

This Calendar Item No. C46 was approved as Minute Item No. 40 by the California State Lands Commission by a vote of 3 to 0 at its 04-05-04 meeting.

**CALENDAR ITEM
C46**

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04/05/04
Bid Log 2003-25

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W25980;
W30156D. Brown
A. Abeleda
N. Quesada
D. Sanders

**REQUEST AUTHORITY FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER
TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES, NEGOTIATE FAIR AND
REASONABLE PRICE, AWARD AND EXECUTE AGREEMENTS FOR
PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION AND MITIGATION
MONITORING FOR PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF AN UNDERSEA CABLED
OBSERVATORY IN MONTEREY BAY TO SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
OFFSHORE OF MONTEREY**

PARTY:

California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

BACKGROUND:

The proposed project involves the construction and operation of an undersea cabled observatory in Monterey Bay. The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, along with the University of Washington, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution have received a grant from National Science Foundation to design and install the cabled observatory. The observatory would consist of an undersea cable and node that would provide power and high-speed data links for a variety of oceanographic devices. By supplying both data links and electrical power, this network will allow real-time, continuous, and long-term monitoring of conditions beneath the surface of the bay.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

The project would consist of the placement of 51 kilometers of submarine cable and a science node located approximately 891 meters below the ocean surface within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. For this reason, the CSLC will be acting jointly with the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary to prepare an EIR/EIS.

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Consideration of such an action will require environmental documentation, including monitoring, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Executive Officer requests delegation of authority to engage a consultant for this purpose. Consultant selection shall be conducted consistent with procedures as specified in CSLC Regulations and in the State Contract Manual on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualifications for the types of services to be performed and at a fair and reasonable price. All costs shall be recovered from project applicant.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. Pursuant to the Commission's delegation of authority and the State CEQA Guidelines [Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15060(c)(3)], the staff has determined that this activity is not subject to the provisions of the CEQA because it is not a "project" as defined by the CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and Title 14, California Code of Regulations, sections 15060 (c)(3) and 15378.

2. Approval of this item by the Commission does not constitute approval of the proposed lease; it only authorizes consultant contracts for environmental review.

STATUTORY AND OTHER REFERENCES:

- A. Public Resources Code Section 6106 (Delegation to execute written instruments)
- B. State Contracts Manual Section 11.00 (A & E method)
- C. Public Contract Code Section 6106
- D. Government Code Section 4526
- E. California Administrative Code Title 2 Article 13 Section 2980.0 - 2990.0

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

1. FIND THAT THESE ACTIVITIES ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF CEQA PURSUANT TO 14 CAL CODE REGS. 15060(c)(3) BECAUSE THESE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT PROJECTS AS DEFINED BY PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21065 AND 14 CAL CODE REGS. 15378.
2. FIND THAT THE SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS UNDER THIS PROCESS DOES NOT AFFECT SMALL BUSINESSES AS DEFINED IN GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11342, SUB. (H), BECAUSE THEY WILL BE ACCORDED EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE DATA.

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3. FIND THAT THE SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS UNDER THIS PROCESS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OF ARCHITECTURAL, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL, LAND SURVEYING OR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES WILL BE CONSISTENT WITH PROCEDURES AND POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION AS SPECIFIED IN GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 4526 AND TITLE 2, CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS 2980 -2980.9.
4. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SOLICIT PROPOSALS, NEGOTIATE FAIR AND REASONABLE PRICE, AWARD AND EXECUTE CONTRACTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.
5. AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PROJECT APPLICANT TO RECOVER COSTS INCURRED IN THE CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROJECT.