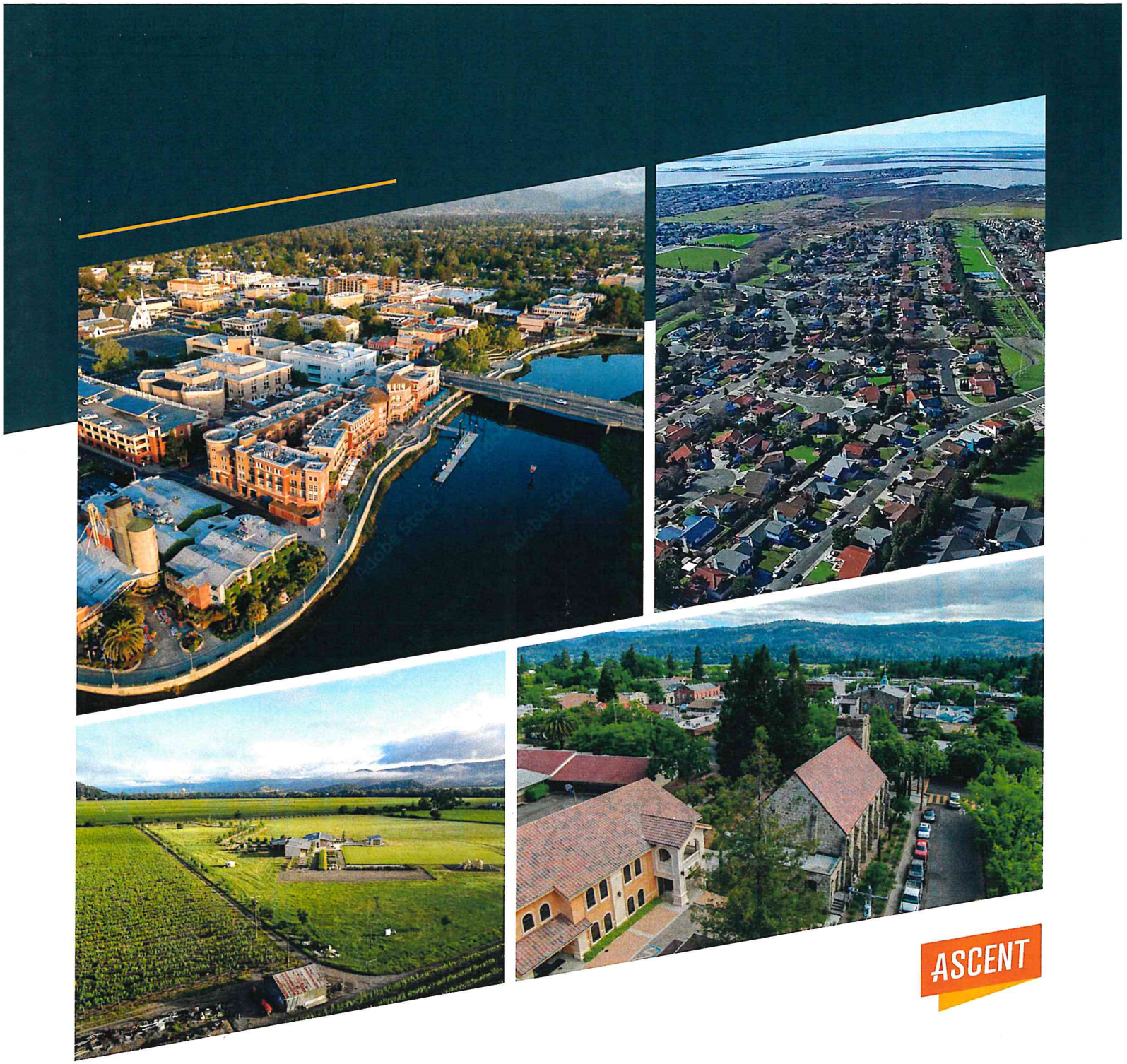


RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR A

Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Consultant

RFP NUMBER PBES092301

PREPARED FOR:

Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services
1195 Third Street, Room 210
Napa, CA 94559

ATTENTION:

David Morrison
Special Projects Director

10.27.2023

01 / COVER PAGE

October 27, 2023

David Morrison, Special Projects Director
Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services
1195 Third Street, Room 210
Napa, CA 94559

Subject: Response to Request for Proposal
Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Consultant
RFP Number PBES092301

Dear David,

Napa County's commitment to addressing climate change is exemplified through more than a decade of work convening and partnering with jurisdictions and stakeholders in the region. Since 2015, Ascent has assisted the County with its climate planning, from developing the previous plan and environmental compliance to the recent work in preparing regional studies. We are excited about the opportunity to advance climate action and sustainability in the region and continue supporting the jurisdictions in developing a comprehensive Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (RCAAP). The County is seeking a consultant team to develop a plan that identifies specific actions and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change in the county and the communities of American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, St. Helena, and Yountville. The team should also be familiar with public outreach methods that reach a wide variety of stakeholders and community members. Overall, this work will be challenging because of the many agencies and stakeholders involved, high levels of public interest, unique considerations of rural and agricultural communities, limitations on jurisdictional control to reach carbon neutrality, and recent case law on building electrification.

Ascent is the firm to support this effort. The firm is a California S corporation headquartered in Sacramento with offices in Berkeley, Irvine, Lake Tahoe, and San Diego. Climate change planning and GHG analyses are core elements of Ascent's services, as is California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance, and we pride ourselves on producing exceptional quality work products that meet our clients' goals while strengthening community involvement. Our team is uniquely suited to help the County and the region achieve its goals for three reasons:

- We understand the challenges and know how to address them. We are deeply familiar with Napa County, the stakeholders involved, and the issues that residents care about. Through our work with Napa, Alameda, Yolo, Tuolumne, Monterey, and Mendocino Counties, our team has grappled with the competing priorities of increasing tourism, sustaining a strong economy, and protecting natural resources and farmland, all while reducing GHG emissions. With our recent work in supporting the Napa region with climate-related support and other agencies, we have developed a robust understanding of methods to assess the carbon sequestration potential of agricultural and natural lands, the impact of highly potent, short-term GHGs, how to approach achieving carbon neutrality, the role of state guidance and their effects on local governments, and how to successfully put into place a path for CEQA streamlining.
- We are recognized statewide as experts in GHG analyses and climate action plans. Our staff are trusted by regional and statewide agencies such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to provide technical expertise and guidance. We recently worked with BAAQMD to develop CAP guidance and are supporting CARB in evaluating relevant statewide regulatory programs (e.g., 2022 Scoping Plan, Cap-and-Trade, Advanced Clean Cars Regulatory Program, Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy) and, consequently, have an intimate understanding of how these reductions translate to the local level.

- **We have the depth and breadth of experience required.** Climate action planning and CEQA compliance have been core practices at Ascent since the firm's inception 14 years ago. We have worked with numerous communities and agencies to engage stakeholders, collect data and analyze GHG emissions, develop new GHG reduction measures, convey technical information in compelling ways, find and communicate solutions, and listen openly to challenges. We understand that climate change affects everyone to some degree, but not everyone is affected equally. Frontline and vulnerable communities generally have greater exposure to climate impacts and less capacity to adapt because of long-standing structural and institutional inequities. Ascent understands that true climate resilience will only be achieved through the holistic integration of equity into all stages of planning and implementation. Our staff have experience in integrating equity into all types of climate-related plans, programs, and projects. Our knowledge of the unique issues facing vulnerable and frontline communities means that the County can expect authentic and inclusive outreach as part of the climate planning process.

Honey Walters will serve as the principal-in-charge. With over 25 years of experience, she is recognized statewide as an expert in climate action and GHG reduction planning, regulatory compliance, CEQA-related GHG analyses, and threshold development. She led the development of the County's CAP and the regional studies and has also served as the principal-in-charge for over 50 climate action planning efforts across the state. Honey will be supported by Erik de Kok, AICP, the project director/manager and day-to-day contact for County staff. Erik served as the project manager for the County's CAP and is an AICP-certified planner with 28 years of professional planning, project management, and team leadership experience. He brings to each project an intimate knowledge of the planning process and deep familiarity with local and regional planning issues and legal requirements in California. He served as the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Deputy Director for Planning and Community Development where he led policy development, technical assistance, and planning guidance that addresses wildfire, evacuation, climate adaptation, and environmental justice requirements for general plans. After more than 8 years of working with the County on this important endeavor, we are personally invested and dedicated to working shoulder to shoulder with the team to get the project across the finish line.

Ascent has supplemented our team with Economic & Planning Systems to provide services to support the development of a funding roadmap of proposed RCAAP measures and strategies (e.g., identifying currently available funding sources and mechanisms, summarizing the merits and drawbacks of various funding options, and determining the feasibility of actions required to implement funding options); Remy Moose Manley to provide expert legal environmental and land use services; Jacobs Engineering Group to prepare implementation cost estimates for near-term RCAAP measures and strategies; and the Napa County Resource Conservation District, a trusted partner with a broad constituency including local governments, state and federal resource agencies, nonprofit community-based organizations, the agricultural sector, and the community at large to assist with public outreach and agency coordination.

As an Ascent principal, Honey is authorized to make decisions and represent the firm. Erik will be your primary point of contact for this proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to work with the County and appreciate your consideration of our submittal.

Sincerely,

Honey Walters
Principal
e: honey.walters@ascent.inc
p: 530.574.0772

Erik de Kok, AICP
Project Director/Manager
e: erik.dekok@ascent.inc
p: 916.306.2637

ASCENT

02 / COMPANY INFORMATION

Legal name of company:	Ascent Environmental, Inc.
Mailing and physical address(es):	455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Remit to billing address:	455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone, fax, and website (if applicable):	**phone:** 916.444.7301; **fax:** N/A; **website:** www.ascent.inc
Organization type:	California S corporation
Federal ID number:	27-1537109 **Federal Unique Entity ID:** WGNLJ2Z88N19
List of owners/corporate officers (as designated):	Curtis Alling, Senior Vice President Pat Angell Christine Babla Heather Blair Poonam Boparai Sydney Coatsworth, Senior Vice President Nanette Hansel Gary Jakobs, President/CEO, Board Chairman Linda Leeman Chris Mundhenk Amanda Olekszulin, COO/CFO/Treasurer Mike Parker Eric Ruby Honey Walters, CPO/Secretary
Information on authorized person:	Honey Walters, Principal 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814 **phone:** 530.574.0772; **fax:** N/A; **email:** honey.walters@ascent.inc

03 / COMPANY EXPERIENCE, QUALIFICATIONS, AND APPROACH TO SCOPE OF WORK

EXPERIENCE

Ascent, a California S corporation, is a full-service climate change, environmental, planning, urban design, and natural resources consulting firm headquartered in Sacramento with staff resources and offices in Berkeley, Irvine, Lake Tahoe, and San Diego. Climate change and adaptation planning/community engagement and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance for climate action plans (CAPs) and adaptation plans (CAAPs) are two of Ascent's core services. Ascent is renowned for its expertise in developing comprehensive plans aimed at addressing climate change mitigation and resilience. We have specialized experience helping counties and cities prepare and update their climate action and adaptation plans to achieve carbon neutrality and align with equity goals. We also have a deep understanding of atmospheric and climate change science, contemporary practices in climate action planning, defensible CEQA approaches for qualified reduction plans, and case law decisions, along with the current and evolving requirements and methods coming from state agencies. We have thorough knowledge of the California Air Resources Board (CARB), other state agency activities, and the regulatory and political environment in California, with expert staff located throughout the state. We have worked intimately with CARB, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and other agencies since Ascent opened its doors almost 14 years ago. We have a longstanding history with Napa County and other Bay Area counties and cities for providing CEQA compliance and climate action planning support.

