

CONTRACT REQUEST FORM (CRF)

CEC-94 (Revised 10/2015)

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

A) New Agreement 700-15-001 (To be completed by CGL Office)

B) Division	Agreement Manager:	MS-	Phone
700 Siting Transmission Environmental Protection	Joseph Merrill	16	916-651-9005

C) Contractor's Legal Name	Federal ID Number
Aspen Environmental Group	95-4337914

D) Title of Project
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Energy Systems Planning

E) Term and Amount	Start Date	End Date	Amount
	06 / 21 / 2016	3 / 31 / 2018	\$ 4,687,000

F) Business Meeting Information			
<input type="checkbox"/> Operational agreement (see CAM Manual for list) to be approved by Executive Director			
<input type="checkbox"/> ARFVTP agreements \$75K and under delegated to Executive Director.			
Proposed Business Meeting Date	06 / 14 / 2016	<input type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion
Business Meeting Presenter	Joseph merrill	Time Needed:	5 minutes
Please select one list serve. RETI (Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative)			

Agenda Item Subject and Description
Proposed resolution approving Agreement 700-15-001 with Aspen Environmental Group for \$4,687,000 to provide siting, transmission and environmental protection technical support to Energy Commission staff for electricity systems planning studies, including developing and implementing land use conservation plans, preparing landscape level environmental analysis and planning study documentation, preparing system implications, power flow and economic studies and other technical activities.

G) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance
1. Is Agreement considered a "Project" under CEQA? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (skip to question 2) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (complete the following (PRC 21065 and 14 CCR 15378)): Explain why Agreement is not considered a "Project": Agreement will not cause direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment because the contract involves consultant services for technical studies and training and the outcome will be reports and transfer of knowledge.
2. If Agreement is considered a "Project" under CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> a) Agreement IS exempt. (Attach draft NOE) <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Exemption. List PRC and/or CCR section number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption. List CCR section number: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Common Sense Exemption. 14 CCR 15061 (b) (3) Explain reason why Agreement is exempt under the above section: <input type="checkbox"/> b) Agreement IS NOT exempt. (Consult with the legal office to determine next steps.) Check all that apply <input type="checkbox"/> Initial Study <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Overriding Considerations <input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration

H) List all subcontractors (major and minor) and equipment vendors: (attach additional sheets as necessary)				
Legal Company Name:	Budget	SB	MB	DVBE
See Attachment 1 - Subcontractor List	\$ 0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ 0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	\$ 0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I) List all key partners: (attach additional sheets as necessary)
Legal Company Name:

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J) Budget Information			
Funding Source	Funding Year of Appropriation	Budget List No.	Amount
State - ERPA	2015-16	700.006	\$3,462,000
State - ERPA	2015-16	700.006B	\$1,225,000
Funding Source			\$
Funding Source			\$
Funding Source			\$
R&D Program Area:	Select Program Area	TOTAL:	\$4,687,000
Explanation for "Other" selection		STEP	
Reimbursement Contract #:		Federal Agreement #:	

K) Contractor's Administrator/ Officer				Contractor's Project Manager			
Name:	Hamid Rastegar			Name:	Thomas Murphy		
Address:	Aspen Environmental Group 5020 Chesebro Road, Suite 200			Address:	Aspen Environmental Group8 801 Folsom Blvd, Suite 290		
City, State, Zip:	Agoura Hills, CA, 91301			City, State, Zip:	Sacramento, CA 95826		
Phone:	818-597-3407	Fax:	818-597-8001	Phone:	916-379-0350	Fax:	916-379-0357
E-Mail:	hrastegar@aspeneq.com			E-Mail:	tmurphy@aspeneq.com		

L) Selection Process Used (For amendments, address amendment exemption or NCB, do not identify solicitation type of original agreement.)							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Solicitation	RFQ	Solicitation #:	RFQ-15-702	# of Bids:	3	Low Bid? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non Competitive Bid (Attach CEC 96)						
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exempt Select Exemption (see instructions)						

M) Contractor Entity Type	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Company (including non-profits)
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA State Agency (including UC and CSU)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Entity (i.e. city, county, federal government, air/water/school district, joint power authorities, university from another state)

