



Memorandum

Date: August 14, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Rey Valdes
City Manager

Department: Jane Decker
Building Director

Subject: **WSP USA Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc.
Community Rating System Program Support and Modification
assistance services**

Introduction

The Building Department respectfully requests authorization from the City of Doral (“City”) Mayor and Councilmembers to authorize the City Manager to waive competitive bidding and approve the contract with WSP USA Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. for Community Rating System (CRS) Program support and modification services. Participation in the CRS Program allows property owners to enjoy a discounted rate on their Flood Insurance Policies. The City of Doral currently holds a CRS rating of 6, providing a 20% discount on all Flood Insurance Policies located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and a 10% discount for policies outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (Zone “X”). The City of Doral Building Department is seeking to achieve a CRS rating of 4 which would benefit policyholders with a 30% discount for all properties located in an SFHA. Funds have been allocated in Account#: 109-70005-500310, in an amount not to exceed budgeted funds.

Background

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program* that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS, reduce flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain

management.

David Stroud, a consultant previously retained via Resolution No. 17-38, has historical knowledge of the city's CRS pursuits and was able to improve the city's CRS Class Rating from a 7 to a 6. His current firm, WSP USA Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. has unparalleled experience in the field. Project Manager David Stroud has taught the CRS Class (E-278) at the FEMA's National Emergency Training Center (N.E.T.C) for 16 years.

Mr. Stroud holds a current contract with FEMA and ISO for reviewing floodplain management and hazard mitigation plans under the CRS Program and providing other technical support to the program. The WSP USA Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. team has experience providing CRS Program assistance to other local governments to reach lower CRS classifications through a variety of activities and programs.

FEMA will be releasing updated flood maps in the near future and the department has already analyzed the data and maps available. The published preliminary flood maps will substantially increase the percentage of properties located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) in the City of Doral. Currently, 46.35% percent of Doral properties are located within the Special Flood Hazard Area. The new maps are expected to increase the percentage of SFHA's to 83.03%. This change will result in an increase in Flood Insurance Premiums for a substantial percentage of the community.

Procurement

Pursuant to Section 2-321 of the City Code of Ordinances, City council may waive the competitive bidding procedures upon the recommendation of the city manager that it is in the best interest to do so, to obtain goods and services which cannot be acquired through the normal purchasing process due to insufficient time, the nature of the goods or services or other factors.

Accordingly, staff is requesting Council approval to waive the competitive bidding process and approve the contract with WSP USA Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. for Community Rating System Program Support and Modification assistance services as such contract is in the best interest of the City. WSP's exceptional qualifications, experience, and proven track record of service to the City uniquely positions them to deliver the necessary support efficiently and effectively.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This item aligns with the "Exceptional Service" objective of the Strategic Plan and will provide the community with discounted flood insurance rates which encourages resiliency.

Fiscal Impact

Funds for the WSP USA Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. Community Rating System Program Support and Modification assistance services contract are allocated in Professional Services Account #: 109.70005.500310; in amount not to exceed budgeted funds.

Recommendation

The City Manager's Office respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Councilmembers authorize the City Manager to negotiate and enter into an agreement with WSP USA Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions Inc. in a form acceptable to the City Attorney for the provision of

Community Rating System Program Support and Modification assistance services in an amount not to exceed budgeted funds from Account No. 109.70005.500310.