

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



ABAG

Date: September 9, 2015

To: ABAG Executive Board

From: Miriam Chion
Planning and Research Director

Subject: **Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with Urban Resilience Strategies**

Executive Summary

The recommended action is one of three related actions before the Executive Board as three separate agenda items at this time, relating to accepting grant funding from Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors (Rockefeller) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to further ABAG's regional resilience program, and authorizing engagement of Urban Resilience Strategies as a consultant to assist with this work. Creating a sustainable region requires mitigation planning to reduce the impacts of future earthquakes and other natural hazards, and recovery planning to rebuild quickly after the disaster. ABAG's Resilience Program has emerged as a national leader among Councils of Governments, securing six grants totaling \$1,023,308 in the last three years, and most recently new grants from Rockefeller for \$300,000 and from FEMA for \$1,370,000.

The scope of work funded by the two new grants includes analyzing and disseminating best practices; serving as a regional coordination hub; assisting with the development of resilience plans, initiatives, financing mechanisms, and innovative policies—all especially as related to residential soft story building safety, energy assurance planning, finance incentives for housing safety, and assessing regional lifeline systems' vulnerability. The two grants are complementary. The focus of the Rockefeller grant is to assure information exchange among the three cities that are part of Rockefeller's international 100 Resilient Cities (RC100) initiative, and linkage between the RC100 cities (San Francisco, Oakland, Alameda) and the rest of the region. The FEMA grant provides resources to regionalize the effort.

We request authorization of the Executive Board to engage a consultant, Urban Resilience Strategies, to assist with the project as described above. Urban Resilience Strategies will be funded by and will focus upon activities that are directly associated with the Rockefeller grant, most of which also indirectly serve the complementary FEMA grant. Urban Resilience Strategies is uniquely qualified to perform these services, and these services are essential to the continuation and advancement of one of ABAG's most publically visible programs. The recommended agreement would be in the amount of \$260,000 for the two-year period from July 2015 through June 2017 to coincide with the Rockefeller grant. A detailed scope of work is

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currently under development. An agreement will be brought to the Executive Board for ratification at the Board's regular meeting in November, 2015.

Recommended Action

The Executive Board is requested to authorize the Executive Director or designee, to execute an agreement with Urban Resilience Strategies in an amount not to exceed \$260,000 over a two-year period to assist with implementation of the workplan for the Rockefeller grant and to provide related programmatic and technical support to the Resilience Program.