Subconsultants

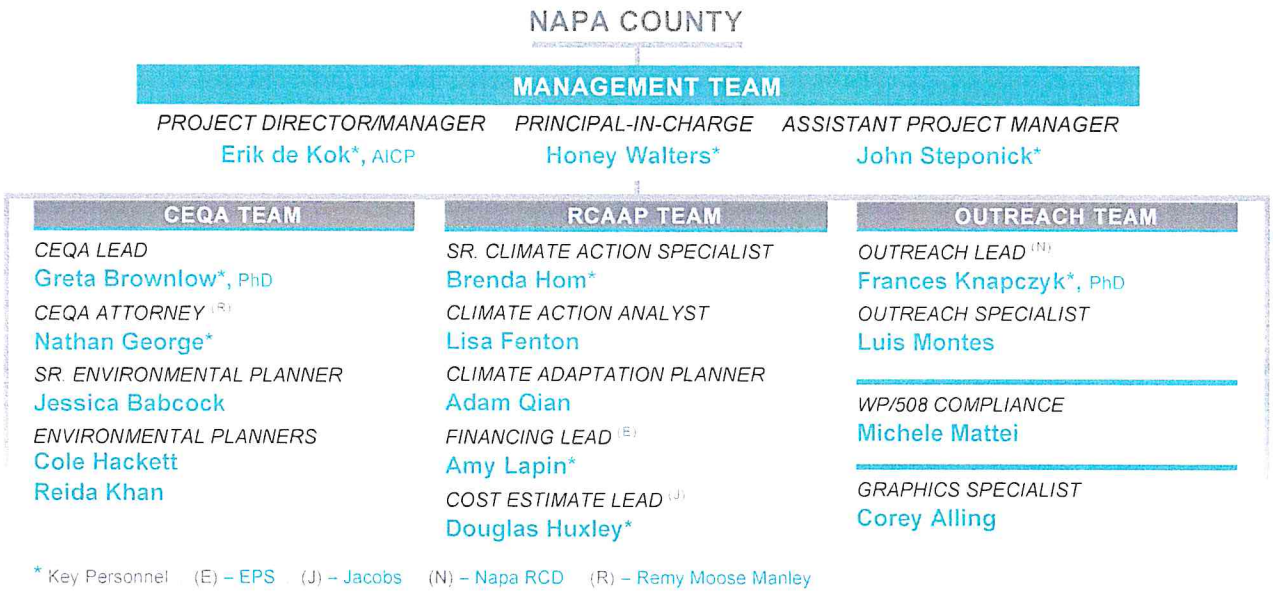
Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., (EPS) is a land economics consulting firm experienced in the full spectrum of services related to real estate development, the financing of public infrastructure and government services, land use and conservation planning, and government organization. EPS was founded on the principle that real estate development and land use–related public policy should be built on a realistic assessment of market forces and economic trends, feasible implementation measures, and recognition of public policy objectives, including provisions for required public facilities and services.

Founded in 1982, **Remy Moose Manley, LLP, (RMM)** is a law partnership focused on providing expert legal environmental and land use services to a wide variety of public and private clients, including cities and counties, state agencies, environmental consultants, project applicants, and environmental organizations throughout California. While the firm's practice specializes in compliance with CEQA, RMM attorneys are also experts in the State Planning and Zoning Law, the Integrated Waste Management Act, the California Coastal Act, the federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, the federal Clean Water Act, and other related land use and environmental statutes. Throughout its history, the firm has been involved in major environmental cases, including published California Supreme Court and Court of Appeal decisions.

Jacobs Jacobs Engineering Group (Jacobs) provides a full spectrum of professional services including consulting, technical, scientific, and project delivery for the government and private sectors. From the way they operate the business to the sustainable solutions they co-create with clients and partners, Jacobs continues to look at ways to make a positive environmental, societal, and economic difference for businesses, governments, and communities around the world.

NAPA RCD The Napa County Resource Conservation District (Napa RCD) is a special district founded in 1945 that facilitates natural resource stewardship through community involvement, education, technical expertise, and scientific monitoring in Napa County. As a nonregulatory agency that operates voluntary programs, Napa RCD holds a trusted position with a broad constituency including local governments, state and federal resource agencies, nonprofit community-based organizations, the agricultural sector, and the community at large.

We have carefully selected a principal-in-charge and key project staff whose experience and expertise match well with the County's requirements. As principal-in-charge, **Honey Walters** will oversee the contract and provide quality assurance by being actively involved in all assignments to ensure Ascent has a deep understanding of the County's needs and the quality of all work products is top-notch. Honey will be supported by **Erik de Kok, AICP**, who will serve as the project director/manager and be the designated point of contact for County staff throughout the contract term. Honey and Erik have a long and successful history of working together on climate planning efforts, including Napa County's original CAP and the associated environmental impact report (EIR). An organizational chart depicting the structure of the team is presented below. Resumes detailing the relevant experience of each team member are included in **Appendix A**. The phase of the project and estimated hours for each person are included in section **4, Pricing Information/Structure**.



* Key Personnel (E) – EPS (J) – Jacobs (N) – Napa RCD (R) – Remy Moose Manley

QUALIFICATIONS

Ascent has invested in climate action and adaptation planning as a practice since the firm's inception, as it aligns with our core values and depth of expertise. Our key team members have been involved in climate action planning efforts throughout California for several decades (e.g., we led many of the first in California and helped prepare relevant guidance with BAAQMD, CARB, and OPR), which is demonstrated through our project experience. We have prepared CAPs and CAAPs for many agencies in the Bay Area and throughout the state and are actively working on a number of plans with carbon neutrality and equity goals. Ascent specializes in preparing "CEQA-qualified" CAPs with accompanying environmental documentation and streamlining tools for new development.

The table below provides a snapshot of our expertise and specific experience in preparing work similar to that desired by Napa County. Refer to section **5, References**, and team members' resumes in **Appendix A** for additional projects and details.

Project	Client Contact/Agency	Status/ Completion Date	Project Team	Brief Description
Napa County CAP/EIR, Regional GHG Inventory Update, and Climate Support (including Short-Lived Climate	David Morrison (Special Projects Director) 1195 Third Street Napa, CA 94559 707.253.4805	Napa County CAP/EIR: June 2019 Regional Assistance: June 2023	Honey Walters Erik de Kok Brenda Hom	• Climate mitigation and adaptation planning • CEQA compliance • Focus on agriculture and natural working lands, and wildfire risk • Regional planning and inventory development

Project	Client Contact/Agency	Status/ Completion Date	Project Team	Brief Description
Pollutant and Carbon Storage Studies)				• Carbon storage and short-lived climate pollutants studies
City of Milpitas CAP Update and Addendum	Elaine Marshall (Deputy Public Works Director) 455 E. Calaveras Blvd. Milpitas, CA 95035 408.586.2603	August 2022	Honey Walters Brenda Hom John Steponick Jessica Babcock	• Climate mitigation and adaptation plan • Adopted qualified plan • New development consistency checklist and streamlining • Prioritization matrix • Near- and long-term goals • Award-winning
Alameda County Community CAP and Safety Element Update	Alison Abbors (Planner III) 224 W. Winton Ave., Rm. 111 Hayward, CA 94544 510.670.5428	Ongoing; expected completion in early 2024	Honey Walters Erik de Kok Brenda Hom John Steponick Lisa Fenton Luis Montes	• Climate mitigation and adaptation plan • Lifecycle GHG accounting • Equity and environmental justice focus • Addresses resilience, flooding, wildfires, and evacuation routes • Implementation prioritization and funding support • Extensive outreach
Sacramento County CAP and SEIR	Todd Smith (Planning Director) 827 7th Street, Room 225 Sacramento, CA 95814 916.874.6918	Ongoing	Honey Walters Erik de Kok Brenda Hom Adam Qian Jessica Babcock	• Climate mitigation and adaptation plan • CEQA compliance • New development consistency checklist and streamlining • Focus on carbon neutrality and equity
CARB Environmental Compliance Support	Rebecca Fancher (Air Pollution Specialist) 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814 916.327.1550	Completed approximately 20 EIR-equivalent documents; ongoing	Honey Walters Erik de Kok	• Environmental compliance for GHG reduction and climate regulations • Includes rules, regulations, and plans that are relevant to regional and local climate planning (e.g., Scoping Plan, Advanced Clean Cars Program)

APPROACH

Scope of Work

Phase 1: Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

TASK 1. Project Orientation

A kickoff meeting is key to setting a strong foundation for project success. Ascent's project management team (principal-in-charge, project manager, assistant project manager, and CEQA lead), Napa RCD, and EPS will hold a virtual kickoff meeting with staff from each jurisdiction and local agencies (determined by the County) to refine project goals and objectives, develop a project timeline and milestone schedule, and identify existing documents, data, policies, and initiatives relevant to the RCAAP.

Because Ascent prepared the 2019 regional GHG inventory and other relevant studies (i.e., short-lived climate pollutants [SLCP], carbon storage); the County's previous CAP/EIR; BAAQMD's updated CEQA Guidelines; and environmental documentation for CARB's rules, regulations, plans, and programs that serve as the cornerstone for achieving climate goals, our team will be able to efficiently get up to speed, reviewing the existing climate action plans for the other jurisdictions included in this effort.

TASK 2. Emissions Forecasts

As part of Ascent's work with the County under Agreement No. 220201B, we have prepared both business-as-usual (BAU) and legislative-adjusted BAU forecasts by sector and jurisdiction for the year 2030. We also prepared the SLCP and carbon storage inventories that will inform this task and Task 3 below. Ascent will build upon the existing spreadsheet to extend the BAU and legislative-adjusted BAU forecasts for 2035 and 2045. In addition to these two scenarios, we will show the results of the GHG emissions by jurisdiction with the implementation of RCAAP measures (conducted under Task 3). Ascent will prepare a technical memo detailing the assumptions applied and the results of the forecast modeling.

TASK 3. GHG Reduction Measures

Building on our existing work with the County under Agreement No. 220201B, which identified possible reduction measures for each jurisdiction, Ascent will further develop the specific actions needed to implement the measures. This task will include developing an analysis tool in Excel that evaluates GHG emissions reduction potential from the measures that will be integrated into the Implementation and Monitoring Tool under Task 5. We will prepare a draft gap analysis memo

demonstrating the effectiveness of the GHG reduction measures in relation to the legislative-adjusted forecast. After receipt of comments from County staff, we will prepare a final gap analysis memo.

In addition, Ascent will develop actions that align with County priorities indicated in the Request for Proposal (RFP) (e.g., uplift disadvantaged communities, address affordability and accessibility, and identify required changes to policies and codes). We will provide a list of actions specific to each jurisdiction for consideration and feedback and will engage members of the public after a preliminary review of the actions has been conducted by agency staff.

TASK 4. Adaptation Measures

Ascent will assess the risks that all jurisdictions in Napa County may face due to the impacts of climate change and will develop detailed strategies the County and the jurisdictions can adopt to increase regional climate resilience. These strategies will support and build upon existing resources and efforts undertaken by the County and the jurisdictions. Where appropriate, the strategies will also support the GHG reduction measures to improve energy resilience and water conservation as well as other potential co-benefits.

Ascent will prepare a climate vulnerability assessment (VA) that evaluates the county's vulnerability to climate change over multiple time periods. The VA will evaluate climate exposure during the near term (2023–2050), mid-century (2040–2070), and late-century (2070–2100). We will use the best available data, guidance, and tools to address any gaps that have not been identified through previous efforts in the region, including climate stressors and hazards such as energy grid resiliency and sea level rise, which were not addressed in the 2020 Napa County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) but are specifically noted in the RFP. For energy grid resiliency, Ascent recommends addressing both intentional (e.g., Public Safety Power Shutoffs) and unintentional (e.g., energy disruption caused by wildfire and flooding events) power disruptions as well as utility providers' guidance documents. The VA will also identify disproportionate climate impacts on disadvantaged and historically marginalized communities.

Based on the conclusions of the VA, Ascent will support the County and the jurisdictions to develop a matrix of potential adaptation and resilience strategies that include and build upon those identified in the County and City of Napa's HMP update, as well as the jurisdictions' Safety Elements. We will prepare a draft VA for County review and will provide a final version of the VA based on feedback and comments from County staff.

TASK 5. Implementation and Monitoring Plan

The Ascent team will develop two prioritization matrices—one for GHG reduction actions and one for climate adaptation actions. Before developing the matrices, we will prepare a draft framework for all criteria considered in the prioritization matrix for County review. The matrices' purpose will be to determine near-term actions for inclusion in the implementation and monitoring plan. The full list of GHG reduction and adaptation actions will be qualitatively scored, considering the GHG reduction potential (quantified under Task 3), climate resilience benefits, equity benefits, the agencies and departments responsible for implementation, consistency with adopted plans, and co-benefits, which may include improved energy security, improved public health, improved air quality, and local green jobs, among others.