N) Is Contractor a certified Small Business (SB), Micro Business (MB) or DVBE?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
If yes, check appropriate box:		<input type="checkbox"/> SB	<input type="checkbox"/> MB <input type="checkbox"/> DVBE

O) Civil Service Considerations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable (Agreement is with a CA State Entity or a membership/co-sponsorship)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Resources Code 25620, et seq., authorizes the Commission to contract for the subject work. (PIER)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Services Contracted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> are not available within civil service <input type="checkbox"/> cannot be performed satisfactorily by civil service employees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> are of such a highly specialized or technical nature that the expert knowledge, expertise, and ability are not available through the civil service system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Services are of such an: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> urgent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temporary, or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occasional nature that the delay to implement under civil service would frustrate their very purpose.
Justification:	
Services provided under this contract will be of a technical nature; while some workload is handled by civil service, it is necessary to secure temporary, urgent, or occasional services of qualified technical personnel in order to address the potential for high-volume work.	

P) Payment Method	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A. Reimbursement in arrears based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Itemized Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Itemized Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Flat Rate <input type="checkbox"/> One-time
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Advanced Payment
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Other, explain:

Q) Retention	
1. Is Agreement subject to retention?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
If Yes, Will retention be released prior to Agreement termination?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes



R) Justification of Rates
 Rates were negotiated based on surveys of private firms' rates to agencies for performing similar services within California.

s) Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program (DVBE)

1. Exempt (Interagency/Other Government Entity)

2. Meets DVBE Requirements DVBE Amount:\$ 7% of actual invoicing DVBE %: 7

Contractor is Certified DVBE

Contractor is Subcontracting with a DVBE: See Attachment 1 - Subcontractor List

3. Contractor selected through CMAS or MSA with no DVBE participation.

4. Requesting DVBE Exemption (attach CEC 95)

T) Miscellaneous Agreement Information

1. Will there be Work Authorizations? No Yes

2. Is the Contractor providing confidential information? No Yes

3. Is the contractor going to purchase equipment? No Yes

4. Check frequency of progress reports

Monthly Quarterly Other...

5. Will a final report be required? No Yes

6. Is the Agreement, with amendments, longer than a year? If yes, why? No Yes

The contract term will be three years to provide continuity in technical contract staff analysis.

U) The following items should be attached to this CRF (as applicable)

1. Exhibit A, Scope of Work	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached
2. Exhibit B, Budget Detail	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached
3. CEC 96, NCB Request	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached
4. CEC 95, DVBE Exemption Request	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached
5. CEQA Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> Attached
6. Resumes	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached
7. CEC 105, Questionnaire for Identifying Conflicts		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached

 Agreement Manager Date Office Manager Date Deputy Director Date

RFQ-15-702 STEP Energy Systems Planning
Attachment 1 - Firm and Subcontractor List
May 23, 2016

Firm/Subcontractor Name	DVBE/SB
Aerial Information Systems	
AESC	
Applied EarthWorks	
Aspen Environmental Group	
Black and Veatch	
Conservation Biology Institute	
Daniller Consulting, Inc	
Desert Research Institute	
Dick Anderson	
Dudek	
E3	
EPRI - Electric Power Research Inst.	
Fehr & Peers	
Granite Financial Solutions	DVBE, SB
Gregor Cailliet	
HydroFocus, Inc.	
ISI Translation Services	
Michael Clayton	
Navigant Consulting	
Petra Resource Management	DVBE, SB
PGA Design	
PhaseLine LLC	
RECON	
Redhorse	DVBE, SB
Resources Law Group	
Ricondo & Associates, Inc.	
RSA (Risk Science Associates)	
Sandberg Group	DVBE, SB
Spectrus, Ltd.	
Terry Watt	
The Brattle Group	
William Kanemoto & Associates	
WJV Acoustics, Inc.	

