The CAM will prepare and issue the written work authorizations and shall set a maximum price, budget, and schedule for the work to be performed. The CAM will work, in consultation with the Contractor, to assign work to either the Contractor or a subcontractor.

No Work Guarantee

The CEC does not guarantee any minimum or maximum amount of work to the prime Contractor or any Subcontractor under the Agreement.

WORKSHOPS & HEARINGS

All workshops and hearings are sponsored, organized, and facilitated by the CEC. The CEC is responsible for any costs associated with a workshop or hearing. Contractor will provide labor only.

WORK PERFORMANCE

Once the need for work is initiated, the work may need to proceed at a quick pace to meet the required analytical and procedural deadlines. Accordingly, the Contractor will need to be able to respond to the CEC's requests for technical support on a timely basis. The Contractor shall respond to requests for work in accordance with the following pattern:

- The CAM shall provide at least two weeks' notice that a significant work effort will be required and the Contractor will need to assemble an effective and trained team during that period.
- The Contractor shall provide individual experts to handle specific issues with only two days' notice.
- The Contractor shall return telephone calls and e-mails from the CAM and provide an initial response within four (4) hours.
- The Contractor and all team members shall meet the agreed upon product deadlines.
- The Contractor and all team members shall meet the agreed upon event deadlines on the day, hour, and location needed.
- The Contractor shall provide quality assurance on its draft products before delivery to the CEC's Work Authorization Manager.

CONTRACTOR ACTIVITIES

The Contractor, under the direction of CEC staff, will perform a range and variety of activities in carrying out tasks (Tasks 1-7) under this Agreement. The following activities are the general types of work the Contractor will perform, in order to accomplish the subject tasks.

- Support environmental, conservation, engineering, infrastructure, economic, and land use planning efforts for terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments.
- Use complex analytical models and decision support tools related to environmental and engineering matters, including developing high quality model inputs and assumptions.
- Develop, prepare, and upload new data to maintain CEC planning, analysis, data, mapping, and monitoring tools used by the public, stakeholders, and governmental agencies.
- Compare the potential environmental impacts, engineering feasibility, potential costs and benefits, and electricity system impacts of different energy facilities or transmission project types and configurations.

- Collect data on all types of electricity generation facilities, electric transmission lines, and energy projects in California, out-of-state (western states interconnectivity) and out-of-country (Mexico and Canada) that affect the electric and energy systems in California.
- Perform and prepare environmental and engineering analysis.
- Prepare resilience studies and analysis including analysis and effects of climate change and GHG reductions.
- Develop assessments of the economic benefits of offshore wind and other renewable energy, including workforce development needs and standards.
- Work with stakeholders, state, local, and federal agencies, and the offshore wind energy industry to identify suitable sea space for wind energy areas in federal waters sufficient to accommodate the offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045.
- Develop plans to improve waterfront facilities that could support a range of floating offshore wind energy development activities.
- Conduct assessments of transmission investments and upgrades necessary to support the offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045.
- Assist with the development of a permitting roadmap that describes timeframes and milestones for a permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the coast of California.
- Prepare assessments of potential impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and Indigenous peoples, and national defense, and strategies for addressing those potential impacts.
- Perform and prepare public health and safety analysis and studies.
- Perform and prepare feasibility studies including cost and economic analysis.
- Provide Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and aerial information systems analysis and mapping services.
- Prepare electric transmission feasibility and transmission interconnection studies and reports with preliminary recommendations.
- Conduct field assessments to collect data and analyze information on energy and environmental resources, land use patterns, existing energy facilities, engineering suitability of specific sites for energy facilities, and related environmental and engineering matters.
- Develop preliminary recommendations regarding environmental, engineering, and public health and safety issues/studies.

