



Department Source: City Sustainability

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 6, 2017

Re: Professional Services Agreement with Cascadia Consulting Group for a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

Executive Summary

Staff has prepared for Council consideration a professional services agreement with Cascadia Consulting Group in an amount not to exceed \$118,000 for the development of a climate action and adaptation plan, as directed in Resolution 83-17A.

Discussion

In July, City Staff issued a request for qualifications seeking a consultant or consultants to assist the community in the development of the City's first Climate Action and Adaptation plan (CAAP) to meet the Compact of Mayors requirements and propose data-driven actions and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, per Resolution 83-17a. From the responses, Cascadia Consulting Group received the highest score from the selection committee for their experience in climate action and adaptation work, as well as their community engagement and reporting capabilities. Throughout the CAAP update project, the Contractor will play an active role in stakeholder engagement.

PROJECT PURPOSE:

The consultant(s) will work with staff and community partners to develop a comprehensive, robust and innovative Climate Action and Adaptation plan that will:

- Define the community's climate challenges, and the challenges and opportunities it faces in meeting ambitious climate and GHG reduction goals;
- Serve as a mechanism to tie together the City's existing and developing adaptation initiatives, strategies and plans with the community's goals;
- Establish a set of climate action and adaptation strategies, implementation plans and metrics for measuring progress, lowering community-wide greenhouse emissions and activating and engaging residents, businesses and institutions with positive actions and tangible benefits; and
- Analyze implementation strategies using an equity toolkit in order to ensure benefits for all members of the community.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The vision of the Climate Action and Adaptation plan is intended to be transformative and engaging, capable of achieving deep emissions reductions and evaluating climate mitigation actions. The CAAP will review City GHG reduction goals, and present a plan to meet or exceed these reduction goals. This vision and plan must also integrate measures that improve quality of life, build prosperity and enhance community resilience. The plan will be presented in an online format that is visually appealing, easy to understand, and can easily



be exported and/or translated to a variety of media for different audiences. Most importantly, the creation of the plan is intended to mobilize the community towards change and create strategies and metrics to measure its success.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$118,000

Long-Term Impact: Unknown

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Operational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Infrastructure

Legislative History

| Date | Action |
|------------|--|
| 06/19/2017 | R83-17a - reaffirming the commitment of the City of Columbia to take action to reduce climate pollution; authorizing participation in the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and taking steps to create a Climate Action Plan. |

Suggested Council Action

Staff requests City Council approve this ordinance allowing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Cascadia Consulting Group for the preparation of a Climate Action & Adaptation Plan.