Exhibit A
Scope of Work

TASK LIST

Task #	Task Name
1	Contract Management and Administrative Duties
2	Document Production
3	Interpreting and Translation Services
4	Outreach, Communication, Technical Support, and Facilitation Services
5	Environmental, Conservation, and Land Use Planning for Energy Infrastructure and Implementation
6	Energy Facility and Energy Infrastructure Planning, Studies, Analysis, and Reports
7	Train Staff, Commissioners and Advisers, Agencies, and Stakeholders

ACRONYMS/GLOSSARY

SPECIFIC ACRONYMS AND TERMS USED THROUGHOUT THIS SCOPE OF WORK ARE DEFINED AS:

Word/Term	Definition
CAISO	California Independent System Operator
CAM	Commission Agreement Manager
Contractor	Aspen Environmental Group
CPUC	California Public Utilities Commission
DRECP	Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan
DVBE	Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises
Energy Commission	California Energy Commission
HCP	Habitat Conservation Planning
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Planning
RETI	Renewable Energy Transmission Initiatives

Purpose of this Contract

The purpose of this contract is to support the following goals, objectives, and policies of the State of California.

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan and the Governor's Executive Order

The Governor's Executive Order S-14-08 directed the state agencies to work with the federal agencies to prepare a Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) for the Mojave and Colorado Deserts of California, and to identify top priority areas in California where other similar plans should be developed based upon their renewable energy development potential. The Executive Order, and associated Memoranda of Understanding by and among several state and federal agencies, established a joint state-federal Renewable Energy Action Team ("REAT"), comprised of the Energy Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Federal participation is supported by the Secretary of the Interior's Secretarial Order 3285 directing all Department of the Interior agencies and departments (which include the BLM and USFWS) to encourage the timely and responsible development of renewable energy, while protecting and enhancing the nation's water, wildlife and other natural resources.

The science-driven DRECP is intended to become the state road map for renewable energy project development that will advance state and federal conservation goals in these desert regions while also facilitating the timely permitting of renewable energy projects under the state and federal laws which protect critical natural resources. The DRECP will also seek to coordinate existing desert Conservation Plans within the Mojave and Colorado Deserts (i.e., the West Mojave Plan), renewable energy development project plans, the BLM Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Department of Defense (DOD) renewable energy needs, and transmission planning into an integrated framework for balancing natural resource conservation and renewable energy development.

In March 2015, the REAT agencies announced that the DRECP planning process would move forward in a phased manner. Phase I focused on completing a BLM Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) for the DRECP area. The LUPA will amend existing federal land designations to create areas for both energy development and conservation on public lands. Because counties have land use and permitting authority for most projects on private land, they are key partners in meeting the state's renewable energy mandates and conservation goals. Phase 2 of DRECP will explore better alignment of renewable energy development and conservation goals and policies at the local, state, and federal levels, including opportunities for a tailored county-by-county approach that supports the overall set of renewable energy mandates and conservation goals in the DRECP area.

Renewable Energy Transmission Initiatives (RETI)

The Governor's Executive Order (S-14-08) also directed the Energy Commission, and requested the CPUC and CAISO, to work with RETI stakeholders to identify top priority renewable energy zones that can be developed reliably, cost-effectively and with least environmental impact, and to identify potential routes/corridors and interconnection points for new transmission lines. RETI 2.0 is a continuation of this effort, and is intended to help achieve the state's current climate and policy goals, including a reduction in GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 and further reductions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. RETI 2.0 was formally initiated under a July 20, 2015 joint letter by Energy Commission Chairman Weisenmiller and CPUC President Picker to CAISO Chief Executive Officer Berberich.

The RETI 2.0 process will establish the relative potential associated with various renewable energy locations throughout California and, through the participation of the CAISO, the CPUC, the Energy Commission, and other California balancing authorities, map the associated transmission infrastructure to those areas and potential new or expanded transmission line corridors. Noting the EPA's recently announced Clean Power Plan Regulations (111d), possible membership of the CAISO beyond California's borders, and the favorable early results from the CAISO's Energy Imbalance Market, regional stakeholders have been invited to participate in RETI 2.0 to help identify whether there may be additional opportunities to share diverse generation resources and lower GHG emissions across the eleven western states (western states interconnectivity).

