

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission

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TO: Commissioners and Alternates

FROM: Lawrence J. Goldzband, Executive Director (415/352-3653; larry.goldzband@bcdc.ca.gov)
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SUBJECT: Staff Report and Recommendation on a Contract with Resources Legacy Fund for Environmental Justice Advisors
(For Commission consideration on January 19, 2023)

Summary and Recommendations

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize its Executive Director to enter into a contract of up to \$180,000 with the Resources Legacy Fund to administer stipends to BCDC's EJ Advisors, pending approval from the Department of General Services. The Resources Legacy Fund will receive funds granted to BCDC from the State Coastal Conservancy and pass it through to the EJ Advisors as payment for their services. The staff further recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract as necessary, including revising the amount or duration of the agreement, so long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes in scope or exceed 10% of the total amount of the contract.

Staff Report

Background

In fall 2019, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission amended the San Francisco Bay Plan to address Environmental Justice and Social Equity, following a multi-year planning and outreach effort. Immediately thereafter, BCDC hired its first Environmental Justice Manager, and, in 2021, launched an Environmental Justice (EJ) Advisors program to help the agency implement its Environmental Justice and Social Equity policies. Through a competitive selection process, 6 individuals from frontline communities around the Bay were selected to serve as advisors. BCDC strives to develop and nurture long-term relationships with leaders of communities serving socially vulnerable, underrepresented, and EJ populations within the nine-county Bay Area to ensure their unique perspectives shape its programs and activities. The Environmental Justice Advisors helps BCDC advance these goals by providing independent analyses, recommendations, and other input.

The Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) currently provides funding for stipends for the EJ Advisors. RLF is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that partners with leaders in philanthropy, communities, government, science, and business to promote smart policies and secure equitable public funding for the environment, climate change resilience, and healthy communities. RLF has supported the EJ Advisors by funding \$6,000 annual stipends for 6 EJ advisor in 2021 and 5 in 2022. They will fund 3 annual stipends in 2023.



Simultaneously, since 2020, BCDC has led a regional initiative called Bay Adapt to enable the region to adapt faster, better, and more equitably to a rising San Francisco Bay. The Bay Adapt Joint Platform is a blueprint for regional action and has been endorsed by over 50 cities, counties, non-profit organizations, and other leaders. BCDC was recently awarded a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to support the implementation of Bay Adapt. This grant includes funding to support and expand the EJ Advisor program and its role in Bay Adapt implementation, including developing a Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan.

BCDC seeks RLF's continued support to provide fiscal sponsorship for the EJ Advisors. RLF will be responsible for administering the funds and distributing them to the EJ Advisors, consistent with their own fund administration procedures. Each advisor would be compensated at a rate of approximately \$125/hour for 80 hours per year, which equates to \$10,000 per year baseline pay, received as two grants. Additional funding will also support advisors to be members of the Bay Adapt Implementation Committee and the Regional Shoreline Plan Advisory Group, as well as to host local community events.

RLF's mission is aligned with this work, RLF staff has established a relationship with the EJ Advisors, and RLF has committed to matching fund contributions. This partnership will advance State policy, including the Executive Order N-16-22 on embedding equity into California government, as well as BCDC's Strategic Plan and forthcoming Racial Equity Action Plan.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to: (1) execute a contract with Resources Legacy Fund of up to \$180,000; and (2) allow the Executive Director to amend the contract as long as the amendment does not involve substantial changes in scope or exceed 10% of the total amount of the contract.