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DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Road Commissioner
County Engineer, RCE 42001
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FUNCTIONS

Administration & Business Services
Airports
Engineering
Land Improvement
Roads and Bridges
Solid Waste & Landfills
Water Agency

**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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November 9, 2021

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION APPROVING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT NUMBER 210054, PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GEI CONSULTANTS, INC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$306,808, FOR THE TERM STARTING UPON EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2022, FOR THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF A STAND-ALONE MENDOCINO COUNTY WATER AGENCY (COUNTYWIDE)

Honorable Board Members:

The Mendocino County Water Agency (MCWA) is a special district governed by the Board of Supervisors, sitting as the Board of Directors. The special district was originally established by an act of the State Legislature in 1949, under the name of the Mendocino County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, to provide a mechanism for local participation in the construction of Coyote Dam on the East Fork of the Russian River. District revenue is generated from a tax that was established in 1971, which does not exceed \$0.06 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Additional funding has historically included revenue from various grants.

The County Department of Public Works administered the district until 1987 and provided civil engineering, maintenance and hydrologic consulting and services to water districts throughout the County. In 1987, State legislation amended the original act and created the Mendocino County Water Agency, an organization autonomous of other County departments. The MCWA adopted an independent identity between 1987 and 2011. Other activities during that phase of the agency included implementation of water quality and watershed assessment studies and sediment reduction and fishery enhancement projects with grant funds. In 2011, the MCWA was again integrated into an existing department, Planning and Building Services (PBS).

The administration of the MCWA remained with PBS until 2015, when it was transferred to the Executive Office. Also in 2015, an Action Plan was commissioned by the Board of Supervisors and the tasks developed from that plan have remained the primary focus of the MCWA since that time. In January 2021, administration of the MCWA was assumed by the Department of Transportation.

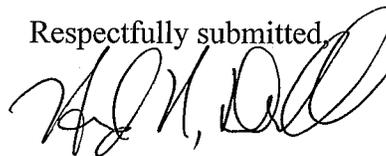
On June 8, 2021, with the County facing its third drought in 10 years, the Board directed the Executive Office to proceed with re-establishing the Mendocino County Water Agency as a stand-alone agency, use a loan from Disaster Recovery Funds to complete a work plan for the Agency, determine staffing resources necessary to address the Water Agency's critical responsibilities, including health and safety issues related to the drought and other key tasks, pursue interim staffing capacity as necessary for interim enhanced operations, and prioritize completion of a competitive process to identify contract assistance for this effort.

In response to the Board's direction, Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a consultant to assist the County in developing a work plan and updated action plan to address current and projected County water concerns, including re-establishment of a stand-alone Mendocino County Water Agency. After a review of the proposals received, GEI Consultants, Inc., of Rancho Cordova, California, was determined to be the best qualified firm to perform the desired services. DOT Agreement No. 210054 provides for the following tasks: conducting a stakeholder and needs assessment, shaping a mission, vision and objectives, defining agency requirements and identifying resources, determining and pursuing funding mechanisms, and developing a work plan and updated action plan for a re-established stand-alone Mendocino County Water Agency. GEI Consultants, Inc., has agreed to perform the desired services at a negotiated not-to-exceed amount of \$306,808. With grant opportunities soon becoming available for drought response and water resiliency, the creation of an enhanced stand-alone Water Agency with the capacity and expertise to manage these grants and projects is essential at this time.

DOT staff recommends and respectfully requests the Board adopt the resolution approving DOT Agreement Number 210054, Professional Services Agreement with GEI Consultants, Inc., in the Amount of \$306,808, for the Term Starting upon Execution of the Agreement through December 31, 2022, for the Re-Establishment of a Stand-Alone Mendocino County Water Agency.

I will, of course, respond to any questions the Board may have.

Respectfully submitted,



HOWARD N. DASHIELL
Director of Transportation