



Agenda Item No. 1

To: Building and Operating Committee/Committee of the Whole  
Meeting of September 21, 2006

From: Ewa Z. Bauer, Deputy District Engineer  
Denis J. Mulligan, District Engineer  
Celia G. Kupersmith, General Manager

Subject: **AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DMJM HARRIS, INC., RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NO. 2006-B-17, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR A SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM ON THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE**

**Recommendation**

The Building and Operating Committee recommends that the Board of Directors authorize execution of a Professional Services Agreement relative to Contract No. 2006-B-17, *Environmental Studies and Preliminary Design for a Suicide Deterrent System on the Golden Gate Bridge*, with DMJM Harris, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$1,780,550, to prepare preliminary design, wind tunnel testing and environmental documents, and public outreach, with the understanding that sufficient funds to finance this Professional Services Agreement are available in the Bridge Division Capital Budget.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its September 22, 2006, meeting for appropriate action.

**Summary**

The Board of Directors at its March 11, 2005, meeting adopted Resolution 2005-015 that approved proceeding with environmental studies and preliminary design work for development of a physical suicide deterrent system on the Golden Gate Bridge and established a set of assumptions and conditions to govern project development, including:

- Establishment of different design and engineering criteria calling for a physical suicide deterrent system to serve as a deterrent to suicides, recognizing the difficulty, if not impossibility, to devise any practical system that would make it physically impossible in all circumstances for suicides to occur; and,
- Generation of financial support from external public and private sources to finance the project with the understanding that much of this work cannot begin until funds have been identified and appropriated; and,

- With the further understanding that these initial actions are being authorized to enable the Board of Directors to ultimately determine whether to proceed with construction of a physical suicide deterrent system.

Subsequently, the Board of Directors approved the scope of work and the issuance of the Request for Proposals by Resolutions 2006-020 and 2006-027. The approved scope of work includes the development of conceptual designs for a physical suicide deterrent system, conducting initial wind stability testing and analysis in Phase One, and detailed preliminary engineering and environmental analysis, including visual analysis, historical preservation evaluation, and preparation of detailed cost estimates in Phase Two. .

On June 28, 2006, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) passed a resolution providing \$1,850,000 towards this project. That same day the District issued a Request for Proposals to consulting engineering, planning and architectural firms for preliminary design and environmental studies for a physical suicide deterrent system on the Golden Gate Bridge. On August 1, 2006, the Office of the District Secretary received four proposals. All of the proposals were found to be responsive and in good order, so the District's selection panel, which consisted of District staff and a representative from MTC, interviewed all four teams on August 9, 2006.

The selection panel evaluated and ranked the consultants based on qualifications as reflected in the submitted proposals, interview presentations, and reference checks. The selection criteria included qualifications of the firms and the individual consultant team members and their track records on previously completed projects as well as their understanding and methodology of providing the scope of services for this contract. The final ranking of the consultants is as follows:

1. DMJM Harris, Inc.
2. Carter & Burgess, Inc.
3. PBS&J
4. URS Corporation

The selection panel agreed that the top-ranked consultant is best qualified to perform these services. The District Engineer concurs with this finding.

No contract-specific Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal was established for this contract. However, consultants were strongly encouraged to obtain DBE participation and were advised to take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that DBEs and other small businesses were given the opportunity to participate in the performance of the work. The DBE Program Administrator has determined that DMJM Harris, Inc., has complied with the DBE requirements applicable to the contract. The District anticipates a 2% DBE participation in this contract.

As stated in the Request for Proposals, District staff reviewed and negotiated a not-to-exceed cost for the services with DMJM Harris, Inc. Staff has determined that the not-to-exceed \$1,780,550 price is reasonable and recommends award of the Contract to DMJM Harris, Inc. The consultant will be compensated based upon actual time expended and expenses incurred not to exceed the authorized amount.

**Fiscal Impact**

The estimated cost of these professional services relative to Contract No. 2006-B-17 is \$1,780,550. Funds in the amount of \$2,000,000 for consultant costs, contingencies, staff support costs and miscellaneous costs, are available in the Bridge Division Capital Budget.

The sources of the funds are as follows: The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) passed a resolution providing \$1,850,000 towards this project. In addition, the City and County of San Francisco has provided \$100,000, the County of Marin has provided \$25,000, and the public and private citizen groups have provided \$28,700.