The RETI 2.0 process will build on data and analytical tools developed for DRECP and the San Joaquin Valley solar process, while assembling additional data, relevant analysis, and technical information for other geographic areas. It is important that the RETI 2.0 process is inclusive and transparent to promote robust stakeholder engagement.

Solar Development on Least-Conflict Lands in the San Joaquin Valley

Over the last several years, the San Joaquin Valley has experienced a significant increase in the number of solar projects under development to meet the state's 33 percent Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) mandate. A variety of stakeholders have expressed concern over continued solar development and the associated potential impact to both agricultural areas and sensitive habitats. In addition, there is a continued shortage of available water for irrigation needs and long-standing issues associated with the natural buildup of selenium and other chemicals on drainage-impaired agricultural lands and the retirement of impacted lands from agricultural production.

In June 2015, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research launched a stakeholder-led process to identify "least-conflict" lands in the San Joaquin Valley for solar development and provide input to policy makers for eliminating barriers to siting projects on those least-conflict areas. Using the best available data and information, stakeholder work groups identified and mapped a set of least-conflict lands for solar development.

Evaluation of existing transmission facilities was completed to confirm the available capacity on the current transmission system ranging from 2,000 MW to 3,000 MW. The data and results of the San Joaquin Valley study will feed directly into the planning work to inform RETI 2.0.

Landscape-Scale Planning

Landscape-scale planning approaches take into consideration a wide range of potential constraints and conflicts including environmental sensitivity, agricultural and other land uses, tribal cultural resources, and more. Landscape-scale planning for renewable energy and transmission infrastructure and corridors has proven to be an important part of meeting California's renewable energy mandates and climate goals. From the first RETI process to the joint REAT agency work on the DRECP and the stakeholder-led San Joaquin solar process, California agencies, local, state, and federal governments, Native American tribes, and stakeholders have become increasingly familiar with planning approaches that seek to identify the best areas for renewable energy development and new or expanded transmission lines and transmission corridors.

About This Section

In this section, the Energy Commission describes the tasks Aspen (referred to as "Contractor" in the Scope of Work) will be asked to perform under the direction of the Energy Commission Contract Agreement Manager (CAM). This section also describes the work assignment process, deliverables, and due dates.

Work Authorizations

The Agreement that results from this solicitation shall be conducted as a "work authorization" Agreement. No work shall be undertaken unless authorized by the CAM through a specific written document called a "work authorization".

The CAM will prepare and issue the written work authorizations and shall set a maximum price, budget, and schedule for the work to be performed. The CAM will work, in consultation with the Contractor, to assign work to either the Contractor or a subcontractor.

No Work Guarantee

The Energy Commission does not guarantee any minimum or maximum amount of work to the prime Contractor or any Subcontractor under the Agreement.

Work Performance

Once the need for work is initiated, the work may need to proceed at a quick pace to meet the required analytical and procedural deadlines. Accordingly, the Contractor will need to be able to respond to the Energy Commission's requests for technical support on a timely basis. The Contractor shall respond to requests for work in accordance with the following pattern:

- The CAM shall provide at least two weeks' notice that a significant work effort will be required and the Contractor will need to assemble an effective and trained team during that period.
- The Contractor shall provide individual experts to handle specific issues with only two days' notice.
- The Contractor shall return telephone calls and e-mails from the CAM and provide an initial response within four (4) hours.

- The Contractor and all team members shall meet the agreed upon product deadlines.
- The Contractor and all team members shall meet the agreed upon event deadlines on the day, hour, and location needed.
- The Contractor shall provide quality assurance on its draft products before delivery to the Energy Commission's Work Authorization Manager.

TASKS

The Contractor will be required to perform prime contractor management functions and provide environmental, engineering, scientific, economic, and public health and safety technical support services to prepare and complete studies, reports, and analysis to guide and inform the responsible development of energy infrastructure to serve California. The Contractor shall also perform analysis, monitoring and oversight functions for a wide variety of existing and new initiatives as well as providing support to implement DRECP Phase 1 and to complete DRECP Phase 2.

The following tasks (Tasks 1-7) coupled with the list of activities above, describe the general types of work the contractor will be requested to perform under this agreement.

