



Meeting: **Reservoir Committee & Authority Board**
Agenda Item 1.4

December 15, 2023

Subject: **Wheeling Rate Development Advisor Contract**

Requested Action:

Reservoir Committee and Authority Board consider approval of a contract with Water Resources Economics for the performance period ending December 31, 2025, to provide Wheeling Rate Development services with an initial total authority of \$50,000 through mid-2024 and authority for the Executive Director to increase the contract to a total amount of up to \$150,000.

Detailed Description/Background:

Delivering the benefits of the Sites Reservoir Project requires the shared use of existing Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Canal, Tehama-Colusa Canal, and the Lower Colusa Basin Drain System. Facility Partner fish screens, pump stations, canals, regulating reservoirs, etc. will be needed to convey Sites Water into and out of the Sites Reservoir as well as diverted from and released back into the Sacramento River. This use of these existing facilities owned by others requires Facilities Use Agreement(s) and the Sites Storage Partners will need to pay their share of cost for this service. The owners of these existing facilities would receive benefits from shared use as well under the assumption that Sites water flowing through their facilities allows fixed O&M and capital improvement costs to be spread over a larger rate base thereby reducing the unit cost to the existing ratepayers. Assistance of a water rate analyst is needed to examine these concepts and to help the parties reach an agreement on the allocation of costs.

On November 7, 2023, the Sites Authority released a Request for Proposals to four firms to solicit proposals providing Wheeling Rate Development services. The RFP was also posted on the Sites Authority's website and additional outreach was conducted to known firms. The Sites Authority received a single proposal. Staff performed an evaluation of qualifications and has determined that Water Resources Economics possesses the capabilities necessary to fulfill the needs of the solicitation. The principal in charge is Sanjay Gaur who has experience performing these services for water agencies across the state. The proposed hourly rates were determined to be in line with the market and are fair and reasonable.

Prior Action:

February 17, 2023: Approved and authorized the Executive Director to execute a Cooperative Agreement between the Sites Project Authority, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation

District, and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority regarding the use of existing Partner Facilities.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source:

The Wheeling Rate Development services are included in the Amendment 3 budget. The initial total anticipated cost would be no more than \$50,000 although the scope may increase after mid-2024 up to \$150,000 through December 31, 2025.

Staff Contact:

JP Robinette/Joe Trapasso

Primary Service Provider:

Brown and Caldwell – Project Controls

Attachments:

None