EPS will prepare a funding options memorandum and technical appendix that summarizes available public funding sources and mechanisms that may apply to the RCAAP measures and actions. EPS will summarize the merits and drawbacks of and assess the viability of using various public financing mechanisms, which may include new special taxes, fees, and assessments (levied by public agencies); tax increment financing; federal, state, and local grant funding; private financing arrangements; or other identified sources.

Jacobs will estimate costs for up to 10 GHG mitigation strategies and up to 10 adaptation strategies, over a 5-year time horizon. The focus of costing will be on short-term project implementation, rather than making cost assumptions on future technologies over lengthier timelines. The Rough Order of Magnitude estimate will be Class 4 as defined by the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE).

Once prioritization scoring is complete, Ascent will develop Excel spreadsheets for both GHG reduction actions and climate adaptation actions that include the results of the scoring exercise, the criteria used for scoring, identification of agency staff responsible for implementation, staff resources needed, monitoring metrics, and cost considerations conducted. The implementation and monitoring plan will detail the specific steps required to implement the high-priority actions and will serve as a guidance and reference document for each jurisdiction's staff.

We will work with County staff to develop an implementation tracking tool that can be used by jurisdiction staff to generate charts and graphs for use in presentations, reports, and other documents. It can also be linked to the County's website, facilitating transparency of progress with the public. We will work closely with County staff to clearly understand the needs for the tool and how it can best support the County's and other jurisdictions' work, recognizing that the tool must impart useful and relevant information without substantially adding to staff workloads. The Ascent team proposes using Microsoft Power BI for the development of the tracking tool because it can be integrated with the County's GHG inventory and forecast tools, which were prepared by Ascent, providing seamless interoperability. The tool can also be integrated with Microsoft Excel through macros to allow for easy updating that automatically refreshes the progress made on RCAAP implementation.

After preparing the implementation monitoring tool, we will conduct training for County staff on how to use the tool. The training will be conducted as an online webinar that is recorded so it can be used as a training tool for new County staff.

TASK 6. RCAAP Document Preparation

Task 6.1. RCAAP Outline

Before initiating the preparation of the draft documents, we will prepare a template for County review, identifying the organizational framework and locations where key topics will be addressed. An example outline is as follows:

Executive Summary. Overview of the RCAAP and measures via a plan-at-a-glance table for quick access.

Chapter 1. Introduction to the RCAAP, including an overview of climate change issues and the purpose/goals of the plan and a summary of the RCAAP process, including community engagement.

Chapter 2. Background information section, describing the science underlying climate change and the impacts anticipated for all jurisdictions in Napa County. This chapter will also describe existing federal, state, and regional regulations related to GHG emissions and climate change, regional coordination including transportation planning, and other regional planning efforts related to the RCAAP.

Chapter 3. GHG inventory, forecasts, and targets section, reporting the 2019 regional GHG emissions inventory and carbon stock inventory by jurisdiction. This chapter will include forecasted GHG emissions by jurisdiction for 2030, 2035, and 2050. The inventory, forecasts, and targets will be graphically depicted to allow visualization of the local context.

Chapter 4. Adaptation chapter, which identifies the climate change vulnerabilities in the region, as well as an approach to address the region's adaptive capacity.

Chapter 5. Climate action and adaptation measures, which will be presented by strategy for all the jurisdictions and will include the level of GHG reduction anticipated, demonstrating how the region will meet its GHG reduction targets, as well as all adaptation measures.

Annexes. Stand-alone annexes specific to each jurisdiction that will be considered for adoption and will meet the requirements of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5.

Appendices. A detailed methodology and assumptions section to document and provide transparency in how the inventory, forecasts, and GHG reduction measures were calculated, as well as climate vulnerability assessment data.

Because the County intends the RCAAP to be CEQA-qualified, it will need to include all relevant information consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5. Ascent will make recommendations on critical content to be included in the body of the RCAAP to achieve that consistency while making the document concise, accessible, and engaging.

Task 6.2. Administrative Draft RCAAP

The Ascent team will prepare a comprehensive administrative draft of the RCAAP for review by County staff, Climate Action Committee (CAC) members, and Napa RCD. This effort will include assembly and integration of the work and products of prior tasks into the RCAAP document. The organization and format of the administrative draft is anticipated to include the aforementioned chapters and will provide details such as specific sources and subheadings. This version will not include the final graphic design; the goal will be to receive feedback and approval of content.

Task 6.3. Screencheck Draft RCAAP

Following receipt of County staff's, CAC members', and Napa RCD's comments on the administrative draft RCAAP, the Ascent team will prepare a screencheck draft version. The screencheck draft RCAAP will be tailored to the preferred format and emphasize on providing information visually using maps, graphics, tables, and matrices. Explanatory text will read clearly and concisely. The screencheck draft version will include the final graphic design. After receipt of County comments, Ascent will prepare the public draft RCAAP for publication.

Task 6.4. Administrative Final RCAAP

Following public review and community outreach meetings, the Ascent team (including Napa RCD) will work with County staff to review comments received and identify any potential changes needed to the public draft RCAAP. We assume County staff will be responsible for tracking and organizing public comments received on the plan and written responses to public comments. Ascent will provide up to 60 hours of technical support in preparation of responses to comments on the RCAAP. The County will direct Ascent as to the appropriate revisions to the RCAAP in response to public comments. We will provide an administrative final RCAAP to the County for review and comment.

Task 6.5. Final RCAAP

Based on comments on the administrative final RCAAP and upon final direction from County staff, Ascent will prepare the final RCAAP for a CAC meeting and decision-making body adoption hearings. The final RCAAP documents will be provided in Microsoft Word so the County can easily update the documents and all jurisdictions can post the documents to their respective websites.

Task 6.6. Consistency Review Checklists (optional)

If desired by the County and the jurisdictions, Ascent will prepare consistency review checklists for each jurisdiction. This task will streamline each jurisdiction's efforts to determine whether GHG analysis and mitigation are needed for a development project. Ascent will prepare RCAAP consistency review checklists specific to each jurisdiction to assist project applicants in determining whether a project is consistent with the RCAAP. The purpose of the checklist will be to provide a streamlined GHG analysis process for proposed development projects that are subject to discretionary review and trigger environmental review pursuant to CEQA. Projects that demonstrate consistency with the RCAAP and the jurisdiction's General Plan may be able to conclude no additional significant environmental effects related to GHG emissions in their CEQA review. The checklist will include instructions on its application to individual projects. Ascent can train jurisdiction staff on using the checklist and assist in initiating the implementation process.

Phase 2: Public Outreach

TASK 1. Public Outreach

Task 1.1. Social Media and Community Engagement Strategy

In partnership with Napa RCD, we will work closely with County staff to understand the project context and develop the community engagement approach. We will apply an equity lens by prioritizing frontline communities early in the process, tailoring our engagement approach to be accessible and culturally sensitive, and incorporating community members' lived experiences into the RCAAP process.

We will create a comprehensive and innovative social media and community engagement strategy that leverages both Napa RCD's and Ascent's experience and is customized to the unique needs of residents and businesses in Napa County. The strategy will include objectives for each project phase, a detailed stakeholder list that builds on past and current outreach efforts and communication methods (in coordination with the County), engagement strategies and tools, and a timeline. We will revise the social media and community engagement strategy based on feedback from County staff.

Task 1.2. Online Platform

To collect, organize, and track feedback received throughout the engagement process, Ascent will use Konveio, a web-based application. Konveio will serve as a project website and dashboard that will evolve with the project, offering a solution to share information and collect input in a variety of ways. As part of the community workshops conducted under Task 1.3, materials provided to members of the community will include QR codes and website links to access the Konveio platform, where surveys, polls, discussion boards, and project information will be easily accessible and available in multiple languages using Google Translate services. We will direct community members to use the Konveio site because of its analytical capabilities, tracking individual input and providing synthesized reports to be used to inform the development of the RCAAP. Materials developed for the Konveio site will be prepared in coordination with Napa RCD.

Once public draft documents have been prepared, they will be uploaded to Konveio to collect feedback. Participants can easily scroll through the various documents and sections and simply click on the part of the text they want to comment on. Other users can view comments and reply to them or use thumbs-up voting to support comments. After the public review period is complete, the data collected via comments and voting can be downloaded to Microsoft Excel or annotated PDF reports to share with decision-makers. Log-in credentials will be available for County staff and the Ascent team to upload documents, build out pages of the website, and collect and analyze feedback.

Task 1.3. Community Outreach Meetings

Ascent and Napa RCD will prepare for and facilitate up to four in-person community outreach meetings to educate the community on the project and to actively engage residents in the identification of climate action measures, as well as other community priorities to consider as part of the RCAAP. A variety of process design options can be implemented for gathering input, including discussing in plenary (i.e., one large group), organizing into breakout groups, and creating information/input stations on specific topics. Two community outreach meetings will occur before the preparation of the administrative draft RCAAP, and two additional meetings will be held after that document's release. Ascent will coordinate with County staff based on feedback received during the meetings to determine what revisions or additions should be made to the draft RCAAP.

Ascent will prepare presentation materials and activities for the community outreach meetings and submit materials for review and approval by County staff. We will facilitate each meeting and be available for questions. After each community outreach meeting, we will prepare a summary of the meeting, including any action items identified and questions posed during the meeting (along with answers). Ascent will provide the summaries in a format that can be posted to the County's website. All community outreach meetings will provide Spanish interpretation, and all meeting materials will be translated into Spanish. If the County requests additional languages for interpretation and/or translation, a budget augmentation would be warranted.

Task 1.4. Committee & Elected Officials Presentations

Ascent will attend up to two CAC meetings and up to six adoption hearings for each of the jurisdictions (one hearing per jurisdiction). We will attend all meetings in person and will develop presentation materials. Up to three members of the

Ascent team will attend each meeting/hearing. We will also take notes at a summary level of comments received, outcomes of the meeting, and input from decision-makers.

Task 1.5. RCAAP Summary and Video

Ascent, with input from Napa RCD, will prepare a visually cohesive and accessible graphic summary document and accompanying video (not to exceed 3 minutes). The summary document and video will be provided in both English and Spanish.

Task 1.6. Additional Meeting Support (optional)

Ascent and Napa RCD are available to support additional meetings if needed. Ascent will prepare presentation materials, send up to three members of the Ascent team to each meeting, and take notes at a summary level for up to six additional meetings.

Phase 3: Coordination

TASK 1. Coordination

Task 1.1. Project Management and Coordination

We understand that communication is fundamental to accomplishing this work effort. We envision our working relationship with the County as highly collaborative. The Ascent project management team will set up biweekly virtual meetings to discuss project status and ensure coordination with County staff. The purpose of these meetings will be to discuss items such as deliverables, upcoming tasks or milestones, project schedule, and next steps and to identify and discuss any critical path items such as outstanding data needs or schedule constraints. If desired by the County, Ascent will set up a SharePoint folder for sharing documents and deliverables between the Ascent team and County staff.

Task 1.2. Climate Action Committee Coordination

Ascent and Napa RCD will collaborate with staff from each of the six jurisdictions on the CAC to review existing local plans, policies, and programs related to climate change, and to review and receive feedback on proposed GHG reduction and adaptation recommendations, as part of the development of the draft RCAAP. Ascent, Napa RCD, and other subconsultants (as needed) will meet with members of the CAC up to six times, which will coincide with important milestones of the RCAAP development process so that CAC members can see progress in the planning process and how their input is being incorporated into the RCAAP.

Task 1.3. Napa Valley Transportation Authority Coordination

Ascent and Napa RCD will coordinate with Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) staff to review and clarify data developed by NVTA and to align NVTA's programs, plans, planned projects, and services that would relate to measures in and implementation of the RCAAP. Ascent will review proposed measures and receive feedback from NVTA staff on measures and implementation actions that involve NVTA as part of the final RCAAP.