- Write, edit and/or publish scientific, environmental, economic, and technical reports.
- Review and comment on scientific, environmental, economic, and technical reports.
- Identify, review, and evaluate data.
- Develop information requests for data from sources outside of the CEC, such as project developers, federal/state/local agencies, or other sources with information.
- Conduct literature searches including existing and ongoing reports and studies by CEC, CPUC, CAISO, BOEM, and other local, state and federal agencies.
- Attend, participate in, facilitate, organize and/or present at meetings, workshops and hearings.
- Assist with the Federal Section 106 Native American Tribes consultation process and the State of California consultation process.
- Perform Project Management and Program Management duties.
- Perform project coordination and policy liaison with energy developers, local and state agencies, environmental groups, recreationists, the public, and other stakeholders.
- Provide outreach, liaison, communication, technical support and facilitation services to all levels of government, Native American tribes, stakeholders, interest groups, businesses, environmental groups, recreational organizations, energy developers, etc.
- Evaluate the effects of existing or proposed laws, ordinances, regulations and standards of local, state or federal agencies on the permitting and operation of energy facilities.
- Consult with federal, state, and local agencies in determining the applicability of their laws and regulations.
- Answer CEC staff's, Commissioners', and Commissioner Advisors' technical questions about environmental, engineering, economic, public health and safety, and regulatory issues associated with energy projects and transmission lines.
- Perform and prepare California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis.

TASKS

The Contractor, under the direction of CEC staff, will be required to perform prime contractor management functions and provide environmental, engineering, scientific, economic, and public health and safety technical support services to prepare and complete studies, reports, and analysis to guide and inform the responsible development of energy infrastructure to serve California. The Contractor shall also perform monitoring and analysis for a wide variety of existing and new initiatives as well as providing support to implement SB100 and AB525.

The following tasks (Tasks 1-7) coupled with the list of activities above, describe the general types of work the contractor will be requested to perform under this agreement.

TASK 1 – CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

A maximum of 12% of the total Agreement budget will be allocated for this task. The Contractor will be required to perform contract management and administrative duties to manage the Agreement.

The Contractor shall:

- Attend a “kick-off” meeting with the CAM, the Contracts Officer, and a representative of the Accounting Office. The meeting will be online via Zoom and the CAM will provide the virtual meeting link and information. The Contractor shall include their Project Manager, Contracts Administrator, Accounting Officer, and others designated by the CAM in this meeting. The administrative and technical aspects of this Agreement will be discussed at the meeting. The CAM shall arrange the meeting including scheduling the date and time and provide an agenda to all potential meeting participants prior to the kick-off meeting.
- Attend and participate in other CEC team meetings as requested and arranged by the CAM.
- Supply cost estimates for potential work tasks to CEC technical staff.
- After approval of potential work tasks by the CEC Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division management, supply information for work authorization development to the CEC Work Authorization Manager; including a definition of the scope of work, the schedule of deliverables and the work task budget.
- Prepare and execute agreements with subcontractors that convey all provisions contained in the Agreement and specific work authorizations between the CEC and the Contractor.
- Enforce subcontract provisions, and in the event of failure of the subcontractor to perform satisfactorily, recommend actions to resolve the problem.

- Require subcontractors to provide invoices which correctly identify personnel, rates, actual hours, and direct expenses charged to each task of each work authorization and which provide adequate documentation to justify expenses, including electronic copies of completed deliverables. Maintain electronic record of invoices and invoice documentation, including completed deliverables. For work assignments spanning a lengthy period, the work authorization may be structured to allow billing for completed interim deliverables. Subcontractor invoices will be reviewed by the Contractor and the CEC Work Authorization Manager, technical staff, or CAM for accuracy and completeness.
- Provide monthly progress reports by the tenth of each month to the CAM on the Contractor's and subcontractors' progress for work assignments, including a summary of contract expenditures to date.
- Submit monthly invoices by the tenth of each month to the CEC Accounting Office with a copy to the CAM. Invoices shall indicate the labor costs, operating expenses, fees and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE) amounts. Invoices shall coincide with the monthly progress report timeframe. Invoices will not list or seek payment for work authorizations not issued at the time of invoice preparation.
- Pay subcontractors for satisfactory products within five working days after payment is received from the CEC.
- Develop and maintain a secure website to share contract-related information with CEC staff and to track the status of all work authorizations.
- For each fiscal year, prepare a Final Report on the work accomplished during that fiscal year and a brief (200 words or less) abstract.

