



RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD LETTER APPROVAL**

**ANSELMO G. COLLINS**  
Senior Assistant General Manager  
Water System

  
Aram Benyamin (Sep 3, 2024 12:25 PDT)

**ARAM BENYAMIN**  
Chief Operating Officer

**JANISSE QUIÑONES**  
Chief Executive Officer and Chief Engineer

**DATE:** August 19, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Amendment No. 1 to Agreement No. 47780 for Professional Services for the Eastern Sierra Airborne Electromagnetic Survey Project with Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc.

**SUMMARY**

The proposed Amendment No. 1 (Amendment) to Agreement No. 47780 (Agreement) with Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. (Ramboll, previously doing business as Ramboll US Consulting, Inc.) will extend the Agreement term by six months, from September 27, 2024 to March 27, 2025 to allow for the completion of expert professional services for performing and interpreting airborne electromagnetic (AEM) surveys in areas of interest to LADWP water management strategies in Mono and Inyo Counties. The Agreement is for an amount not to exceed \$960,000 (budgeted), and no additional funding is requested. The Agreement is the result of a competitive solicitation process under Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 90696R1.

The original proposal was to start the data collection flights in December 2023. Due to unpredictable wind and visibility conditions during the winter months, the helicopter was unable to fly until April 2024. Ramboll and their subconsultants completed the AEM data collection flights between April 18, 2024, and May 6, 2024. After the data was collected, scientists performed quality control by identifying and eliminating noise and electromagnetic interference. The next step is data inversion where mathematical methods are applied to analyze and interpret the data to correlate with geologic

properties. The results will be presented in a draft report for LADWP to review before the final report and data is delivered.

The consultant has completed data collection and have begun performing data analysis and interpretation.

This Amendment is needed to complete the data inversion and interpretation expected at the completion of this contract.

City Council approval is not required.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners adopt the Resolution authorizing the award of the Amendment to Ramboll.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Traditional groundwater and hydrogeology investigation methods have been performed in Mono and Inyo Counties, including boreholes, monitoring wells, test wells, remote sensing, and other methods. Due to the complex geologic nature of these areas, additional investigations utilizing traditional methods are not cost-effective and may not improve the hydrogeologic understanding of these areas. AEM is a novel technology that has yielded exceptional results in the field of groundwater management. LADWP does not have the specialized equipment or staff with the expertise to perform this work.

A second alternative will be to receive the raw data and incomplete analysis at the termination of the current contract and advertise an RFP to complete the analysis and interpretation. Preparing and awarding a subsequent RFP will require significant resources and time. If the successful bidder is a different consultant, they may need to redo the data analysis if they use different computer software and methodologies.

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

No additional funding is requested. The recommended time extension of six months does not have a financial impact on the Agreement. The Board authorized a not-to-exceed amount of \$960,000 (budgeted) of which \$333,500 is remaining.

### **BACKGROUND**

In September 2023, the existing contract was awarded to furnish and deliver expert services performing AEM surveys in Mono and Inyo Counties. The contract is the result of a competitive bid process. It was anticipated that the data collection helicopter flights would begin in December 2023 and data development, analysis, and refinement would occur February to September 2024. Due to terrain-influenced weather conditions in the Owens Valley and Mono Basin, the helicopter pilots could not safely fly until April 2024.

at the earliest. AEM surveys are a highly specialized niche of the geophysics industry, and by the time LADWP and Ramboll realized that the schedule may need to be compressed in order to complete all services on time, Ramboll would not have been able to bring additional personnel onto the team to complete all services under the original project schedule.

An improved understanding of the groundwater aquifer characteristics will help evaluate the potential impacts of LADWP operations on environmental resources including vegetation, cultural resources, and air and water quality. The Eastern Sierra AEM survey project will conduct geophysical surveys to measure and map subsurface aquifer extent, geologic structures, and material density of areas surrounding Mono Lake, Fish Slough area north of Laws Wellfield, and Bairs-Georges Wellfield in the Eastern Sierra. The AEM surveying results will be used to estimate the hydrogeologic properties in these regions, where traditional methods are limited, inconclusive, or prohibitively expensive.

