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September 09, 2020

### DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council members

**FROM:** John Ollis  
Manager of Planning and Analysis

**SUBJECT:** Contract with Lumidyne Consulting, LLC for Fiscal Year 2021

**PROPOSED ACTION:** Council staff recommends authorization to contract with Lumidyne Consulting, LLC for the 2021 fiscal year in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000 to provide technical support for the Regional Portfolio Model (RPM or Model) for continued use in development in the 2021 Power Plan.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The Regional Portfolio Model is an electric integrated resource planning model used by the Council to identify adaptive, least-cost resource strategies in development of its power plans, including the 2021 Power Plan. There is a need to contract with Lumidyne Consulting, LLC to provide RPM support in order to assist staff in refining, enhancing and troubleshooting issues that arise in running the RPM as the 2021 Power Plan is developed.

### BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Total contract budget not-to-exceed \$50,000.

### BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Lumidyne Consulting, LLC is a firm established by Cory Welch, the principal developer of the RPM software currently used by the Council. Council staff is seeking authorization to contract with Lumidyne Consulting, LLC for support in enhancing and troubleshooting issues that arise with the RPM model as the Council undertakes scenario analyses in development of the 2021 Power Plan, and specifically developing

least-cost resource strategies for the region. If Council authorization to contract with Lumidyne Consulting, LLC is provided, as recommended by staff, it is anticipated Lumidyne will provide updates and enhancements to the model, including potentially updating the methodology, troubleshoot any issues, and assist staff with RPM setup and simulations.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The alternative is to have Council staff perform the troubleshooting and any additional updates or enhancement work necessary on the Model. This would require significant utilization of staff time, which would be better suited to performing analytical work in development of the 2021 Power Plan and could also impact the plan schedule if additional staff time is required to be devoted to support the RPM model. It is also possible, however, that outside expert assistance may still be required to troubleshoot and resolve particular issues with the model.