January 14, 2020

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903

SUBJECT: Marin Emergency Back-up Power Project at Key County Facilities

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Accept report and affirm need to continue emergency action; 2) Execute the $650,000 Professional Services Contract with Kitchell, Inc.; and 3) Authorize the Department of Finance to increase appropriations per the Fiscal Impact Section.

SUMMARY: Marin County Resolution No. 2006-192 and §22050 of the Public Contract Code establish emergency contracting procedures for damage(s) that pose an immediate threat to life, property, or public safety. The recent Pacific Gas & Electric Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) that began on October 26, 2019 revealed several vulnerabilities in our County’s capacity to properly and effectively address the needs of our residents when an electrical outage emergency of this magnitude occurs. Given the outlook for these recurring utility power outages and potential for evacuations from wildfire areas, we have begun the process of assessing electrical vulnerabilities and are currently gathering all the necessary information to establish a criterion to assist the County in determining which facilities require immediate attention and subsequent improvements. The Assistant Director of Emergency Services issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency for the County of Marin on October 26, 2019, followed by the Governor proclaiming a State of Emergency on October 27, 2019.

Kitchell, Inc. is currently retained under an existing professional services contract related to electrical assessment of the Marin Center and began assessing possible design solutions for the improvements necessary to address emergency back-up power. Staff has established a priority list of facilities with the Marin Center identified as a key facility for immediate attention and near-term implementation. A new contract with Kitchell is needed to continue this work and to address the other identified essential facilities that support critical and essential services and programs for the Marin community. Specifically, the following key facilities will be evaluated under this contract and for which designs will be developed for emergency back-up power systems:
Marin Center Campus
Health and Human Services (H&HS) Essential Facilities
  o Kerner Campus
  o 120 North Redwood
  o North San Pedro Campus
Civic Center Campus
  o Hall of Justice Building
  o Administration Building

The Marin Center Campus, including the Exhibition Hall, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, and Concession Building were used as emergency shelters during the recent PG&E PSPS events as well as North Bay wildfire evacuations. These buildings lack generators large enough to maintain building operations for their use as evacuation shelters. Temporary portable generators have been hard-wired to the existing electrical systems as a stopgap measure. A permanent solution that provides adequate standby power to the campus is needed.

In keeping with the goals of the County’s Climate Action Plan, Public Works and Community Development Agency staff will work with Kitchell Inc. to include evaluation of battery storage backup as a potential option (specifically for the Marin Center, Kerner Campus, and 120 North Redwood sites which have existing solar photovoltaic arrays installed). Analysis will include technical, physical and financial review. Staff will also continue its investigation of potential for financial assistance from state and local agencies which could be used to support the battery storage options.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code §22050, your Board must review the emergency action, described herein and undertaken by the Public Works Director pursuant to the above authority, and affirm by four-fifths vote that there is a need to continue the action.

The emergency was caused by significant wind events and red flag warnings that have resulted in Pacific Gas & Electric de-energizing the majority of Marin County’s electrical system commencing on the 26th day of October 2019, and scheduled to last more than 48 hours, causing conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within Marin County. Because the Marin Emergency Back-up Power Project was developed as a result of a disaster in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor, and the facilities listed above have been adversely affected; this emergency project is necessary. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2006-192 and Public Contract Code §22050, we have determined, based on substantial evidence, that the emergency will not permit delays associated with competitive solicitation for bids and the action to assess and repair the facilities is necessary to respond to the emergency.

The Marin Emergency Back-up Power Project is currently estimated to cost approximately $740,000 for design and a Phase 1 of Implementation. Kitchell has developed a design for installing transfer switches and other improvements at the Marin Center (Phase 1 Implementation) and is tasked with assessing and designing emergency back-up power at the other key County facilities listed above.
FISCAL IMPACT: The cost for assessment and design of the facilities listed above is $650,000, and an additional $90,000 is needed for Phase 1 Implementation at the Marin Center. The County of Marin received $417,815 from the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) as part of the FY 2019 PSPS allocation that can be used for electrical backup, communications, continuity plans and/or risk assessments. Approval will increase Department of Public Works Miscellaneous Projects func (1010) expenditure appropriations in the Marin Emergency Back-up Power Project (41MEBUP) by a total of $740,000 which is fully offset by increased state revenues for $417,815 and Non Departmental revenues for the remaining $322,185. The department will return to your Board to recommend additional funding request for the implementation of electrical improvements to the Civic Center Campus and the essential HHS facilities once those costs are known.

REVIEWED BY:  
[X] County Administrator  
[ ] Department of Finance  
[X] County Counsel  
[ ] Human Resources  
[ ] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Dorren P. Hill  
Capital Projects Division Manager

Project #: 41MEBUP  
BA #: 2020/07 182  
Contract #: 32001009

Cc: Jenna Brady, County Counsel