TASK 1 – CONTRACT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES

A maximum of 12% of the total Agreement budget will be allocated for this task. The Contractor will be required to perform contract management and administrative duties to manage the Agreement.

The Contractor shall:

- Attend a “kick-off” meeting with the CAM, the Contracts Officer, and a representative of the Accounting Office. The meeting will be held in Sacramento, CA and the CAM will designate the specific location. The Contractor shall include their Project Manager, Contracts Administrator, Accounting Officer, and others designated by the CAM in this meeting. The administrative and technical aspects of this Agreement will be discussed at the meeting. The CAM shall arrange the meeting including scheduling the date and time and provide an agenda to all potential meeting participants prior to the kick-off meeting.
- Attend and participate in other Energy Commission team meetings as requested and arranged by the CAM.
- Supply cost estimates for potential work tasks to Energy Commission technical staff.
- After approval of potential work tasks by the Energy Commission Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division management, supply information for work authorization development to the Energy Commission Work Authorization Manager; including a definition of the scope of work, the schedule of deliverables and the work task budget.
- Prepare and execute agreements with subcontractors that convey all provisions contained in the Agreement and specific work authorizations between the Energy Commission and the Contractor.

- Enforce subcontract provisions, and in the event of failure of the subcontractor to perform satisfactorily, recommend actions to resolve the problem.
- Require subcontractors to provide invoices which correctly identify personnel, rates, actual hours, and direct expenses charged to each task of each work authorization and which provide adequate documentation to justify expenses, including electronic copies of completed deliverables. Maintain electronic record of invoices and invoice documentation, including completed deliverables. For work assignments spanning a lengthy period, the work authorization may be structured to allow billing for completed interim deliverables. Subcontractor invoices will be reviewed by the Contractor and the Energy Commission Work Authorization Manager, technical staff, or CAM for accuracy and completeness.
- Provide monthly progress reports by the tenth of each month to the CAM on the Contractor's and subcontractors' progress for work assignments, including a summary of contract expenditures to date.
- Submit monthly invoices by the tenth of each month to the Energy Commission Accounting Office with a copy to the CAM. Invoices shall indicate the labor costs, operating expenses, fees and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise (DVBE) amounts. Invoices shall coincide with the monthly progress report timeframe. Invoices will not list or seek payment for work authorizations not issued at the time of invoice preparation.
- Pay subcontractors for satisfactory products within five working days after payment is received from the Energy Commission.
- Develop and maintain a secure website to share contract-related information with Energy Commission staff and to track the status of all work authorizations.
- For each fiscal year, prepare a Final Report on the work accomplished during that fiscal year and a brief (200 words or less) abstract.

TASK 2 – DOCUMENT PRODUCTION

The Contractor shall:

- Produce graphics to support Energy Commission documents and analysis, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps, and photographic and artistic renderings.
- Write, edit and synthesize technical documents based on technical information from one or more sources to ensure the technical accuracy, correct grammar, unified style and clarity of Energy Commission documents. Ensure that the written products of staff and the Contractor's technical specialists clearly convey their intended message to the public and all stakeholders.
- Format and prepare electronic documents for high quality printing and/or binding. Print and/or bind documents in high-quality formats.

TASK 3 – INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATION SERVICES

The Contractor shall translate documents and/or interpret verbal comments between English and Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese, Cambodian, Farsi, Hmong, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese and other languages as required. Interpreting services will be required at onsite and offsite meetings, workshops and hearings.

TASK 4—OUTREACH, COMMUNICATION, TECHNICAL SUPPORT, AND FACILITATION SERVICES

The activities and tasks included in this contract rely on a strong scientific, environmental, economic, and analytical approach coupled with an open process that encourages and facilitates wide spread participation by all levels of government, stakeholders, interest groups, and the public.