Phase 4: California Environmental Quality Act

TASK 1. CEQA Approach Memo

Ascent will prepare a memo recommending the CEQA approach for the RCAAP, understanding that all jurisdictions in Napa County are seeking a CEQA-qualified GHG reduction plan. Because a regional climate plan has not yet been developed to align with Section 15183.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the memo will outline several approaches for consideration by the County and its partner agencies. The memo will include scopes, costs, and timelines for the approaches proposed for the forthcoming environmental review process of the RCAAP.

RMM will provide support by reviewing, commenting on, and proposing edits to the memo, with a focus on compliance with the law, including CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and relevant developments in California courts' interpretation and application of CEQA, as well as the County's local procedures and the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines.

Ascent will submit a draft memo to County staff for review and will submit a final memo based on comments received from the County.

Schedule

Task	Duration	Due Date	Time Spent with County Staff (groups and individuals)
Phase 1: RCAAP			
Task 1: Project Orientation	N/A	January 2024	2 hours (attending kickoff meeting)
Task 2: Emissions Forecasts	2 months	February 2024	None
Task 3: GHG Reduction Measures	6 months	July 2024	None
Task 4: Adaptation Measures	6 months	July 2024	None
Task 5: Implementation and Monitoring Plan	4 months	December 2024	2 hours (train staff on use of tool)
Task 6.1: RCAAP Outline	1 month	March 2024	None
Task 6.2: Administrative Draft RCAAP	4 months	July 2024	None
Task 6.3: Screencheck Draft and Public Draft RCAAP	2 months	September 2024	None

Task	Duration	Due Date	Time Spent with County Staff (groups and individuals)
Task 6.4: Administrative Final RCAAP	1 month	November 2024	None
Task 6.5: Final RCAAP	1 month	December 2024	None
Task 6.6: Consistency Review Checklists (optional)	2 months	December 2024	2 hours (train staff on use of checklists)
Phase 2: Public Outreach			
Task 1.1: Social Media and Community Engagement Strategy	2 months	March 2024	None
Task 1.2: Online Platform	12 months	Ongoing	None
Task 1.3: Community Outreach Meetings	6 months	September 2024	12 hours (for each community meeting: 3 hours of prep meetings, 3 hours for community meetings)
Task 1.4: Committee & Elected Officials Presentations		Ongoing	24 hours (2 CAC meetings, 6 hearings, 2 hours each)
Task 1.5: RCAAP Summary and Video	2 months	December 2024	None
Phase 3: Coordination			
Task 1.1: Project Management and Coordination	12 months	December 2024	15 hours (biweekly 30-minute meetings)
Task 1.2: Climate Action Committee Coordination	12 months	December 2024	12 hours (6 meetings, 2 hours each)
Task 1.3: NVTA Coordination	8 months	September 2024	3 hours (3 meetings, 1 hour each)
Phase 4: California Environmental Quality Act			
Task 1: CEQA Approach Memo	3 months	November 2024	2 hours (2 meetings, 1 hour each)

04 / PRICING INFORMATION/STRUCTURE

The proposed price for the Napa County Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan is presented in the spreadsheet inserted following the proposal text. To promote clarity, assumptions explaining the basis of the proposed price are listed on the spreadsheet. The price is estimated based on a good-faith, current understanding of the project's needs. If selected, Ascent is interested in discussing the County's needs and revising the scope of work and price, as warranted, to meet expectations.

05 / REFERENCES

Clients for whom we have worked in the past provide the best testimony of the Ascent team's dedication to their projects. We encourage you to contact the following client references, whose projects reflect services similar to those required by Napa County.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
375 Beale Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105
Contact: Abby Young
Climate Protection Manager
415.749.4754
Dates: 2020–2022
Team Members: Honey Walters (PIC/PM), Brenda Hom

CEQA Air Quality Guidelines Update: Ascent provided CEQA expertise to assist BAAQMD staff in updating their existing CEQA Air Quality Guidelines. These guidelines serve as a tool by which local jurisdictions will evaluate impact analysis methodologies, significance thresholds, and mitigation strategies. Specific guidance was included for climate action planning. Ascent staff provided technical support in the revision of the guidelines based on current scientific knowledge, local and regional air quality standards, and federal and state law since the last release of the guidelines which was also led by Ascent staff.

County of Tuolumne
2 S. Green Street, 4th Floor
Sonora, CA 95370
Contact: Quincy Yaley
Community Development Department Director
209.533.5961
Dates: 2020–2022
Team Members: Honey Walters (PIC), Brenda Hom, John Steponick

Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan: Ascent assisted Tuolumne County in developing its first Climate Action Plan to align with state GHG reduction targets for the year 2030. The CAP includes strategies for reducing GHG emissions from all sectors, as well as addresses the effects of climate change and develops strategies to promote adaptation and resilience due to increased wildfire risk, flooding, extreme heat, and other effects. Ascent also updated the county's baseline GHG inventory and prepared an assessment of climate change effects and primary exposure areas, identified and quantified GHG reduction and adaptation strategies, and conducted public outreach and stakeholder engagement. The CAP aims to build resilience to climate-related hazards, reduce local GHG emissions, and preserve and improve the county's natural resources and quality of life through climate action strategies that are organized into five comprehensive focus areas: health and safety, conservation and recreation, buildings, infrastructure, and agriculture and forestry.

City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758
Contact: Christopher Jordan
Director of Strategic Planning and Innovation
916.478.2222
Dates: 2023–Ongoing
Team Members: Honey Walters (PIC), Erik de Kok (PD), Brenda Hom, John Steponick, Lisa Fenton, Luis Montes

Elk Grove Climate Action Plan Update: Ascent is assisting the City of Elk Grove with an update to its 2019 CAP, which will be known as Climate Compass. The updated plan will serve as a CEQA-qualified roadmap for reducing local GHG emissions across various sectors while building resilience to future impacts posed by climate change. New recommended measures will prioritize GHG reduction in transportation, integrating electric vehicle infrastructure, energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy generation, and energy storage system implementation. GHG reduction measures will also cover major sectors contributing to GHG emissions (i.e., building energy, on-road transportation, off-road transportation, waste, water, wastewater, agriculture, and City operations). The project features an inclusive and collaborative process that actively engages all Elk Grove residents, particularly those in hard-to-reach communities, by addressing common engagement barriers, tailoring communication tools, and working to rebuild trust to engage diverse perspectives.

06 / DISCLOSURES

Ascent has not had an agreement terminated for cause or convenience or a settlement to avoid litigation or termination for convenience or default (or cause) in the last 5 years (or ever), nor does the firm have an agreement termination pending.

07 / INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

Ascent has reviewed and confirms the firm's willingness and ability to fulfill the insurance requirements in section 7, Insurance, of the example Napa County Professional Services Agreement attached to the RFP.

08 / CONTRACT ACCEPTANCE

Ascent has reviewed the example Napa County Professional Services Agreement and respectfully requests the opportunity to discuss the following revisions to section 8, Hold Harmless/Defense/Indemnification.

(a) In General. To the full extent permitted by law, CONTRACTOR shall defend at its own expense, indemnify, and hold harmless COUNTY and its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, or representatives from and against any and all liability, claims, actions, proceedings, losses, injuries, damages or expenses of every name, kind, and description, including litigation costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in connection therewith, brought for or on account of personal injury (including death) or damage to property, ~~arising from all acts or omissions~~ but only to the extent actually caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of CONTRACTOR or its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, contractors and subcontractors in rendering services under this Agreement, excluding, however, such liability, claims, actions, losses, injuries, damages or expenses arising from the sole negligence or willful acts of COUNTY or its officers, agents, employees, volunteers, representatives, or other contractors or their subcontractors.

Explanation: Our insurance company will not provide coverage in the unlikely event of a claim unless our liability is limited to only our negligence and willful misconduct. The changes we are requesting to this section would allow our Professional Liability to provide coverage and implement balanced risk between the parties. In addition, we would like to highlight that because Ascent is a smaller company, the amount of money available, in the unlikely event that a claim is made, would be greater from our insurance company (under a scenario in which we can maintain insurance coverage) than directly from Ascent.

(b) Employee Character and Fitness. CONTRACTOR accepts responsibility for determining and approving the character and fitness of its employees (including volunteers, agents or representatives) to provide the services required of CONTRACTOR under this Agreement~~, including completion of a satisfactory criminal/background check and period rechecks to the extent permitted by law~~.

Explanation: Ascent does not perform criminal or background checks as part of our hiring process. Therefore, we would like to request that this clause be stricken.

In addition, the first unnumbered paragraph following paragraph 15(b)(4) on page 35 requires the contractor to use "the same encryption algorithm described above," but there is no previously described encryption algorithm.

09 / RFP ADDENDA

Ascent confirms receipt of Addendum No. 1, dated September 27, 2023, and Addendum No. 2, dated October 16, 2023. The signed addenda are contained in **Appendix B**.

PRICE PROPOSAL

NAPA COUNTY REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN

October 27, 2023

	Price	Hours	Walters	de Kok	Stepanick	Horn	Brownlow	Babcock	Glen	Fenton	Montes	Khan	Hackett	Alling	Matter	
			Principal-in-Charge	Project Director/ Project Manager	Assistant Project Manager	Sr Climate Action Specialist	CEQA Lead	Sr Environmental Planner	Climate Adaptation Planner	Climate Action Analyst	Outreach Specialist	Environmental Planner	Environmental Planner	Graphics Specialist	WP/508 Compliance	Admin/ Finance
Hourly rate			$360	$275	$140	$195	$300	$195	$155	$140	$155	$150	$135	$125	$145	$140
PHASE 1: REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN																
Task 1: Project Orientation	**Price**	**Hours**														
Project Orientation	$ 6,500	34	2	4	12		4		4	4	4					
Subtotal, Task 1	**$ 6,500**	**34**	2	4	12	0	4	0	4	4	4	0	0	0	0	0
Task 2: Emissions Forecasts	**Price**	**Hours**														
Emissions Forecasts	$ 9,250	57	1	2	4	14				34					2	
Subtotal, Task 2	**$ 9,250**	**57**	1	2	4	14	0	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	2	0
Task 3: GHG Reduction Measures	**Price**	**Hours**														
GHG Reduction Measures	$ 17,940	104	2	12	6	24				60						
Subtotal, Task 3	**$ 17,940**	**104**	2	12	6	24	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0
Task 4: Adaptation Measures	**Price**	**Hours**														
Adaptation Measures	$ 32,290	202	2	12	30				140					12	6	
Subtotal, Task 4	**$ 32,290**	**202**	2	12	30	0	0	0	140	0	0	0	0	12	6	0
Task 5: Implementation and Monitoring Plan	**Price**	**Hours**														
Implementation and Monitoring Plan	$ 34,690	214	2	12	20	30			70	70				4	6	
Subtotal, Task 5	**$ 34,690**	**214**	2	12	20	30	0	0	70	70	0	0	0	4	6	0
Task 6: RCAAP Document Preparation	**Price**	**Hours**														
6.1 RCAAP Outline	$ 5,440	33	1	4	16										12	
6.2 Administrative Draft RCAAP	$ 51,740	325	8	16	65	16			100	100				8	12	
6.3 Screencheck and Public Draft RCAAP	$ 28,790	176	4	20	54				40	40				6	12	
6.5 Administrative Final RCAAP	$ 20,880	110	4	24	50	24									8	
6.6 Final RCAAP	$ 13,420	80	2	12	30				12	12				4	8	
Subtotal, Task 6	**$ 120,270**	**724**	19	76	215	40	0	0	152	152	0	0	0	18	52	0
PHASE 2: PUBLIC OUTREACH																
Task 1: Public Outreach	**Price**	**Hours**														
1.1 Social Media and Community Engagement Strategy	$ 8,080	49	1	4	12						30				2	
1.2 Online Platform	$ 16,610	104	2	6	24						60			8	4	
1.3 Community Outreach Meetings	$ 24,680	135	8	24	35						60			8		
1.4 Committee & Elected Officials Presentations	$ 24,325	109	20	35	50									4		
1.5 RCAAP Summary and Video	$ 18,080	122	2	8	24						24			60	4	
Subtotal, Task 1	**$ 91,775**	**519**	33	77	145	0	0	0	0	0	174	0	0	80	10	0
PHASE 3: COORDINATION																
Task 1: COORDINATION	**Price**	**Hours**														
1.1 Project Management and Coordination	$ 27,310	138	8	30	50	12	8		8	8	8					6
1.2 Climate Action Committee Coordination	$ 12,840	56	8	24	24											
1.3 Napa Valley Transportation Authority Coordination	$ 6,170	32	2	6	8	8				8						
Subtotal, Task 1	**$ 46,320**	**226**	18	60	82	20	8	0	8	16	8	0	0	0	0	6
PHASE 4: CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT																
Task 1: CEQA Approach Memo	**Price**	**Hours**														
CEQA Approach Memo	$ 21,080	102	4	12	2	8	16	20				24	12		4	
Subtotal, Task 1	**$ 21,080**	**102**	4	12	2	8	16	20	0	0	0	24	12	0	4	0
LABOR SUBTOTAL	**$ 380,115**	**2,182**	83	267	516	136	28	20	374	336	186	24	12	114	30	6
			$ 29,880	$ 73,425	$ 72,240	$ 26,520	$ 8,400	$ 3,900	$ 57,970	$ 47,040	$ 28,830	$ 3,600	$ 1,620	$ 14,250	$ 11,600	$ 840

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES	**$ 263,399**
Mileage/Parking/Travel	$ 2,000
Konveio 2-Year Subscription	$ 8,000
Translation/Interpretation Services	$ 5,000
Subconsultants	$ 248,399
Remy Moose Manley	$ 7,600
Napa County Resource Conservation District	$ 90,000
Economic & Planning Systems	$ 64,775
Jacobs	$ 74,395
Administrative Cost (5%)	$ 11,629
TOTAL PRICE	**$ 643,514**

ASSUMPTIONS

Assumptions that explain the basis of the proposed price are listed below and are an integral part of this proposed scope for work for services.

