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**3/25/2021**

**TO: Local Agency Formation Commission**

**FROM: Gary Thompson, Executive Officer**

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**SUBJECT: MURRIETA FOCUSED MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW - STATUS REPORT**

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As authorized at the February 25, 2021 Commission meeting, staff has notified West Yost Associates by letter that the agreement for the Murrieta Focused Municipal Service Review (FMSR) has terminated effective December 31, 2021. Immediately after, staff engaged with the primary consultants who were managing the project and had left West Yost to establish their own consulting firm, to determine their availability and desire to contract with LAFCO to complete the project. Additionally, staff contacted the financial sub-consultant previously engaged in the project for the same purpose of continuing under a contract with LAFCO.

Both firms agreed to contract directly with LAFCO for completing the project. The firm Dopudja & Wells Consulting (Stephen Dopudja and Jon Wells) includes the two individuals who were the lead project manager and engineer from the original agreement. FG Solutions includes the financial analysis team previously engaged in the original agreement.

Staff received proposals from each firm early last week, have negotiated the scope of work and cost elements, and are finalizing the professional service agreements for final review by LAFCO counsel and the individual firms. Staff intends to bring them forward at the April 22, 2021 Commission meeting for consideration.

Due to the fact that these will be new contracts with two different firms, and the extent that the scope of work is increasing somewhat due to the volume and nature of comments being received on the published FMSR report, the estimated combined not to exceed costs for completing the project will exceed the remaining available funding from the previous agreement by approximately \$48,800. However, this not to exceed

estimate includes different options for virtual versus in person presentations (travel cost considerations), and options for some management reserve for additional analysis and any significant amount of further comments received that may not be required. At this point, staff considers it prudent to plan for these contingencies.

With respect to funding, staff believes that LAFCO should absorb a significant portion of the cost differential due to the situation of the previous agreement requiring termination not the responsibility of the funding agencies. However, staff has inquired from each agency their willingness to help offset some of those costs. To date staff has received commitments from all four agencies for \$4,500 each. Additionally, there remains approximately \$8,300 in unspent funds previously provided by the agencies for some of the remaining work on the project that was not completed by West Yost.

Given the situation that this project is now encountering, scheduling the public presentation in Murrieta and subsequent Commission hearing is now on hold until a new schedule to complete can be developed after the two new agreements are executed.

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Receive and file this report.
2. Provide additional direction to staff as desired on the plan for proceeding on the project.

Respectfully Submitted,



Gary Thompson  
Executive Officer

Attachments:

None.