There is proven value in using this open process to assess the relative potential (constraints and opportunities) of different locations for energy infrastructure, especially in the context of identifying and meeting policy-driven initiatives. To be successful it is critical that the decision making process is open and transparent, and encourages participation by: local, state and federal agencies; stakeholders; Native American tribes; environmental groups; recreation organizations; utilities; academia; developers; and the public. The Contractor shall:

- Provide extensive outreach and communication efforts over a wide spectrum of interested groups, stakeholders, all levels of local, state, and federal governments, businesses, the public, utilities, environmental groups, developers, etc.
- Establish contacts with stakeholders, local agencies, and the public.
- Provide assistance and technical support to California counties and other local, state, and federal agencies requesting assistance in their review and analysis of electric generation infrastructure and energy infrastructure.
- Provide facilitation services at public meetings/workshops/stakeholder work groups and to “broker” highly contested issues.
- Develop materials, fact sheets, pamphlets, and brochures to help explain and educate.
- Develop outreach materials and information for energy facility planning activities such as RETI 2.0, DRECP, San Joaquin Valley energy facility planning, and other energy systems planning topics that may be included on informational websites and/or webpages.
- Provide technical support for websites and/or webpages of, or supported by, the Energy Commission pertaining to energy facility planning activities such as RETI 2.0, DRECP, San Joaquin Valley energy facility planning, and other energy systems planning activities.
- Provide outreach, assistance, and technical support to Native American tribes.
- Provide assistance and technical support to stakeholder work groups/technical groups.

TASK 5 – ENVIRONMENTAL, CONSERVATION, AND LAND USE PLANNING FOR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Contractor shall support and assist environmental, conservation, landscape scale, and land use planning efforts to guide responsible energy infrastructure development. This task includes assisting with Habitat Conservation Planning (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP), Environmental Impact Reports (EIR), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), and completing, implementing, and monitoring the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP, Phase 1 and Phase 2). This task includes, but is not limited to, activities such as data collection and analysis, scientific, economic, environmental, and engineering studies and analysis, public health and safety studies, risk assessments, transmission corridor analysis, and transmission interconnection studies. This task also includes supporting conservation planning efforts that inform energy infrastructure development and pursue goals of the NCCP and HCP Acts or other environmental laws. This may include conservation planning efforts focused on energy infrastructure development in the San Joaquin Valley or similar efforts statewide. This could also include, but not be limited to, work on transmission corridors, transmission corridor analysis, RETI 2.0, and out-of-state (western states interconnectivity) and out-of-country (Mexico and Canada) coordination efforts.

To support the Energy Commission's environmental, conservation, and land use planning efforts to guide energy infrastructure development, the Contractor shall:

- Provide monitoring, scientific expertise, and implementation support.
- Develop monitoring protocols and implementation tools.
- Prepare feasibility studies including environmental, public health and safety, engineering, and cost and economic analysis, of potential conservation and development areas within California.
- Provide project management services and duties.
- Prepare and complete HCP-type/NCCP-type studies, analysis, and reports as required for incidental take permits under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts.
- Prepare and complete EIR/EIS.
- Prepare and complete scientific, economic, public health and safety, environmental, and conservation studies and analysis including analysis and effects of climate change and GHG reductions.
- Develop, prepare, and upload new data to keep existing planning, analysis, mapping, and monitoring tools current and to extend their usefulness to other geographic areas.
- Develop, prepare, and upload new data to update the Data Basin Climate Console, the Renewable Energy Generation Scenario Builder, crucial habitat assessment tools and other associated tools.
- Prepare and complete transmission corridor studies and analysis.
- Provide assistance and expertise to improve transmission planning processes, transmission routing, transmission corridor designation, and transmission permitting/licensing.

- Assist in the development and revisions to the Best Management Practices Manual and provide expertise and support of stakeholder workgroups/technical teams.

