



CVR-SAFE Board

Meeting Date: August 20, 2020

Agenda Item No. {{item.number}}

Contract Renewal for 511/STARNET Operations and Maintenance and Open Data Hub

Consent

Prepared by: Binu Abraham

Approved by: James Corless

Attachments: Yes

1. Issue:

SACOG is proposing to enter into a sole source contract agreement with Castle Rock Associates, Inc. to provide continued support of 511/STARNET operations and maintenance and the Open Data Hub.

2. Recommendation:

The CVR-SAFE Committee unanimously recommends that the CVR-SAFE board authorize the executive director to execute a sole source contract with Castle Rock Associates, Inc. for three years for an amount not to exceed \$1,495,000, with two optional one-year extensions thereafter.

3. Background/Analysis:

Castle Rock Associates, Inc. has been providing software and technical support for 511/STARNET since 2008 and the Open Data Hub project since 2015. The current contract expires at the end of September 2020.

Castle Rock developed the region's current 511 platforms, including apps, multiple bandwidth websites, Integrated Voice Recognition telephony, as well as data integration. Underlying the 511 system is the Sacramento Transportation Area Network (STARNET) system. STARNET integrates continuous feeds of real-time information about the condition of the transportation system and processes it for regional distribution. The platform integrates real time traffic data exchange between city and county traffic operations centers, Caltrans, emergency responders, and transit agencies. The resulting information is also used by private sector application developers, businesses, residents, and visitors through direct communication feeds, the sacregion511.org website and 511 telephone service, mobile apps and other websites.

The real-time open data feeds provided through the 511/STARNET system represent one of the biggest open data sets in the region. The system supports sharing of real-time data, video, and signal coordination information, providing a platform to manage cross jurisdiction congestion on roadways and public transit, while keeping the region's public safety community fully informed.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

One of the major reasons Castle Rock was originally selected as the vendor to develop the 511/STARNET system was their open platform and unique standing as a 511-system developer for a multi-agency collaborative across North. Besides the CVR-SAFE, the Castle Rock product is used by states and agencies

including Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Colorado, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York State, Rhode Island, Minnesota, New York State Through Way, and San Diego, as well as provinces in Canada. Some of these states and agencies including SACOG initially obtained services through the “CARS Group” (named after the original FHWA pooled fund study, Condition Acquisition Reporting System Group). All states and agencies are now in direct contract for services but use the CARS group for collaboration and coordination and to develop work scopes for each upcoming year. This helps all agencies to keep the overall cost down. Attachment A offers background on these common work scopes. The cost estimate for SACOG’s portion of the work is detailed in Attachment B.

Staff is recommending a sole source contract with Castle Rock because they continue to provide unique, cost effective services with significant benefit to SACOG, Caltrans, and local agencies across the region. The 511/STARNET and open data system has been developed and built by Castle Rock from the ground to meet the needs of all stakeholder users. The vendor continues to be responsive to evolving needs and new technologies. To go with a different vendor would mean starting over and spending a significant amount of funding to build a different system without clear benefits over what we already have with 511/STARNET. Recently Iowa and Minnesota went through a competitive bid RFP process for the same suite of services and found that Castle Rock had the lowest bid of all the vendors. A sole source justification has been vetted by SACOG’s procurement team and legal counsel.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

Staff is recommending a sole source contract with Castle Rock for three years, with an option for two one year extensions. SACOG’s cost for the first year of the proposed contract renewal would be \$398,722 for the identified scope of work for maintenance and operations and \$85,000 for the Open Data Hub, which includes ongoing operations and maintenance of the 511/STARNET system, parking integration, and Waze integration. The annual cost has been included in the fiscal year 2020-2021 CVR-SAFE budget, and sufficient CVR-SAFE funds are projected to be available to cover costs through the life of the extended contract. CVR-SAFE is an enterprise program fully supported by the revenues generated through vehicle registration fees.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Goal 1 : Advance Economic Prosperity

Objective 2: Establish the Sacramento region as a testbed and scale-up location for innovative mobility solutions.

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Objective 3: Prioritize cost-effective transportation investments that enhance mobility while improving safety, air quality, and the condition of transportation infrastructure and assets.