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December 8, 2020

DECISION MEMORANDUM

TO: Council members

FROM: John Ollis
Manager of Planning and Analysis

SUBJECT: Contract with Nexant

PROPOSED ACTION: Council staff recommends authorization to contract with Nexant for the remainder of the 2021 Fiscal Year in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000 to provide continued technical support for the Regional Portfolio Model (RPM or model).

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.

BUDGETARY/ECONOMIC IMPACTS

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

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Cory Welch, the principal developer of the RPM software currently used by the Council, provides integral support to Council staff in troubleshooting, resolving and implementing methodology enhancements to the RPM. The Council previously contracted with Mr. Welch through his company, Lumidyne Consulting, LLC, which he founded in 2018; however, in November 2020, Mr. Welch joined Nexant full-time as a Principal, necessitating termination of the previously executed Lumidyne contract. Thus, Council staff is seeking authorization to contract with Nexant to ensure Mr. Welch's continued technical support and assistance for the model as the Council undertakes scenario analyses in development of the 2021 Power Plan.

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 more staff time is required to be devoted to support the RPM.