

**AGREEMENT
CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA
CONSULTANT SERVICES**

THIS AGREEMENT (Agreement) is made and entered into, effective on December 16, 2024, by and between the CITY OF FRESNO, a California municipal corporation (City), and Southwest Strategies Group, a Delaware corporation (Consultant).

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the City desires to obtain professional consulting services for Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program Support (Project); and

WHEREAS, the Consultant is engaged in the business of furnishing services as a engagement, education, and communications consultant and hereby represents that it desires to and is professionally and legally capable of performing the services called for by this Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Consultant acknowledges that this Agreement is subject to the requirements of Fresno Municipal Code Section 4-107 and Administrative Order No. 6-19; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement will be administered for the City by its Director of Public Utilities (Administrator) or designee.

AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the covenants, conditions, and premises hereinafter contained to be kept and performed by the respective parties, it is mutually agreed as follows:

1. Scope of Services. The Consultant shall perform to the satisfaction of the City the services described in **Exhibit A**, including all work incidental to, or necessary to perform, such services even though not specifically described in **Exhibit A**.
2. Term of Agreement and Time for Performance. This Agreement shall be effective from the date first set forth above (Effective Date) and shall continue in full force and effect through December 31, 2027, subject to any earlier termination in accordance with this Agreement. The services of the Consultant as described in **Exhibit A** are to commence upon the Effective Date and shall be completed in a sequence assuring expeditious completion, but in any event, all such services shall be completed prior to expiration of this Agreement and in accordance with any performance schedule set forth in **Exhibit A**.
3. Compensation.
 - (a) The Consultant's sole compensation for satisfactory performance of all services required or rendered pursuant to this Agreement shall not exceed \$1,338,000, paid on the basis of the rates set forth in the schedule of fees and expenses contained in **Exhibit A**.

- (b) Detailed statements shall be rendered monthly for services performed in the preceding month and will be payable in the normal course of City business. The City shall not be obligated to reimburse any expense for which it has not received a detailed invoice with applicable copies of representative and identifiable receipts or records substantiating such expense.
- (c) The parties may modify this Agreement to increase or decrease the scope of services or provide for the rendition of services not required by this Agreement, which modification shall include an adjustment to the Consultant's compensation. Any change in the scope of services must be made by written amendment to the Agreement signed by an authorized representative for each party. The Consultant shall not be entitled to any additional compensation if services are performed prior to a signed written amendment.

4. Termination, Remedies, and Force Majeure.

- (a) This Agreement shall terminate without any liability of the City to the Consultant upon the earlier of: (i) the Consultant's filing for protection under the federal bankruptcy laws, or any bankruptcy petition or petition for receiver commenced by a third party against the Consultant; (ii) seven calendar days prior written notice with or without cause by the City to the Consultant; (iii) the City's non-appropriation of funds sufficient to meet its obligations hereunder during any City fiscal year of this Agreement, or insufficient funding for the Project; or (iv) expiration of this Agreement.
- (b) Immediately upon any termination or expiration of this Agreement, the Consultant shall (i) immediately stop all work hereunder; (ii) immediately cause any and all of its subcontractors to cease work; and (iii) return to the City any and all unearned payments and all properties and materials in the possession of the Consultant that are owned by the City. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, the Consultant shall be paid compensation for services satisfactorily performed prior to the effective date of termination. The Consultant shall not be paid for any work or services performed or costs incurred which reasonably could have been avoided.
- (c) In the event of termination due to failure of the Consultant to satisfactorily perform in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, the City may withhold an amount that would otherwise be payable as an offset to, but not in excess of, the City's damages caused by such failure. In no event shall any payment by the City pursuant to this Agreement constitute a waiver by the City of any breach of this Agreement which may then exist on the part of the Consultant, nor shall such payment impair or prejudice any remedy available to the City with respect to the breach.
- (d) Upon any breach of this Agreement by the Consultant, the City may (i) exercise any right, remedy (in contract, law or equity), or privilege which may be available to it under applicable laws of the State of California or any other applicable law; (ii) proceed by appropriate court action to enforce the terms of the Agreement; and/or (iii) recover all direct, indirect, consequential,

economic and incidental damages for the breach of the Agreement. If it is determined that the City improperly terminated this Agreement for default, such termination shall be deemed a termination for convenience.

- (e) The Consultant shall provide the City with adequate written assurances of future performance, upon Administrator's request, in the event the Consultant fails to comply with any terms or conditions of this Agreement.
- (f) The Consultant shall be liable for default unless nonperformance is caused by an occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the Consultant and without its fault or negligence such as, acts of God or the public enemy, acts of the City in its contractual capacity, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, unusually severe weather, and delays of common carriers. The Consultant shall notify Administrator in writing as soon as it is reasonably possible after the commencement of any excusable delay, setting forth the full particulars in connection therewith, and shall remedy such occurrence with all reasonable dispatch, and shall promptly give written notice to Administrator of the cessation of such occurrence.

