

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** October 7, 2010  
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**FROM:** Paul Goble, P.E., T.E.  
Public Works Director  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to Award Contract to RBF Consulting in the Amount of \$70,700 for Highway 111 Design Services

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### Summary

Following an extensive RFP process, RBF Consulting is recommended to assist the City of Indian Wells in final design services for the upcoming phases of the Highway 111 Widening Project. A contract award of \$70,700 is now recommended for RBF Consulting for design services relative to the Phase 2 (Revised) Highway 111 Widening Project.

### Analysis

Staff prepared an RFP for Highway 111 design services in August, 2010. Responses were requested from RBF Consulting, VA Consulting, Altum Group, RCE Consultants and Bureau Veritas. Bureau Veritas declined to provide a proposal. All other entities prepared a proposal for design of the remaining phases of the project. Civil and traffic design proposal costs for the balance of the design required for Highway 111 (excluding specialized Deep Canyon structural bridge design) ranged from \$229,800 to \$925,464. RBF Consulting provided the most favorable proposal and lowest overall project cost. RBF Consulting has an extensive background in Highway 111 widening projects for adjacent valley jurisdictions.

A contract award of \$70,700 is recommended for RBF Consulting for design services relative to the Phase 2 (Revised) Highway 111 project. This contract will revise existing Willdan plan sets to provide optimized design relative to the Phase 2 (Revised) Highway 111 project scheduled for installation in 2011.

### Project Background – Phases 2 & 3 (Revised)

Phase 2 of the Highway 111 widening constructs an asphalt overlay through the entire limits. The Phase 2 project will also include 9,100 linear feet of new medians (with additional pavement to adjust street grades), high priority signal reconfigurations at Miles and Eldorado and a new signal cabinet at Cook Street.

During Phase 2, the Highway 111 signal at Miles is proposed to be configured with a dual left eastbound turn to northbound Miles with a simultaneous right turn overlap

from southbound Miles to westbound Highway 111, increasing intersection efficiency. Phase 2 will also allow for reconfiguration of the Highway 111 signal at Eldorado for protected left turn movements from Eldorado northbound and southbound to Highway 111 and installation of a right turn lane for eastbound Eldorado. Miles and Eldorado intersection revisions are required as a priority to both increase safety and reduce congestion. The Phase 2 project requires limited right of way adjustments at Miles Avenue, but does not construct sound walls or additional through lanes. Phase 2 also does not relocate any utilities. The Phase 2 improvements are proposed for installation during May – September, 2011.

Phase 3 of the Highway 111 Widening/Beautification project is scheduled for installation during May-September, 2012 and will widen Highway 111 to 6 lanes from Cook Street to the western City limit. This area is of highest congestion and operates with a low efficiency, split phase signal at Highway 111 and Cook. The split phase operation of the Cook signal will be removed in the Fall of 2010. The Phase 3, Cook to Hospitality Row segment improvements have been delayed as a result of a right of way acquisition dispute. The proposed Phase 3 improvement segment between Cook Street and Hospitality Row is of highest congestion and accident frequency and is a high priority.

### **Budgets/CVAG Contribution to Widening/Grant Funding**

CVAG has implemented additional budgetary controls on the Highway 111 project to reduce total budget encumbrances relative to the project. A revised reimbursement agreement with CVAG is undergoing final review. This agreement reduces the approved defined project cost through Phase 3 completion to \$16.0 million from the previously estimated total Phase 1-12 project cost of \$58.6 million and synchronizes with the currently available CVAG funding capability. All Highway 111 widening costs, except new or enhanced landscaping, are subject to 75% reimbursement by CVAG. The total project costs to date (as of February 2010) are \$6.4 million with an estimated cost for Phases 2 and Phase 3 of \$6.9 million. Therefore, total costs of currently defined Highway 111 phases equal \$13.3 million or \$16.0 million with an overall 20% contingency factor. Estimates of total Highway 111 project costs vary, but based on the current highly competitive bid assumptions for the future Phases, cumulative project costs are now estimated as low as \$39.7 million as compared to the originally estimated total project cost of \$58.6 million.

Future Highway 111 widening phases east of Cook will be defined based on funding availability, congestion mitigation needs and a CVAG approved 60,000 Average Daily Traffic count road widening trigger for a given road segment. The February 2010, Highway 111 ADT counts measured approximately 44,000 vehicles per day east of Cook Street and approximately 30,000 vehicles per day east of Miles Avenue. At Indian Wells, wide ranging traffic volumes, long duration traffic signal cycle lengths (to 150 seconds) and limited Indian Wells access points allow for a phased widening approach. Following completion of Phases 2 and 3 in 2011-2012, Indian Wells plans to continue with the Highway 111 widening utilizing an additional number of construction phases moving in the easterly direction (Phases 4-12), focusing on specific segments of highest

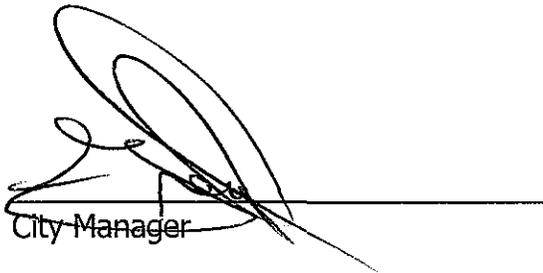
priority. Should grant funding for the Highway 111 widening become available, the phased construction approach will be accelerated as required.

**Fiscal Impact**

The proposed project and design engineering approval requested with the Staff Report is included in the 2010/2011 Fiscal Year Capital Project Schedule at an estimated total cost of \$3,894,500, subject to reimbursement by CVAG of \$2,367,500 with a net cost to Indian Wells of \$1,527,000. Upcoming project bidding will define these estimated costs more precisely.

**Recommendation**

Award a design services contract to RBF Consulting in the amount of \$70,700 for Phase 2 (Revised) of the Highway 111 Widening Project. Approve the attached requisition reflecting these capital expenditures (Account 316.93.12.06731.000).



City Manager

Attachment: Requisition – RBF Consulting