Incidental Services

(Task 2 - 3)

In addition to Management and Administration duties (Task 1), the Contractor shall provide incidental services to support the environmental and engineering related work of CEC staff and consultant technical specialists.

TASK 2 – DOCUMENT PRODUCTION

The CEC may need to seek prior approval from the Office of State Publishing for any printing type work.

The Contractor shall:

- Produce graphics to support CEC documents and analysis, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps, and photographic and artistic renderings.

- Write, edit and synthesize technical documents based on technical information from one or more sources to ensure the technical accuracy, correct grammar, unified style and clarity of CEC documents. Ensure that the written products of staff and the Contractor's technical specialists clearly convey their intended message to the public and all stakeholders.
- Format and prepare electronic documents for high quality printing and/or binding. Print and/or bind documents in high-quality formats.

TASK 3 – INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION SERVICES

The Contractor shall translate documents and/or interpret verbal comments between English and Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Cambodian, Farsi, Hmong, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese and other languages as required. Interpreting services will be required at onsite and offsite meetings, workshops and hearings.

TASK 4—OUTREACH, COMMUNICATION, TECHNICAL SUPPORT, AND FACILITATION SERVICES

The activities and tasks included in this contract rely on a strong scientific, engineering, environmental, economic, and analytical approach coupled with an open process that encourages and facilitates widespread participation by all levels of government, stakeholders, interest groups, and the public.

There is proven value in using this open process to assess the relative potential (constraints and opportunities) of different locations for energy infrastructure, especially in the context of identifying and meeting policy-driven initiatives. To be successful it is critical that the decision-making process is open and transparent, and encourages participation by: local, state and federal agencies; stakeholders; Native American tribes; environmental groups; recreation organizations; utilities; academia; developers; and the public. The Contractor shall:

- Provide extensive outreach and communication efforts over a wide spectrum of interested groups, stakeholders, all levels of local, state, and federal governments, businesses, the public, utilities, environmental groups, developers, etc.
- Establish contacts with stakeholders, local agencies, and the public.
- Provide assistance and technical support to California counties and other local, state, and federal agencies requesting assistance in their review and analysis of electric generation infrastructure and energy infrastructure.
- Provide facilitation services at public meetings/workshops/stakeholder work groups and to “broker” highly contested issues.

- Develop materials, fact sheets, pamphlets, and brochures to help explain and educate.
- Develop outreach materials and information for energy infrastructure facility planning activities and other energy systems planning topics that may be included on informational websites and/or webpages.
- Provide technical support for websites and/or webpages of, or supported by, the CEC pertaining to energy infrastructure planning and other energy systems planning activities.
- Provide outreach, assistance, and technical support to Native American tribes.
- Provide assistance and technical support to stakeholder work groups/technical groups.

TASK 5 – ENERGY FACILITY AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING, STUDIES, ANALYSIS, AND REPORTS

The Contractor shall support environmental, conservation, engineering, infrastructure, economic, and land use planning efforts for terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments through technical activities such as data collection and analysis, developing and maintaining data bases, economic and engineering studies and analysis, public health and safety studies, risk assessments, transmission corridor analysis, and transmission interconnection studies.

This task could also include, but not be limited to, work on SB100 planning and implementation efforts, AB 525 Strategic Plan development including local, state, and federal agency coordination, transmission corridors, climate change impacts and resilience analysis, and out-of-state (eleven western states interconnectivity) and out-of-country (Mexico and Canada) coordination efforts. To support the CEC's planning efforts, the Contractor shall:

- Develop data bases, collect data and information, and track all types of electricity generation facilities, electric transmission lines, and energy projects in California including those out-of-state (eleven western states interconnectivity) and out-of-country (Mexico and Canada) projects that affect the electric and energy systems in California.
- Prepare and complete economic, technical, and environmental feasibility analyses of potential energy infrastructure projects and the projects' various alternatives. The scope of these analyses may cover any area in California and may include projects and alternatives that are in other states and other countries due to potential impacts and effects on the electric generation system and electric transmission system in California and the U.S. western grid.
- Assist in assessing the economic benefits of offshore wind as they relate to seaport investments and workforce development needs and standards.