Below is a list of the types of subtasks and activities that may be required, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Identify, describe, and map covered species.
2. Identify and describe covered activities.
3. Identify, describe, and map types of land cover and vegetation.
4. Identify, describe, and map land use, ownership, and zoning.
5. Identify, describe, and map natural communities and disturbed areas.
6. Review and analyze species distribution models.
7. Develop baseline biology report.
8. Identify and describe the regulatory framework.
9. Develop a framework for an overall conservation strategy including effects of climate change.
10. Identify and develop a Preliminary Environmental Issues Report.
11. Assist with the Federal Section 106 Native American Tribes consultation process and the State of California consultation process.
12. Identify and describe cultural resources and potential impacts.
13. Identify and develop preliminary and final Biological Goals and Objectives for each covered species.
14. Identify and develop preliminary and final Biological Goals and Objectives for natural communities.
15. Analyze and identify gaps in protection of species and natural communities.
16. Identify and run habitat suitability models.
17. Complete preliminary and final impact assessment.
18. Develop a reserve design and assembly process.
19. Develop Preliminary Conservation Strategy including landscape-level conservation measures, habitat-level conservation measures, species-level conservation measures, and avoidance and minimization measures.
20. Develop preliminary and final costing and funding analysis including land values, land restoration, operations and maintenance, and funding source options.
21. Develop and draft Alternative Conservation and Implementation Strategies.
22. Develop Conservation and Implementation Strategy including conditions on covered species and covered activities under the Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, monitoring and adaptive management, implementation and assurances, funding and cost analysis, and alternatives to take of covered species.
23. Prepare administrative draft HCP/NCCP for review and comment and respond to comments.
24. Prepare public draft HCP/NCCP for review and comment.
25. Respond to written public comment on the public draft.
26. Prepare draft and final Implementing Agreement.
27. Prepare draft and final permit application to USF&WS.
28. Prepare final HCP/NCCP and federal record of decision.

29. Prepare draft and final CEQA and NEPA EIR/EIS for a HCP/NCCP.

TASK 6 – ENERGY FACILITY AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING, STUDIES, ANALYSIS, AND REPORTS

The Contractor shall support environmental, conservation, engineering, economic, and land use planning efforts through technical activities such as data collection and analysis, developing and maintaining data bases, economic and engineering studies and analysis, public health and safety studies, risk assessments, transmission corridor analysis, and transmission interconnection studies.

This task could also include, but not be limited to, work on transmission corridors, RETI 2.0, and out-of-state (eleven western states interconnectivity) and out-of-country (Mexico and Canada) coordination efforts. To support the Energy Commission's conservation planning for energy infrastructure development, the Contractor shall:

- Develop data bases, collect data and information, and track all types of electricity generation facilities, electric transmission lines, and energy projects in California including those out-of-state (eleven western states interconnectivity) and out-of-country (Mexico and Canada) projects that affect the electric and energy systems in California.
- Prepare and complete environmental feasibility analyses of potential transmission projects and the projects' various alternatives. The scope of these analyses may cover any area in California and may include projects and alternatives that are in other states and other countries due to potential impacts and effects on the electric generation system and electric transmission system in California and the U.S. western grid.
- Prepare and complete studies/analysis, and provide technical assistance to support policy reports and short-term and long-term energy planning activities and transmission technical reports required by the California Energy Commission.
- Prepare and complete electric transmission feasibility and electric transmission interconnection studies and reports, power flow analysis, and system impact studies. These studies will be coordinated with the CAISO and the CPUC, if necessary. This work could also be done in support of studies/reports/planning efforts undertaken by the CAISO and the CPUC.
- Prepare and complete transmission corridor studies and analysis.
- Provide assistance to California counties and other local, state, and federal agencies requesting assistance in their review and analysis of electric generation infrastructure and energy infrastructure.
- Provide assistance and expertise to improve transmission planning processes, transmission routing, transmission corridor designation, and transmission permitting/licensing.
- Assist with the Federal Section 106 Native American Tribes consultation process and the State of California consultation process.
- Provide project management services and duties.
- Prepare and complete scientific, economic, public health and safety, environmental, and conservation studies and analysis including analysis and effects of climate change and GHG reductions.

