

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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W6c

July 1, 2016

TO: Coastal Commission and Interested Public

FROM: John Ainsworth, Acting Executive Director
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Michelle Jespersen, Federal Programs Manager
Jessica Chan, Contracts Analyst

SUBJECT: **Recommended Approval of Agreement with Tridec Technologies, LLC to Provide Administrative Services for NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship, California Coastal Commission July 13-15, 2016 Hearing - Item W6c**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the California Coastal Commission (Commission) authorize the Acting Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into agreement with Tridec Technologies, LLC, to provide administrative services to support approximately two years (August 2016 to October 2018) of the Commission's portion of costs to sponsor a NOAA Coastal Fellow, Sumi Selvaraj, under the overall sponsorship of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The total amount of this agreement is not to exceed \$18,000, which represents the Commission's \$15,000 portion of the Fellow's stipend over the two-year period and \$3,000 is a contingency for a transit subsidy and possible other expenses related to the Fellowship that Commission staff may authorize for the Fellow. NOAA will provide the remaining stipend. In addition to personnel expenses, the Commission will provide in-kind contributions to cover supervision and mentoring and basic operation expenses, equipment, and some travel costs associated with the Fellowship.

MOTION

"I move that the Commission authorize the Acting Executive Director or his designee to enter into an Agreement with Tridec Technologies, LLC, pursuant to the staff recommendation."

Staff recommends a **YES** vote.

SUMMARY/SCOPE OF WORK

The NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship Program provides on-the-job education and training opportunities for post-graduate students in coastal resource management and policy, while also contributing specific technical assistance for state coastal resource management programs. The Coastal Commission has previously hosted seven Fellows from the program. The NOAA Coastal Fellowship program provides a very cost-effective way to address key issues that are a part of the Coastal Commission's core program. Many of the past NOAA Coastal Fellows have become permanent members of the Commission staff after the two-year Fellowship.

In October 2015, the California Coastal Commission submitted a proposal for a project to be funded under this program. Other coastal states also submitted proposals under a competitive process. The NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship program selected the Coastal Commission to receive a Fellow for a two-year term starting in August 2016. The Fellow will assist with many of the pressing climate change tasks in the Commission's adopted Strategic Plan, sea level rise policy application, and reviewing and integrating information (both spatial data and assessments) on vulnerability and Coastal Act protected resources within geographic regions. The Fellow will work closely with Commission senior management, the Commission's current Sea Grant Fellow, and the other Commission staff focused on climate change adaptation planning and sea level rise throughout the two-year Fellowship. Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director, and Michelle Jespersen, Federal Programs Manager, will provide day-to-day supervision.

The Commission will contribute \$15,000 toward the Fellow's stipend for two years. This funding will be paid to Tridec Technologies, LLC, the sponsoring institution for this Fellowship. In addition, the Commission has agreed to administer the Fellowship and to provide internet and computer access, day-to-day supervision, office space, travel costs, and basic operating expenses over the two-year period of the Fellowship. The agreement will include a \$3,000 contingency for the two years to cover transit subsidy and possible other expenses.

The overall goal of the Fellowship is to assist the Commission in conducting adaptation planning for climate change along the California coast through: (1) improved coordination with other state and local governments; (2) developing and providing information, tools, best practices and policy examples to local government partners to facilitate updates of Local Coastal Programs (LCPs); and (3) developing educational materials for the Coastal Commissioners and the public about the need to mitigate and plan for the impacts of climate change.