- Assist in developing a permitting roadmap that describes time frames and milestones for a coordinated, comprehensive, and efficient permitting process for offshore wind energy facilities and associated electricity and transmission infrastructure off the California coast.
- Assist in preparing a strategic plan that; identifies seaport and harbor facilities that can support offshore wind development; addresses transmission planning for incorporation of offshore wind energy; and evaluates potential impacts on coastal resources, fisheries, Native American and Indigenous peoples, and national defense, and strategies for addressing those potential impacts.
- Prepare and complete studies/analysis, and provide technical assistance to support policy reports and short-term and long-term energy planning activities and transmission technical reports required by the CEC.
- Prepare and complete electric transmission feasibility and electric transmission interconnection studies and reports, power flow analysis, and system impact studies. These studies will be coordinated with the CAISO and the CPUC, if necessary. This work could also be done in support of studies/reports/planning efforts undertaken by the CAISO and the CPUC.
- Prepare and complete transmission corridor studies and analysis.
- Provide assistance to California counties and other local, state, and federal agencies requesting assistance in their review and analysis of electric generation infrastructure and energy infrastructure.
- Provide assistance and expertise to improve transmission planning processes, transmission routing, transmission corridor designation, and transmission permitting/licensing.
- Assist with the Federal Section 106 Native American Tribes consultation process and the State of California consultation process.
- Provide project management services and duties.
- Prepare and complete public health and safety and environmental studies related to the effects of climate change and GHG reductions.
- Provide technical assistance for studying the implications of the development of specific bulk transmission projects, both planned and conceptual, for the integration of new renewable resources, the need for local capacity in transmission-constrained areas, energy storage and the ability to import energy from and rely upon generation capacity in neighboring western states and countries.

- Provide technical assistance for evaluating the need for transmission system upgrades to meet the state's environmental policy goals and ensure reliable service under different scenarios regarding future load-growth, impacts of demand-side programs (energy efficiency, demand response), energy storage, renewable and fossil generation resource development, and new grid management techniques for managing variable energy resources.
- Provide technical assistance to advance the current capabilities in performing landscape-scale environmental analysis for selecting electric generation and transmission geographic locations that have the potential to lower risk of project permit failure and reduce delays for project development.
- Evaluate available geo-spatial models for landscape-scale environmental analysis that are transparent and user-friendly. Identify and evaluate the relevance of landscape-scale environmental information sources covering California and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) regions for geo-spatial modeling applications.
- Provide technical assistance on methodologies to convert multiple environmental data layers into a valuation metric that reflects energy infrastructure project permitting challenges and environmental mitigation risks for geo-spatial modeling applications.
- Provide technical assistance and analysis for a wide variety of energy related policy issues and infrastructure such as, but not limited to: drought-related impacts such as land subsidence and increase pumping costs; risks of inundation of low lands under climate change; tidal energy; flooding, mudslide, and wildfire risks associated with weather patterns; energy facility vulnerability assessment; avian and marine life impacts from energy facilities; proposed or existing natural gas or liquefied natural gas lines and terminals; desalination projects/proposals; and other energy-related issues.

TASK 6 – ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSERVATION, AND LAND USE PLANNING FOR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Contractor shall support and assist environmental, conservation, landscape scale, and land use planning efforts to guide responsible energy infrastructure development for terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments. This task includes assisting with environmental and other analysis to support Environmental Impact Reports (EIR), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and implementing, and monitoring the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan. This task includes, but is not limited to, activities such as data collection and analysis, scientific, economic, environmental, and engineering studies and analysis, public health and safety studies, risk assessments, transmission corridor analysis, and transmission interconnection studies. This task also includes supporting conservation planning efforts that inform energy infrastructure development. This may include planning efforts focused on energy infrastructure development in the San Joaquin Valley or similar efforts statewide. This could also include, but not be limited to, work on transmission corridors, transmission corridor analysis, and out-of-state (western states interconnectivity) and out-of-country (Mexico and Canada) coordination efforts.