Travel for four (4) community outreach meetings, two (2) presentations to the Climate Action Committee, six (6) presentations to decision-making bodies.

Proposed Price Validity. The price proposed to carry out the scope of work is valid for 120 days from the date of submittal, after which it may be subject to revision.

Schedule. The price is based on the proposed schedule. If the schedule is protracted significantly (more than 60 days) for reasons beyond Ascent's control, a budget amendment may apply to the remaining work. Ascent will consult with Napa County about a course of action.

Price and Staff Allocation to Tasks. The proposed price has been allocated to tasks. Work has been assigned to the identified staff or labor category. Ascent may reallocate budget or staff among tasks, as needed, as long as the total contract price is not exceeded.

Subcontractor Administrative Cost. An administrative cost of 5 percent will be applied to subcontractor prices for purposes of contract execution and management, invoicing, and payment processing.

OPTIONAL TASKS

The following tasks are presented as optional services and are contingent upon authorization of the client.

	Price	Hours	Walters	de Kok	Stepanick	Horn	Brownlow	Babcock	Glen	Fenton	Montes	Khan	Hackett	Alling	Matter	
PHASE 1: REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION AND ADAPTATION PLAN																
Task 6: RCAAP Document Preparation	**Price**	**Hours**														
6.6 Consistency Review Checklists	$ 28,880	188	4	12	40					120					12	
Subtotal, Optional Task 2	**$ 28,880**	**188**	4	12	40	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	0	12	0
PHASE 2: PUBLIC OUTREACH																
Task 1: Public Outreach	**Price**	**Hours**														
1.6 Additional Meeting Support	$ 44,240	224	12	60	100	40								6	6	
Subtotal, Optional Task 1	**$ 44,240**	**224**	12	60	100	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0
LABOR SUBTOTAL (Optional Tasks)	**$ 73,120**	**412**	16	72	140	40	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	6	18	0
			$ 5,760	$ 19,800	$ 19,600	$ 7,800	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 16,800	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 750	$ 2,610	$ -

Project No: 20220110.00

Appendix A

Resumes

Honey Walters

PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 25

EDUCATION

MS, Atmospheric Science, University of California, Davis

BS, Environmental Science, Indiana State University

Honey Walters is a principal with Ascent's climate action and adaptation practice. She is an expert in the development of GHG emissions inventories, targets, and forecasts. She has 25 years of professional experience in the private and public sectors identifying climate action, adaptation, resilience, and CEQA compliance strategies. Honey has worked directly with state, regional, and local agencies, including CARB, CAPCOA, BAAQMD, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, and the Attorney General's Office on the development of GHG thresholds of significance, analytical methods, and reduction strategies for California.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

*Napa County Climate Action Plan and EIR

County of Napa — Principal-in-Charge

Ascent prepared a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the unincorporated area of Napa County. Honey served as principal-in-charge, overseeing the technical approach and senior reviewing all work to ensure quality.

Napa County Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update

County of Napa — Principal-in-Charge

Ascent conducted a regional GHG emissions inventory for Napa County, updating the inventory originally conducted and adding inventories covering St. Helena, Yountville, the City of Napa, American Canyon, and Calistoga. Honey served as principal-in-charge on the project.

Alameda County Community Climate Action Plan and Safety Element Update

County of Alameda — Principal-in-Charge

Ascent is assisting the County of Alameda to prepare an updated Community Climate Action Plan and Safety Element. Honey is serving as principal-in-charge, overseeing Ascent's work on the project.

Update to CEQA Guidelines for Air Quality, Community Risk, and GHG Thresholds

Bay Area Air Quality Management District — Principal-in-Charge

Ascent provided CEQA expertise to assist BAAQMD staff in updating the District's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines. These guidelines serve as a tool by which local jurisdictions will evaluate impact analysis methodologies, significance thresholds, and mitigation strategies. Honey served as principal-in-charge, overseeing Ascent's work on the project, updating the thresholds of significance, developing strategies consistent with CARB standards, and providing quality assurance and technical oversight of all products.

*Fremont Climate Action Plan Update, Alameda County

City of Fremont — Principal-in-Charge

Ascent worked with the City of Fremont in the development of the City's CAP 2.0, providing overall project management, GHG emissions forecasting, CAP 2.0 measure identification and prioritization, community engagement support, climate adaptation and resilience assessment, plan development, and CEQA streamlining. Honey served as principal-in-charge, overseeing Ascent's work on the project.

*Milpitas Climate Action Plan Update, Santa Clara County

City of Milpitas — Principal-in-Charge

Ascent supported the City of Milpitas in updating its Climate Action Plan to provide the City with a roadmap to achieve deep GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond, identifying measures that will enable the City to reduce emissions in line with the State of California's reduction goals and legislation. Honey served as principal-in-charge, overseeing Ascent's work developing the CAP update.

Erik de Kok, AICP

PROJECT DIRECTOR/MANAGER

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 28

EDUCATION

MS, Urban Planning, Hunter College, City University of New York

BA, Geography, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Erik de Kok, AICP, is Ascent's Director of Interdisciplinary Planning. He works across Ascent's practice areas and market sectors to offer holistic, innovative, and integrated approaches to address evolving and complex community and environmental challenges. He has prepared and implemented a variety of long-range planning projects and related programs, including climate action plans and sustainability plans; community and neighborhood plans; and comprehensive plans, general plans, and regional plans. He is also an experienced facilitator, having worked on several public outreach and collaborative policy campaigns. Erik is also experienced in the performance of technical analysis, environmental document preparation, and public outreach and involvement for project compliance under CEQA and NEPA.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

*Napa County Climate Action Plan and EIR

County of Napa — Project Manager

Ascent prepared a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the unincorporated area of Napa County. Erik led Ascent's work as project manager and lead planner for the CAP from 2015 to 2019.

*Sacramento County Climate Action Plan

County of Sacramento — Project Director

Ascent is supporting the County of Sacramento with preparation of a multiphase Climate Action Plan aligned with the County's adopted General Plan and Climate Emergency Resolution. The CAP includes communitywide and government operations GHG reduction strategies and measures. It also includes a vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies that will help the County develop the necessary elements to comply with the requirements of SB 379 in updating the County's Safety Element to address the anticipated impacts of climate change. Erik serves as the project director, overseeing all aspects of the project.

*Elk Grove Climate Action Plan Update

City of Elk Grove — Project Director

Ascent is assisting the City of Elk Grove with an update to its 2019 CAP, which will be known as Climate Compass. The updated plan will serve as a CEQA-qualified roadmap for reducing local GHG emissions across various sectors while building resilience to future impacts posed by climate change. Erik serves as the project director, overseeing all aspects of the project.

Fire-Adapted Communities Roadmap and Dashboard Project

Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force — Project Director

Ascent is leading the preparation of a statewide Fire-Adapted Communities Roadmap and Dashboard, in partnership with Resources Legacy Fund. The project will provide a strategic framework for fire-adapted and resilient communities that expands upon Goal 2 (Strengthen the Protection of Communities) in the 2021 Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan. Erik serves as the project director, overseeing all aspects of the project.

California Adaptation Planning Guide Update

Governor's Office of Planning and Research — Senior Advisor

As Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Erik collaborated with OPR's Climate Resilience team on a joint initiative with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to update the state's Adaptation Planning Guide (APG). The APG is a primary resource for local governments engaged in adaptation and resiliency planning in California.

John Steponick

ASSISTANT PROJECT MANAGER

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 5

EDUCATION

MS, Disaster Science and Management, University of Delaware, Newark

BS, Atmospheric Sciences, Minor in Environmental Science, The Ohio State University, Columbus

John Steponick is a climate adaptation analyst and project manager whose education, interests, expertise, and prior experiences lie at the intersection of climate change, disasters, environment, and society. He has a strong foundational understanding and direct working experience in the fields of disaster recovery, climate change communication, and climate change action and adaptation planning, and has worked at or with all three levels of government (e.g., local, state, federal), academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector. John is experienced in public outreach and community engagement, policy research and interpretation, synthesizing and translating complex information, and writing in an array of styles for different target audiences.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Alameda County Community Climate Action Plan and Safety Element Update

County of Alameda — Climate Adaptation Analyst

Ascent is assisting the County of Alameda to prepare an updated Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) and Safety Element. John is serving as a climate adaptation analyst and is responsible for developing the CCAP's climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation strategies.

*Monterey County Community Climate Action and Adaptation Plan

County of Monterey — Climate Adaptation Analyst

Ascent is assisting the County of Monterey with its effort to develop a CEQA-qualified Community Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CCAAP) for 2030 and update its Municipal Climate Action Plan. John serves as a climate adaptation analyst and is responsible for development of the CCAAP's climate change vulnerability assessment, adaptation strategies, and various CCAAP chapters, along with some public engagement/community outreach tasks.

*Elk Grove Climate Action Plan Update, Sacramento County

City of Elk Grove — Climate Adaptation Analyst

Ascent is assisting the City of Elk Grove with an update to its 2019 CAP, which will be known as Climate Compass. The updated plan will serve as a CEQA-qualified roadmap for reducing local GHG emissions across various sectors while building resilience to future impacts posed by climate change. John is the climate adaptation analyst on the project, supporting the development of adaptation and resilience strategies and community engagement activities.

*Rancho Cordova Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, Sacramento County

City of Rancho Cordova — Climate Adaptation Analyst

Ascent is helping the City of Rancho Cordova develop its first CAP, which seeks to reduce the city's contributions to climate change and help people and property adapt to the effects of climate change. John is serving as a climate adaptation analyst and is responsible for the development of various CAP chapters. He is also assisting with public workshops in the community.

Tuolumne County Climate Action Plan

County of Tuolumne — Climate Action Analyst

Ascent assisted Tuolumne County in developing its first Climate Action Plan to align with state GHG reduction targets for the year 2030. The CAP includes strategies for reducing GHG emissions from all sectors, and strategies to promote adaptation and resilience due to increased wildfire risk, flooding, extreme heat, and other effects. John served as a climate action analyst and worked on revisions to the final CAP.

Brenda Hom

SENIOR CLIMATE ACTION SPECIALIST

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 13

EDUCATION

MS, Transportation Technology and Policy, University of California, Davis

BS, Mechanical Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles

Brenda Hom is a senior climate action specialist with experience in climate action planning, sustainability planning, and air quality analyses. Her expertise includes point-, area-, and mobile-source air quality impact studies; GHG and criteria pollutant emissions inventories, forecasts, and reduction measures; energy, water, and waste analyses; GHG reduction plan development; lifecycle and transportation emissions modeling; air quality conformity analyses; air quality dispersion and health risk modeling; and sustainability planning for cities, counties, and transit agencies.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

*Napa County Climate Action Plan and EIR

County of Napa — Air Quality and Climate Change Specialist

Ascent prepared a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the unincorporated area of Napa County. The CAP addresses the effects of climate change and strategies to promote adaptation to sea-level rise, increased wildfire risk, effects of heat on local populations and agriculture, and other effects. Brenda was the technical lead on the development of the County's GHG inventory, forecasts, and targets and CAP reduction measures.

