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June 9, 2020

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: John Ollis
Manager of Planning and Analysis

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Regional Portfolio Model (RPM) Software Support Contract, C2020-04

PROPOSED ACTION: Council staff recommends authorization to execute an amendment to Contract C2020-04 with Lumidyne Consulting, LLC (Lumidyne) to: 1.) include additional enhancements and configurations to the Regional Portfolio Model (RPM) for use in developing the 2021 Power Plan; and 2.) to add \$50,000 to the contract budget to accomplish these enhancements for a total amended contract budget not to exceed \$125,000.

SIGNIFICANCE: Additional enhancement work and upgrades are needed, in addition to the ongoing software support, to assist staff in running the scenarios for the 2021 Power Plan.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The current contract budget is \$75,000. Staff seeks authorization to execute an amendment to add \$50,000 for a total amended contract budget not to exceed \$125,000.

BACKGROUND

Lumidyne is a firm established by Cory Welch, the principal developer of the RPM software currently used by the Council. The RPM is an electric integrated resource planning model used to identify adaptive, least-cost resource strategies for the region. The RPM uses a risk analysis methodology created by the Council, which simulates numerous resource plans across a broad range of possible futures to identify tradeoffs between expected cost and risk.

ANALYSIS

At the September 2019 Council meeting, the Council authorized staff to enter into the software support contract with Lumidyne for fiscal year 2020 to refine, troubleshoot and generally enhance the RPM in preparation for and development of the 2021 Power Plan. Staff now seeks authorization to amend that contract to include additional enhancements to the RPM for the scenario work in the plan, and, more precisely enhancement work to configure the model to allow a Bonneville specific representation, and additional budget to accomplish the enhancements. The need for these added enhancements was only identified as staff continued to develop the scenarios, refine the analytics and test the model for the 2021 Power Plan.

ALTERNATIVES

The alternative is to have Council staff perform the enhancement work necessary on the RPM. This, however, would require significant utilization of staff time, which would be better suited to performing analytical work in development of the 2021 Power Plan.