To support the CEC's environmental, conservation, and land use planning efforts for terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments and guide energy infrastructure development, the Contractor shall:

- Provide monitoring, scientific expertise, and implementation support.
- Develop monitoring protocols and implementation tools.
- Prepare feasibility studies including environmental, public health and safety, engineering, and cost and economic analysis, of potential conservation and development areas within California.
- Provide project management services and duties.
- Prepare analysis for EIR/EIS documents.
- Prepare and complete scientific, economic, public health and safety, environmental, and conservation studies and analysis including analysis and effects of climate change and GHG reductions.
- Develop, prepare, and upload new data to keep existing planning, analysis, mapping, and monitoring tools current and to extend their usefulness to other geographic areas.
- Develop, prepare, and upload new data to update Data Basin and CEC Data Basin Gateways.
- Prepare and complete transmission corridor studies and analysis.

- Provide assistance and expertise to improve transmission planning processes, transmission routing, transmission corridor designation, and transmission permitting/licensing.
- Below is a list of the types of subtasks and activities that may be required, including, but not limited to, the following:
 1. Identify, describe, and map covered species.
 2. Identify and describe covered activities.
 3. Identify, describe, and map types of land cover and vegetation.
 4. Identify, describe, and map land use, ownership, and zoning.
 5. Identify, describe, and map natural communities and disturbed areas.
 6. Review and analyze species distribution models.
 7. Develop baseline biology report.
 8. Identify and describe the regulatory framework.
 9. Develop a framework for an overall conservation strategy including effects of climate change.
 10. Identify and develop a Preliminary Environmental Issues Report.
 11. Assist with the Federal Section 106 Native American Tribes consultation process and the State of California consultation process.
 12. Identify and describe cultural resources and potential impacts.
 13. Analyze and identify gaps in protection of species and natural communities.
 14. Identify and run habitat suitability models.
 15. Participate in the development of preliminary and final impact assessment.
 16. Develop mitigation strategies including reserve designs and assembly processes.
 17. Develop landscape-level conservation measures, habitat-level conservation measures, species-level conservation measures, and avoidance and minimization measures.
 18. Develop preliminary and final costing and funding analysis including land values, land restoration, operations and maintenance, and funding source options.
 19. Develop and draft conservation and implementation strategies.
 20. Assist with responses to written public comments on public documents.

TASK 7 – TRAIN STAFF, COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORS, AGENCIES, AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Contractor shall provide technical training to: CEC staff; Commissioners and Advisors; local, state, and federal agencies; and stakeholders. Training will cover environmental, conservation management, engineering, economics, and public health and safety topics; compliance monitoring skills necessary to perform site visits; data gathering and analysis; use of computer models; and other technical skills needed to review and analyze SB 100 and AB 525 planning analyses, energy projects, transmission lines, transmission corridors, and DRECP-related conservation and mitigation requirements.

The Contractor may conduct training sessions with staff at the CEC, at an offsite location, or by teleconference or internet. Work authorizations issued for training will indicate what expenses Contractor will be responsible for, depending on the needs of the particular training session. The work authorization will specify whether CEC or Contractor will cover costs involved in conducting a training session, such as facility rental, equipment, or printing.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RESOLUTION: Aspen Environmental Group

RESOLVED, that the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) adopts the staff CEQA findings contained in the Agreement or Amendment Request Form (as applicable); and

RESOLVED, that the CEC approves Agreement 700-22- 004 with the Aspen Environmental Group for a \$2,000,000 contract for professional engineering and environmental services to support the state's environmental, conservation, engineering, infrastructure, economic, and land use planning activities in terrestrial, coastal, and marine environments. These planning activities are intended to guide responsible energy and infrastructure development to help California meet its future energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or their designee shall execute the same on behalf of the CEC.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the CEC does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CEC held on September 14, 2022.

AYE:
NAY:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Dated:

Liza Lopez
Secretariat