Napa County Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Update

County of Napa — Project Manager/Senior Climate Change Analyst

Ascent conducted a regional GHG emissions inventory for Napa County, updating the inventory originally conducted and adding inventories covering St. Helena, Yountville, the City of Napa, American Canyon, and Calistoga. Brenda served as project manager and senior climate change analyst on this project.

BAAQMD CEQA Guide Update

Bay Area Air Quality Management District — Senior Climate Change Analyst

Ascent provided CEQA expertise to assist BAAQMD staff in updating the District's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines. These guidelines serve as a tool by which local jurisdictions will evaluate impact analysis methodologies, significance thresholds, and mitigation strategies. Brenda served as technical lead for the update of the guidelines and the substantial evidence for the development of new thresholds.

*Fremont Climate Action Plan Update, Alameda County

City of Fremont — Senior Climate Change Analyst

Ascent is working with the City of Fremont in the development of the City's CAP 2.0, providing overall project management, GHG emissions forecasting, CAP 2.0 measure identification and prioritization, community engagement support, climate adaptation and resilience assessment, draft CAP 2.0 plan development, and CEQA streamlining. Brenda is serving as the senior climate change analyst and is providing senior technical reviews of the GHG inventory and reduction measure quantification.

*Milpitas Climate Action Plan Update, Santa Clara County

City of Milpitas — Senior Climate Change Analyst

Ascent supported the City of Milpitas in updating its Climate Action Plan to provide the City with a roadmap to achieve deep GHG reductions by 2030 and beyond, identifying measures that will enable the City to reduce emissions in line with the State of California's reduction goals and legislation. Brenda served as the senior climate change analyst and conducted senior technical reviews of the GHG inventory and reduction measure quantification.

*San Diego County Climate Action Plan

County of San Diego — Senior Climate Change Analyst

Brenda is the senior climate change analyst for San Diego County's Climate Action Plan update, which is an ambitious, visionary CAP that strives to meet a 2030 target to mitigate for the County's General Plan and a net zero emissions goal for 2035–2045. Brenda is providing the guiding technical framework and senior review for the community-wide and municipal GHG inventory and forecasts, carbon storage and sequestration evaluations, and GHG reduction measures.

Greta Brownlow, PhD

CEQA LEAD

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 27

EDUCATION

PhD, Education, University of California, Berkeley, Graduate School of Education

MA, Education, University of California, Berkeley, Graduate School of Education

Master of Urban and Regional Planning, University of California, Los Angeles

BA, Social Sciences, University of California, Berkeley

Greta Brownlow, PhD, brings 27 years of environmental planning experience, specializing in planning and environmental analysis, policy research and analysis, and community outreach. She is experienced in business development and project/staff management. Greta has prepared a wide variety of documents including environmental impact reports, environmental assessments, community involvement plans, mitigation plans, and general plans. She has assisted agencies, developers, and local communities in implementing development projects as a project manager, project director, and principal-in-charge. Greta also serves as adjunct faculty at San Jose State University, where she has taught Environmental Planning and Private Development & Urban Planning in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. She also has taught Environmental Impact Assessment in the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at California State University, East Bay.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

SELECTED PROJECT EXPERIENCE

*San Diego County Climate Action Plan SEIR

County of San Diego

Project Manager

The County adopted mitigation measures identified in the 2011 General Plan Update Program EIR that called for the preparation of a Climate Action Plan designed to reach specified GHG reduction targets from community and local government operations, modifications to the County's guidance on the evaluation of GHG impacts and determining a project's consistency with the CAP, and adoption of a GHG threshold to reduce GHG emissions. Greta serves as project manager for the SEIR, coordinating with the CAP team and the County team and providing strategic guidance to Ascent's internal team.

Maritime Academy Waterfront Master Plan EIR, Solano County

California State University

Project Manager

Cal Maritime is preparing a Waterfront Master Plan that will identify and incorporate projects into a comprehensive document to help guide investment. The Master Plan prioritizes improvements into phases spanning 10 years. Greta is managing preparation of the CEQA and NEPA documentation for the project, which involves facilitating coordination between Cal Maritime staff, the CSU Chancellor's Office, the US Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, and multiple technical consultants.

Village at Palisades Tahoe Specific Plan Revised EIR, Placer County

County of Placer

Senior Technical Support

The Village at Palisades Tahoe (formerly, Squaw Valley) Specific Plan project is located on approximately 94 acres within the 4,500-acre-plus Olympic Valley. The project is a mixed-use development that includes residential, commercial, and recreation uses as well as parking and other visitor amenities. Ascent is assisting the County in preparing a revised EIR. Greta prepared master responses to complex public and agency comments on the Draft EIR.

Academy of Art University EIR, San Francisco County

City and County of San Francisco

Project Manager

Greta was part of a collaborative team working to complete a Draft EIR for the City and County of San Francisco analyzing the impacts of the AAU's growth through 2017. The challenge for the EIR preparation was evaluating potential growth scenarios so that they are reflective of AAU's goal of using existing structures in the city rather than relying on new construction. Greta also managed preparation of the Response to Comments document for the EIR and managed preparation of the Final EIR.

Amy R. Lapin

Principal

Education

Master of Community and Regional Planning, University of Oregon

Bachelor of Arts in Economics Management and Psychology, Ohio Wesleyan University

Previous Employment

Research Assistant, Downtown Eugene, Inc., 2002

Senior Consultant, PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLC, 2000–2001

Consultant, Hewitt Associates, LLC, 1997–1999

Affiliations

American Planning Association (APA)

APA PLAN SacValley
2012–13 Mentor
2014–15 Mentor

Urban Land Institute (ULI)

California Forward, Infrastructure Action Team

Sacramento County Recreation and Parks Commissioner, 2013–2018

Sacramento Tree Foundation Board Member, 2019–present

Awards

Dean's Graduate Fellowship, School of Architecture & Allied Arts, University of Oregon, 2003

Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Community Planning Workshop, Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management, University of Oregon, 2002–2003

About

Amy R. Lapin is an urban economics consultant with expertise in creating viable land use and financial strategies for public- and private-sector clients. Since joining EPS in 2003, she has provided project management, technical analysis, and advisory services for numerous infill and master-planned community projects throughout California and the Pacific Northwest. Amy's experience includes projects related to public finance, fiscal and economic impact analysis, real estate market analysis and financial feasibility, economic development, and land use policy.

Selected Projects

Reclamation District 17/Mossdale Tract Area Urban Level of Flood Protection Financial Analyses

Based on the requirements of California SB 5, the Cities of Lathrop, Manteca, and Stockton, San Joaquin County, and RD 17 have been working toward providing 200-year flood protection for the portions of their jurisdictions in the RD 17 basin. As a subconsultant to Larson Wurzel & Associates, EPS prepared technical analyses supporting a multifaceted financing strategy to fund flood control improvements, encompassing a mix of public and private funding sources, including a new development impact fee, new annual flood control assessment, and tax increment financing through the formation of an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District.

Camp Fire Regional Economic Impact Analysis

EPS, in conjunction with Industrial Economics, Inc., was retained by 3CORE to provide the tri-county region of Butte, Glenn, and Tehama Counties with information regarding economic impacts and recovery in the wake of the 2018 Camp Fire. The EPS team conducted extensive stakeholder outreach to understand the regional economy immediately before and after the disaster. The EPS team estimated the fire's impacts on the region's population, economy, real estate markets, and municipal governments.

Sunset Area Plan Market Analysis, Fiscal Impact Analysis, and Financing Plan

In support of Placer County's planning efforts to re-envision and rebrand the Sunset Area, EPS prepared a market analysis to establish the economic context and market demand for future development. The analysis provided an overview of the dynamics in the South Placer market, explored the development potential in the Sunset Area from an economic perspective, and described strategies for maximizing successful development in the Sunset Area. EPS worked in close collaboration with Placer County to evaluate the net fiscal impacts of proposed new development to ensure sustainable fiscal outcomes for the County and other service providers. EPS also developed a programmatic public facilities financing plan to identify a range of financing sources available to fund backbone infrastructure needed to facilitate buildout of the plan area.

West Broadway Specific Plan Public Facilities Financing Plan

The West Broadway Specific Plan establishes a long-term vision and strategy for redeveloping and transforming the plan area, located in the Upper Land Park neighborhood. As a subconsultant to Ascent, EPS assisted the City of Sacramento in preparing a Public Facilities Financing Plan, establishing a strategy that will govern the financing of backbone infrastructure and public facilities to achieve specific plan objectives.

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916.649.8010 ▪ alapin@epssac.com ▪ www.epsys.com

EDUCATION/ QUALIFICATIONS

BSc, Chemical and Petroleum Refining Engineering, Colorado School of Mines

REGISTRATIONS/ CERTIFICATIONS

- Licensed Professional Engineer: CO, KS, NM, ND, WY

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

35

Douglas Huxley

Greenhouse Gas Management

Doug has more than 35 years of professional experience as a consulting environmental engineer and as an employee of three industrial chemical manufacturers.He is currently the technical leader of Jacob's services for greenhouse gas management and mitigation, with internationally recognized expertise in climate change consulting. Doug has extensive experience in quantification and reduction of carbon emissions in numerous types of industrial sectors, government and government agencies, major infrastructure projects, carbon capture utilization and storage options, and terrestrial carbon sequestration. Doug has specialized in climate change related services for more than 20 years. He has led numerous evaluations of carbonfootprints and mitigation plans, conducted carbon and environmental life-cycle analyses for infrastructure and industrial products, and authored and contributed to new carbon accounting guidance and carbon offset methodologies. He has also worked on thedevelopment/sale and purchase/use of carbon offsets and renewable energy credits and conducted climate vulnerability assessments and resiliency plansDoug was a technical working group member for two GHG Protocol standards and for The Climate Registry's Water-Energy-GHG guidance, andhe has authored multiple sector-specific GHG accounting guidance documents for the USEnvironmental Protection Agency's former Climate Leaders program.

Relevant Project Experience

- **Blue Carbon Project Assessment** | *United Kingdom*

Client: UK Environment Agency| Title: Senior Technical Consultant

Description: Doug is the senior technical consultant on the Jacobs project forthe UK Environment Agency (EA) to explore and develop the potential for blue carbon projects in the UK. This involves screening of existing coastal wetland carbon offset methodologies from the voluntary Verified Carbon Standard and American Carbon Registry programs, and existing UK Woodland and Peatland codes, and advising EA regarding the additional work needed to create and claim coastal wetland offsets from UK projects.

- **Net Zero Emissions Project Funding Program** | *Australia*

Client: New South Wales Department of Planning, Industry & Environment (NSW DPIE)Title: Technical Representative

Description: Doug served as the technical representative on an independent panel of expert advisors for its time-critical Net Zero Emissions Project funding program. The program provides cofunding of capital costs of projects that abate high-GWP GHG emissions from industrial sources in New South Wales Doug led the technical review of thefirst corporate application, providing fast advice regarding the feasibility and cost-benefit of the proposed project while helping establish guidelines and processes for reviews offuture applications.

- GHG reduction cost-benefit analysis | *Brazil*

Client: Usina Presidente Vargas integrated steel mill| Title: Expert Advisor

Description: For the Usina PresidenteVargas integrated steel mill in Brazil, Doug led a project to validate existing GHG emission inventories and rank GHG reduction opportunities according to technical feasibility and cost-benefit analysis. Reduction options include possible modifications to the iron, steel, and ancillary manufacturing processes, as well as energy efficiency improvements and material reuse options. On-site work included workshops with engineering, management, and operations staff from the mill. The potential eligibility of certain reduction options as Clean Development Mechanism carbon offset projects was reviewed as a potential means of funding. Doug also led an air emissions compliance review including assessment of efficiency of existing control devices for criteria and toxic air pollutants.