- Provide technical assistance for studying the implications of the development of specific bulk transmission projects, both planned and conceptual, for the integration of new renewable resources, the need for local capacity in transmission-constrained areas, energy storage and the ability to import energy from and rely upon generation capacity in neighboring western states and countries.
- Provide technical assistance for evaluating the need for transmission system upgrades to meet the state's environmental policy goals and ensure reliable service under different scenarios regarding future load-growth, impacts of demand-side programs (energy efficiency, demand response), energy storage, renewable and fossil generation resource development, and new grid management techniques for managing variable energy resources.
- Identify, assess, and make recommendations regarding the feasibility of improvements in modeling techniques and data acquisition related to electricity system integration including, but not limited to, integration of intermittent renewables with "must take" provisions thus influencing how the balance of the system resources must be dispatched, dispatch of use-limited resources like hydro-electric generation or demand response programs, and distributed generation not visible to the system operator. This can include modifications to existing modeling techniques (e.g. – production cost models) or the applicability of new modeling techniques (e.g. – power flow studies).
- Collaborate with Energy Commission staff to define policy relevant scenarios compatible with modeling techniques and availability of data, and assist Energy Commission staff to translate the general concepts of the new scenarios/cases into simulation models and risk analysis datasets.
- Provide technical assistance and prepare nuclear power feasibility, safety, repowering, reliability, decommissioning, and existing site(s) reuse studies, reports, analysis, and recommendations.
- Provide technical assistance and analysis for a wide variety of energy related policy issues and infrastructure such as, but not limited to: drought-related impacts; risks of inundation of low lands under climate change; tidal energy; off-shore wind energy; flooding and mudslide risks associated with weather patterns; energy facility vulnerability assessment; avian impacts from energy facilities; drought-related risks; land subsidence; fire risk; proposed or existing natural gas or liquefied natural gas lines and terminals; desalination projects/proposals; and other energy-related issues.
- Provide technical assistance to advance the current capabilities in performing landscape-scale environmental analysis for selecting electric generation and transmission geographic locations that have the potential to lower risk of project permit failure and reduce delays for project development. Evaluate available geo-spatial models for landscape-scale environmental analysis that are transparent and user-friendly. Identify and evaluate the relevance of landscape-scale environmental information sources covering California and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) regions for geo-spatial modeling applications. Provide technical assistance on methodologies to convert the multiple environmental data layers into a valuation metric that reflects energy infrastructure project permitting challenges and environmental mitigation risks for geo-spatial modeling applications. This work may incorporate both

California and WECC energy infrastructure project feasibility studies that staff is preparing for the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR), CPUC proceedings, public owned utility procurement decisions and CAISO transmission evaluations.

TASK 7 – TRAIN STAFF, COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORS, AGENCIES, AND STAKEHOLDERS

The Contractor shall provide training to; Energy Commission staff; Commissioners and Advisors; local, state, and federal agencies; and stakeholders. Training will cover environmental, conservation management, engineering, economics, and public health and safety topics; compliance monitoring skills necessary to perform site visits; data gathering and analysis; use of computer models; and other technical skills needed to review and analyze energy projects, transmission lines, transmission corridors, and DRECP-related conservation and mitigation requirements.

The Contractor may conduct training sessions with staff at the Energy Commission, at an offsite location, or by teleconference or internet. Work authorizations issued for training will indicate what expenses Contractor will be responsible for, depending on the needs of the particular training session. The work authorization will specify whether Energy Commission or Contractor will cover costs involved in conducting a training session, such as facility rental, equipment, or printing.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

STATE ENERGY RESOURCES
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

RESOLUTION - RE: ASPEN ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

RESOLVED, that the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) adopts the staff CEQA findings contained in the Agreement or Amendment Request Form (as applicable); and

RESOLVED, that the Energy Commission approves Agreement 700-15-001 with Aspen Environmental Group for a \$4,687,000 contract to provide siting, transmission and environmental protection technical support to Energy Commission staff for electricity systems planning studies, including developing and implementing land use conservation plans; preparing landscape level environmental analysis and planning study documentation; preparing system implications, power flow and economic studies; and other technical activities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director or his/her designee shall execute the same on behalf of the Energy Commission.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Secretariat to the Commission does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the California Energy Commission held on June 14, 2016.

AYE: [List of Commissioners]

NAY: [List of Commissioners]

ABSENT: [List of Commissioners]

ABSTAIN: [List of Commissioners]

Cody Goldthrite,
Secretariat