Traditional investigation methods have been carried out in these areas, utilizing boreholes, monitoring wells, computer modeling, and remote sensing. However, these methods have been limited (in size and scope) and have not produced a clear interpretation of complex areas, necessitating a comprehensive AEM survey. An AEM survey will map the lateral extent, thickness, and discontinuities of the groundwater aquifer, identify potential faults and their effect on the groundwater movement, identify bedrock extent and distinguish between consolidated and unconsolidated sediments, and provide insight into the origin of surface water flows. AEM survey results will be instrumental in further developing the hydrogeologic framework of the three surveyed areas.

Management of water resources in Mono and Inyo counties includes activities implemented to meet LADWP's water-related objectives, the protection of environmental resources and improve water supply reliability to Los Angeles as well as local uses, water for irrigation, stockwater, and enhancement/mitigation projects in a sustainable manner.

Ramboll has performed satisfactorily under the current agreement.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

Determine item is exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3). In accordance with this section, an activity is not subject to CEQA if it does not meet the definition of a project. Section 15378(b)(5) states that organizational or administrative activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment do not meet that definition. Therefore, the amendment of a contract to provide an extension for additional time to perform survey data processing is not subject to CEQA.

## **CITY ATTORNEY**

The Office of the City Attorney reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form and legality.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Procurement Summary
- Resolution
- Amendment No. 1
- Agreement No. 47780 approved on September 12, 2023

## PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

1.	Recommended Vendor: Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc. (Ramboll)
2.	Procurement Type: Amendment
3.	Procurement Details: A. Contract Status: Amendment No. 1 B. RFP Advertisement Date: N/A C. Pre-Proposal Conference Date: N/A D. Proposal Due Date: N/A E. Number of Downloads of Solicitation: N/A F. Number of Proposals Received: N/A G. Protest Received: N/A
4.	Buyer Assigned: Andrew Castro
5.	Contract Administrator: Alis Pruett
6.	LADWP System: Water / Water Operations Division
7.	Contact Person for Item: Mark Ching

### A. Evaluation Rating Summary of Proposals

Not applicable to the Amendment.

### B. Evaluation of Amendment

There are no concerns regarding this Amendment. The Vendor Authentication Unit performed a vendor review of Ramboll and no issues were found.

### C. Procurement History

Service/Item History – Number of Times Item or Service has been Procured					
Contract/ PO No.	Consultant	Term of Contract	Start Date	Ending Date	Contract Amount
47785	Formation Environmental, LLC	5 years	11/07/2023	11/06/2028	\$4,500,000
47780	Ramboll Americas Engineering Solutions, Inc.	1 Year	9/28/2023	9/27/2024	\$960,000

Vendor Experience – Number of Contracts Vendor had with LADWP During the Past 10 Years					
Contract/ PO No.	Contract Description	Term of Contract	Start Date	Ending Date	Contract Amount
47780	Eastern Sierra Airborne Electromagnetic Survey	1 year	9/28/2023	9/27/2024	\$960,000

### D. Local Business Preference Program (LBPP)

Not applicable to the Amendment.

### E. Additional Outreach Efforts Taken

Not applicable to the Amendment.

**F. Small Business Enterprises (SBE)/Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBE)/Minority Business Enterprises (MBE)/Women Business Enterprises (WBE)/Other Business Enterprises (OBE) Subcontracting Participation**

There were no subcontracting opportunities identified under this RFP due to the specialized nature of the work. However, proposers were encouraged to utilize SBE, DVBE, MBE, WBE, and other firms where feasible.

Actual subconsultant participation commitments and achievements are provided below:

<b>OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (OBE) PARTICIPATION (Non-Certified Firms)</b>		
Name	Original Commitment	Achievement thru August 7, 2024
hydroGEOPHYSICS, Inc.	0.6%	0%
Sinton Helicopters	22.7%	22.7
SkyTEM Surveys	28.8%	28.8
Geophysical Imaging Partners, Inc.	10.8%	1.7%
<b>OBE Total:</b>	63.0%	53.2%