Frances Knapczyk, PhD

Program Director, Napa County Resource Conservation District
Frances@NapaRCD.org, (707) 690-3124

Education:

- PhD, Plant Biology and Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Behavior, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- BA, Biology, BS, Geology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Work Experience:

Program Director, Napa County Resource Conservation District, 2018–Present
Lead development and integration of Community Engagement Program elements, manage fund development, staffing, budgets, and timelines related to 10+ grants and contracts related to program. Project management for the Sulphur Creek Fish Passage Design project. Lead outreach, marketing, and public relations. Facilitate and collaborate in regional and local partner working groups related to shared initiatives and goals. Assist executive director in developing annual and long-range plans and reports, annual budgets, workload allocations, board meeting agendas, contract negotiation and development. Assist in recruitment, hiring, and mentoring of new staff. Manage three staff, including workload and performance reviews. Report to Board of Directors about program and project progress. Support fund development.

Conservation Project Manager, Napa County Resource Conservation District, 2015–2018
Lead development and integration of LandSmart program elements, manage fund development, staffing, budgets, and timelines related to 10+ grants and contracts related to LandSmart. Manage outreach, marketing, and public relations; develop and grow social media campaigns; present work to partners and at conferences. Facilitate and attend regional and local partner working groups related to shared initiatives and goals. Assist executive director in developing annual and long-range plans and reports, annual budgets, workload allocations, board meeting agendas, contract negotiation and development. Assist in recruitment, hiring, and mentoring of new staff. Manage two staff, including workload and performance reviews. Report to Board of Directors about program and project progress. Support fund development.

Education Program Manager and Stewardship Facilitator, Napa County Resource Conservation District, 2007–2015
Developed, created, and distributed outreach materials, including brochures, presentations, and websites. Developed, promoted, and facilitated public events and youth programs, including Watershed Symposia, film events, and field trips. Managed implementation of $450,000 road improvement project. Facilitated meetings and events for Napa Sustainable Winegrowing Group. Developed and managed volunteers and interns. Managed grants and contracts, including deliverables, budgets, timelines, contractors, and reporting. Collaborated with staff to develop grant proposals.

RMM

REMY | MOOSE | MANLEY

LLP

NATHAN O. GEORGE
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Telephone: (916) 443-2745 • Facsimile: (916) 443-9017
E-mail: ngeorge@rmmenvirolaw.com
www.rmmenvirolaw.com

Nathan O. George is a partner at the Sacramento-based law firm of Remy Moose Manley, LLP, which focuses in the practice areas of environmental law, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, land use and planning, water law, initiatives and referenda, and administrative law. He joined the firm in 2016 as an associate. Mr. George teaches CEQA courses and seminars or lectures for such organizations as the Association of Environmental Professionals, CLE International, and the California Continuing Education of the Bar program. Mr. George has been selected for inclusion in the Rising Stars section of the 2020–2023 Northern California Super Lawyers® magazine.

EDUCATION/WORK EXPERIENCE

Mr. George obtained his law degree in 2014 from the University of California, Davis, School of Law (King Hall). During law school, he served as a board member for the Journal of International Law and Policy, and as a board member for the Environmental Council of Sacramento. Mr. George graduated with both the Environmental Law and Public Service Certificates.

Prior to joining Remy Moose Manley, LLP, Mr. George worked as an associate at David Allen & Associates, with a focus on civil litigation. He also clerked for the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Air Resources Board, the California Attorney General's Office in the Land Law, Environment, and Natural Resources sections, and the Placer County District Attorney's Office, in the Public Integrity Unit.

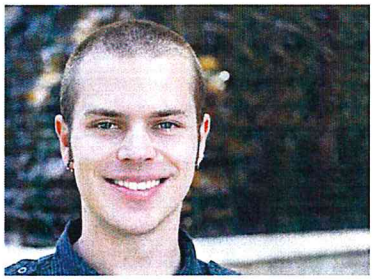
REPRESENTATIVE PAST AND PRESENT CLIENTS

Public Agencies: City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles World Airports, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, City of Weed, County of Colusa, County of San Joaquin, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Western Riverside Council of Governments, California Department of Water Resources, Town of Loomis

Private Entities: Inteplast Group, Ltd.; Californians Against Waste; Sandridge Partners, LP; G.I. Industries dba Waste Management; Sierra Pacific Industries; Rancho Cañada Venture, LLC; Arelac, Inc. dba Fortera; Palisades Tahoe; Yorba Linda Estates, LLC

SELECTED REPORTED CASES

- *Westsiders Opposed to Overdevelopment v. City of Los Angeles et al.* (2018) 27 Cal.App.5th 1079
- *Martis Camp Community Association v. County of Placer* (2020) 53 Cal.App.5th 569
- *League to Save Lake Tahoe Mountain etc. v. County of Placer* (2022) 75 Cal.App.5th 63



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 13

EDUCATION

BA, Communication, Saint Mary's College of California

Corey Alling

GRAPHICS SPECIALIST

Corey Alling is a graphic designer and communications specialist with extensive experience in the environmental and urban design fields. He conducts data and information investigations related to climate action plans, renewable energy and transmission projects, environmental impact assessment, habitat conservation planning, outdoor recreation, and related topics. He also assists with internet applications for public outreach, such as creating and designing email newsletters and preparing public meeting materials.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*)

WORK SAMPLES

- *Napa County Climate Action Plan and EIR (Graphic Designer)
- Alameda County Climate Action Plan (Graphic Designer)
- *Sacramento County Climate Action Plan (Graphic Designer)
- *San Diego County Climate Action Plan and EIR (Graphic Designer)
- *San Marcos Climate Action Plan Update (Graphic Designer)
- Carmel Area State Park General Plan and EIR (Graphic Designer)

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 17

EDUCATION

BA, Environmental Studies (with concentration in economics), California State University, Sacramento

Jessica Babcock

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

Jessica Babcock is a senior environmental planner and project manager specializing in CEQA and NEPA compliance for a wide variety of projects in jurisdictions throughout California. Her recent experience includes guiding the CEQA compliance of several land use and planning projects, including general plan updates and large community plan projects, sphere of influence updates, and annexations. Her broad experience also includes projects focused on transportation facilities, renewable energy and transmission, water supply, wastewater, flood control, and other public works efforts.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

WORK SAMPLES

- *San Diego County Climate Action Plan SEIR (Assistant Project Manager)
- *Sacramento County Climate Action Plan Addendum (Project Manager/ Environmental Planner)
- *Milpitas Climate Action Plan Addendum (CEQA Project Manager)
- Tuolumne County General Plan Update EIR (Assistant Project Manager)
- Ventura County General Plan Update and EIR (Assistant Project Manager)
- *Truckee General Plan EIR (CEQA Project Manager)

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 2

EDUCATION

MAS, Climate Science and Policy, University of California, San Diego

Teaching Credential, Multiple Subject, San Diego State University

BA, Human Development, University of California, San Diego

Lisa Fenton

CLIMATE ACTION ANALYST

Lisa Fenton holds a master's degree in climate science and policy from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Her graduate research addressed important contemporary issues in climate planning, including equity considerations for building decarbonization policy. Her work served to provide awareness of the interconnectedness of issues in climate, housing, and health and promote collaboration in creating holistic, equity-centered policies and programs—ones that not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions but address the critical issues and opportunities at these intersections. In addition, she is versed in sustainable development, environmental economics, and foundations of the energy system. Lisa is also an experienced educator and is passionate about effectively communicating with the public regarding climate change and its impacts.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

WORK SAMPLES

- *Elk Grove Climate Action Plan Update (Climate Action Analyst)
- Alameda County Community Climate Action Plan (Climate Action Analyst)
- *Bakersfield Climate Action Plan (Climate Action Analyst)
- San Diego Climate Action Implementation Plan (Climate Action Analyst)
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Climate Action Analyst)

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 2

EDUCATION

BS, Environmental Management and Protection (minor: City and Regional Planning), California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Cole Hackett

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

Cole Hackett specializes in CEQA planning and environmental review for university development, general plan updates, and climate action plans, and working with governments at the city, county, and state levels. He has also gained experience across Ascent's practices through contributions in analyzing public feedback with the Climate Action and Adaptation Planning Practice.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

WORK SAMPLES

- *Monterey County Community Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Environmental Planner)
- *Rancho Cordova Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Environmental Planner)
- *Bakersfield Climate Action Plan (Environmental Planner)

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 8

EDUCATION

BA, Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara

Reida Khan

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

Reida Khan is an environmental planner with over 8 years of industry experience. She is well versed in preparing a variety of environmental documents, including various IS/MNDs, EIRs, and categorical exemptions in compliance with CEQA. Reida has experience in providing project management assistance and conducting thorough QA/QC reviews. She has successfully guided clients through the CEQA process for large and small projects throughout the state, with a concentration in Northern California and the Bay Area. Her diverse project experience includes vegetation treatment projects, industrial development, restoration, recreation, and open space projects. Some of these projects involved intense public controversy.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

WORK SAMPLES

- *Bakersfield Climate Action Plan IS/ND (Assistant Project Manager/ Environmental Planner)
- North Coast Land Holdings Community Plan Amendment EIR (Environmental Planner)
- Riverbank Regional Recycled Water Project IS/MND (Environmental Planner)

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 18

EDUCATION

Heald Business College, Rancho Cordova

Michele Mattei

WORD PROCESSING/508 COMPLIANCE

Michele Mattei is a highly skilled document production and publishing specialist with 18 years of experience. She is proficient in coordinating simultaneous projects and meeting deadlines, conformance with quality assurance practices, and the use or creation of custom and standardized style guides. Michele's publishing expertise on large federal, state, and local agency regulatory compliance documents includes CEQA/NEPA technical documents such as EIRs, EISs, and IS/MNDs, master plans, specific plans, and resource management plans. She is also proficient in document standards and requirements for BAs/BREs, NOPs, NOAs, and Caltrans-specific documents, including ensuring 508 compliance.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

WORK SAMPLES

- Napa County Regional GHG Emissions and Inventory Update (Document Production Specialist)
- *Bakersfield Climate Action Plan (Document Production Specialist)
- Alameda County Community Climate Action Plan and Safety Element Update (Document Production Specialist)
- *Rancho Cordova Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Document Production Specialist)

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 6

EDUCATION

MS, Environmental Management, University of San Francisco

BS, Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning (minor in Spanish), University of California, Davis

Luis Montes

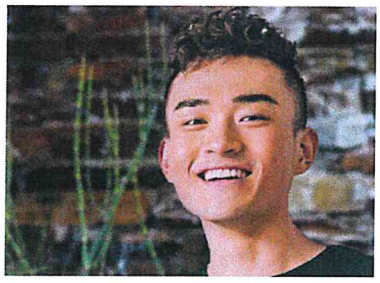
OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Luis Montes is a dedicated and enthusiastic professional specializing in public engagement. With his master's degree from the University of San Francisco and background in local government, he brings a strong academic foundation in environmental studies and a deep passion for community outreach and education. Luis is skilled in public speaking and delivering oral presentations and effective at drafting blog posts, talking points, presentations, letters of recommendation, briefings, and white papers. Driven by a commitment to environmental stewardship and public safety, he is eager to apply his knowledge and skills to develop effective wildfire vegetation management plans that prioritize public engagement. He recognizes the crucial role that community involvement plays in creating sustainable and resilient landscapes, and he strives to empower individuals to take an active role in mitigating wildfire risks.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

WORK SAMPLES

- Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, Natural and Working Lands Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Study (Climate Action Planner)
- *Elk Grove Climate Action Plan Update (Assistant Project Manager)
- Fire-Adapted Communities Roadmap and Dashboard Project (Climate Action Planner)
- NV Energy Supplemental Community Outreach Plan (Community Outreach Specialist)



YEARS OF EXPERIENCE 10

EDUCATION

MS, Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara

BA, Management of Public Administration, Renmin University of China

Adam Qian

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNER

Adam Qian is an environmental professional with more than 10 years of combined experience in various environmental sciences, climate adaptation and hazard mitigation planning, environmental planning management, GIS and spatial analysis, and related fields, including 5 years of project management experience. He has technical proficiency in data organization and analysis, GIS management, and spatial mapping and analysis.

CEQA-qualified climate action plans are marked with an asterisk (*).

WORK SAMPLES

- Alameda County Community Climate Action Plan and Safety Element Update (Climate Adaptation Planner)
- *Sacramento County Climate Action Plan (Climate Adaptation Planner)
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (Climate Adaptation Planner)

Appendix B

Acknowledgement of Addenda

Addendum No. 1 – General Corrections
September 27, 2023

Napa County RFP - Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Consultant
RFP No. PBES092301

1. As a universal amendment, all references in the Request for Proposals to "greenhouse gas emissions" and/or "GHG emissions" are assumed to include all climate pollutants such as black carbon and other non-gas contaminants.

2. The third paragraph of Section A is hereby replaced in its entirety:

> In addition, the RCAAP shall incorporate the results of the Napa County Regional 2019 Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which updated the inventory included in the 2009 Napa Countywide Community Climate Action Framework published by the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency. Note that in all references in this RFP to the inventory, that it includes two supplemental memos: (1) Napa County Regional 2019 Greenhouse Gas Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Inventory Summary; and (2) Regional Carbon Stock Inventory Report for Napa County.

3. The third paragraph of Section A, Sub-section 2 is hereby replaced in its entirety:

> Beginning in the summer of 2021, the cities, town, and county all adopted Resolutions or Proclamations declaring a Climate Emergency, as follows:
> - Calistoga: August 3, 2021
> - American Canyon: February 1, 2022
> - Yountville: March 15, 2022
> - City of Napa: April 5, 2022
> - St. Helena: April 12, 2022
> - County of Napa: June 7, 2022

4. The fourth paragraph of Section A, Sub-section 3, Sub-subsection (f) is hereby replaced in its entirety:

> **City of Napa**
> Adopted a Sustainability Plan in 2012. The Plan covers both municipal operations and the community, is voluntary, and projected out until 2020. The 2040 General Plan incorporates a Climate Change and Sustainability Element, including Policy CCS 1-1 which seeks to achieve net zero climate pollutants from public and private operations within the City by 2030. The Climate Element builds upon the voluntary measures in the 2012 Sustainability Plan.

5. The tenth paragraph of Section A, Sub-section 3, Sub-subsection (f) is hereby replaced in its entirety:

> In addition, all six jurisdictions have adopted resolutions declaring a climate emergency, as follows:
> - City of Calistoga adopted Resolution No. 2021-63 on August 3, 2021, which set a goal of net zero climate pollution by or before 2030.

- City of American Canyon adopted Resolution No. 2022-07 on February 1, 2022, which set a goal of net zero climate pollution by or before 2030.
- Town of Yountville adopted a Proclamation on March 15, 2022, which committed to a goal of net zero climate pollution by or before 2030.
- City of Napa adopted Resolution No. 2022-030 on April 5, 2022, which set a goal of net zero climate pollutants by 2030.
- City of St. Helena adopted Resolution No. 2022-26 on April 12, 2022, which set a goal of net zero climate pollution by 2030.
- County of Napa adopted Resolution No. 2022-79 on June 7, 2022, which set a goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions with a reach target of 2030.

6. The first paragraph of Attachment A, Section 1 is hereby replaced in its entirety:

The purpose of the RCAAP is to prepare a comprehensive plan for the Cities of American Canyon, Calistoga, Napa, and St. Helena, the Town of Yountville, and the County of Napa to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality (net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) by the year 2030. In addition, given the potential barriers and challenges to achieving this goal, proposals will also include a comprehensive plan that achieves net zero GHG emissions as soon as possible after 2030, or by 2045 at the latest. The RCAAP should recognize the different opportunities and constraints within each jurisdiction in developing the path and actions necessary to achieve carbon neutrality and climate adaptation, while working as an integrated plan for the entire Napa County region. Each of the following sectors shall be evaluated for potential action measures that contribute to individual jurisdiction and overall carbon neutrality: on-road transportation, building energy, solid waste, off-road vehicles, agriculture, waste water treatment, and imported water. Analysis shall be consistent with the most current methodology and analysis used by the CARB. Each action shall be accompanied by quantifiable and measurable projected reductions in GHG emissions and/or increases in carbon sequestration, as well as reduction in risk due to climate adaptation strategies, within a timeline and framework to show how and when each individual jurisdiction and the region as a whole will achieve carbon neutrality and climate resilience. Where feasible, each action will also be provided with an estimate of the cost to families, businesses, and/or municipalities, as well as an estimate of the amount of staff hours needed to implement the measure, and how any technology gaps are anticipated to be overcome.

7. The first paragraph and table of Section C are hereby replaced in its entirety:

The tentative schedule of events for this RFP and the contract work is shown below. These dates may be changed at the discretion of Napa County. Changes to the due date for questions or due date for proposal submittal will be made by written addendum.

September 15, 2023	Request for Proposal released
Monday, October 2, 2023	Questions due by 5:00 PM PDT
Monday, October 16, 2023	Responses to questions will be published
Friday, October 27, 2023	Proposals due by 4:00 PM PDT
October-November, 2023	County review
November 2023	Interviews at discretion of County
November-December 2023	Negotiations and Contract Development
December 11, 2023	Intent to Award Notifications sent out
December 19, 2023	Contract approval and contract start date

8. The second paragraph of Attachment A, Section 1 is hereby replaced in its entirety:

During preparation of the RCAAP, the selected consultant will review the 2019 regional GHG inventory, the existing climate action plans for each jurisdiction, and applicable state and district requirements. The consultant will also meet with staff from each jurisdiction and local agencies to discuss current and anticipated GHG reduction programs, as well as review options for potential action measures to achieve carbon neutrality. The consultant will sub-contract with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) to reach stakeholders and to develop resources to inform and engage the public, actively solicit comments. The consultant will be available for presentations to City and Town Councils, Board of Supervisors, the Climate Action Committee, and/or related groups as needed. Following their review, consultation, analysis, and outreach, the consultant will provide recommendations to the Climate Action Committee regarding quantifiable actions for each jurisdiction and the region to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality (net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) by 2030, including a comprehensive plan that achieves net zero GHG emissions as soon as possible after 2030 or by 2045 at the latest, as well as climate resiliency. Concurrent with the preparation of the draft recommendations, the consultant will also prepare a draft document to ensure compliance of the RCAAP with the CEQA. The final draft RCAAP and accompanying CEQA document will be presented to the Climate Action Committee for recommendation, as well as the respective jurisdictional legislative bodies for decision.

THIS ADDENDUM MUST BE SIGNED AS ACKNOWLEDGED AND SUBMITTED WITH RESPONSE.

Acknowledged _____ Date October 27, 2023

Addendum No. 2 – Questions and Answers
October 16, 2023

Napa County RFP – Regional Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Consultant
RFP No. PBES092301

Q1. Can you share the available project budget? This will help us in appropriately scoping the workplan.

A. No, a budget has not been developed for this project. The County has an appropriation of $500,000 dedicated to this effort, but the member jurisdictions are interested in the highest level of quality that can reasonably be achieved in preparing the RCAAP and accompanying CEQA document.

Q2. Is the County open to receiving electronic proposals? We are attempting to reduce our environmental impact as much as possible, including by reducing printing and paper use.

A. No, we are not able to receive electronic submissions of proposals. State law requires that the County have a mechanism for an automatic reply with time stamp as to when the electronic proposal is received and Napa County does not currently have that ability. In addition, our network does not allow the electronic transmission of files over 15-20 MB. Proposals must be submitted to our offices in hard copy format by the deadline.

Q3. Can you clarify the proposal deadline? The RFP cover states October 27th, while other mentions state October 20th.

A. Yes, please refer to Addendum No. 1, dated September 27, 2023, which states that proposals are due by 4:00 PM, PDT, on Friday, October 27, 2023.

Q4. Client references are requested in both the Qualifications and References Sections (p 17-18 of the RFP), can these be the same references?

A. Yes, they may be the same references or they may be different references, at the proposing firm's option.

Q5. Page 13 notes the project start-up date as December 2023, while page 25 notes the start date as January, 2023. Could you clarify the anticipated start date for the work?

A. Yes, we anticipate taking the contract for this project to the Board of Supervisors for approval no later than December 19, 2023. Although it is possible that work may begin immediately, given the holidays, we expect that substantive work will begin starting January 2, 2024.

Q6. RFP No. PBES092301 lists the due date for submittals as October 27th, 2023, on the cover but October 20th, 2023 within the body and on the Napa County website. Can the County please clarify and confirm which is the correct due date for submittal of qualifications.

A. Yes, please refer to Addendum No. 1, dated September 27, 2023, which states that proposals are due by 4:00 PM, PDT, on Friday, October 27, 2023.

Q7. Can you please tell us about the funding source for this project? Is it funded through a grant, or by the County, or from another source?

A. Yes, the primary source of funding for the RCAAP will come from a state budget appropriation obtained for the member jurisdictions from Senator Bill Dodd. Additional funds, as needed, will be provided by the member jurisdictions through the Napa Countywide Climate Action Program Joint Powers Agreement.

Q8. Can you consider eliminating the requirement of receipt of proposals in hard copy format? It is our opinion that this requirement conflicts with the project goal of reducing carbon emissions, both through the production of paper, and the emissions associated with shipping or delivering the proposals to Napa, for those who are not local.

A. No, we are not able to receive electronic submissions of proposals. State law requires that the County have a mechanism for an automatic reply with time stamp as to when the electronic proposal is received and Napa County does not currently have that ability. In addition, our network does not allow the electronic transmission of files over 15-20 MB. Proposals must be submitted to our offices in hard copy format by the deadline.

Q9. RFP Section I, subsection 9, refers to an addendum acknowledgment form and states "(See Section K)." However, Section K pertains to the award. Is a County-specific form required for acknowledgment of addenda? If so, how/where can we obtain the form? Does the form count toward the page limit? Can it be attached as an appendix?

A. There is a place to acknowledge these Questions and Answers at the bottom of this document. There is a similar place to acknowledge Supplement No. 1, published on September 27, 2023. Both documents need to be signed and included in the appendix to the submittal. The two acknowledgements will not count towards the total page limit.

Q10. RFP Attachment A, Item 1, 2nd paragraph, on page 22, states "The consultant will sub-contract with the Napa County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD) to reach stakeholders and to develop resources to inform and engage the public, actively solicit comments." Will you provide the Scope and Cost for NCRCD so we know what to exclude in our submittal?

A. No, each proposer needs to contact NCRCD directly to discuss the scope and cost of their work as a part of their submittal.

Q11. Do the RFP criteria (10-page limit) only include the Cover Page, Company Information, Experience, Qualifications, References, Disclosures, Insurance Requirements, and Contract Acceptance, with the remaining 20 pages to include the Approach and Pricing Information?

A. The 10-page limit does not include the Cover Page. Responses to all other RFP criteria are required to be addressed within the 10-page limit. As indicated on Page 14 of the RFP, each response submitted shall include a cover letter plus a maximum of ten (10) pages to address the RFP criteria, excluding resumes.

Q12. Please clarify whether resumes, included in an appendix, do not count toward the 30-page limit.

A. The entire submittal, including resumes and appendix shall not exceed 30 pages. As indicated on Page 14 of the RFP, each response submitted shall include a cover letter plus a maximum of ten (10) pages to address the RFP criteria, excluding resumes. Resumes for key team members shall be limited to two pages each, and should be attached as an appendix to the RFP. Total submittal should not exceed thirty (30) pages.

Q13. Do you want the list of our current and past CAPs and CEQA documents to be limited to projects in the last 2 years?

A. The references included in each submittal are at the sole discretion of the proposing consultant.

Q14. Since the schedule of events (RFP Section C) indicates questions will be answered on October 16 (4 days before the due date) and physical copies will need to be shipped, will the County extend the due date by 2 weeks to ensure proposers can adequately address the responses to the questions?

A. No, please refer to Addendum No. 1, dated September 27, 2023, which states that proposals are due by 4:00 PM, PDT, on Friday, October 27, 2023.

Q15. If an extension is not available per the question above, can the County respond to questions as they are received?

A. No, as indicated in the RFP, responses to questions will be posted on Monday, October 16, 2023.

This Addendum must be signed as acknowledged and submitted with proposal.

Acknowledged _____ Date October 27, 2023

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