5. Confidential Information and Ownership of Documents.

- (a) Any reports, information, or other data prepared or assembled by the Consultant pursuant to this Agreement shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the Consultant without the prior written approval of the Administrator. During the term of this Agreement, and thereafter, the Consultant shall not, without the prior written consent of the City, disclose to anyone any Confidential Information. The term Confidential Information for the purposes of this Agreement shall include all proprietary and confidential information of the City, including but not limited to business plans, marketing plans, financial information, materials, compilations, documents, instruments, models, source or object codes and other information disclosed or submitted, orally, in writing, or by any other medium or media. All Confidential Information shall be and remain confidential and proprietary in the City.
- (b) Any and all writings and documents prepared or provided by the Consultant pursuant to this Agreement are the property of the City at the time of preparation and shall be turned over to the City upon expiration or termination of the Agreement. The Consultant shall not permit the reproduction or use thereof by any other person except as otherwise expressly provided herein.
- (c) If the Consultant should subcontract all or any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement, the Consultant shall cause each subcontractor to also comply with the requirements of this Section 5.
- (d) This Section 5 shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.

6. Professional Skill. It is further mutually understood and agreed by and between the parties hereto that inasmuch as the Consultant represents to the City that the Consultant and its subcontractors, if any, are skilled in the profession and shall perform in accordance with the standards of said profession necessary to perform

the services agreed to be done by it under this Agreement, the City relies upon the skill of the Consultant and any subcontractors to do and perform such services in a skillful manner and the Consultant agrees to thus perform the services and require the same of any subcontractors. Therefore, any acceptance of such services by the City shall not operate as a release of the Consultant or any subcontractors from said professional standards.

7. Indemnification. To the furthest extent allowed by law, including California Civil Code section 2782, Consultant shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend City and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all loss, liability, fines, penalties, forfeitures, costs and damages (whether in contract, tort or strict liability, including but not limited to personal injury, death at any time and property damage), and from any and all claims, demands and actions in law or equity (including reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses and cost to enforce this Agreement) that arise out of, pertain to, or relate to the negligence, recklessness or willful misconduct of Consultant, its principals, officers, employees, agents or volunteers in the performance of this Agreement.

If Consultant should subcontract all or any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement, Consultant shall require each subcontractor to indemnify, hold harmless and defend City and each of its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers in accordance with the terms of the preceding paragraph.

This section shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

8. Insurance.

(a) Throughout the life of this Agreement, the Consultant shall pay for and maintain in full force and effect all insurance as required in **Exhibit B**, which is incorporated into and part of this Agreement, with an insurance company(ies) either (i) admitted by the California Insurance Commissioner to do business in the State of California and rated no less than "A-VII" in the Best's Insurance Rating Guide, or (ii) as may be authorized in writing by the City's Risk Manager or designee at any time and in its sole discretion. The required policies of insurance as stated in **Exhibit B** shall maintain limits of liability of not less than those amounts stated therein. However, the insurance limits available to the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers as additional insureds, shall be the greater of the minimum limits specified therein or the full limit of any insurance proceeds to the named insured.

(b) If at any time during the life of the Agreement or any extension, the Consultant or any of its subcontractors/sub-consultants fail to maintain any required insurance, all services and work under this Agreement shall be discontinued immediately, and all payments due, or that become due, to the Consultant shall be withheld until insurance is in compliance with the requirements. Any failure to maintain the required insurance shall be sufficient cause for the City to terminate this Agreement. No action taken by the City pursuant to this section shall in any way relieve the Consultant of its responsibilities under this Agreement. The phrase "fail to maintain any required insurance" shall include, without limitation, notification received by the City that an insurer has commenced proceedings, or has had proceedings commenced against it, indicating that the insurer is insolvent.

(c) The fact that insurance is obtained by the Consultant shall not be deemed to release or diminish the liability of the Consultant, including, without limitation, liability under the indemnity provisions of this Agreement. The duty to indemnify the City shall apply to all claims and liability regardless of whether any insurance policies are applicable. The policy limits do not act as a limitation upon the amount of indemnification to be provided by the Consultant. Approval or purchase of any insurance contracts or policies shall in no way relieve from liability nor limit the liability of the Consultant, its principals, officers, agents, employees, persons under the supervision of the Consultant, vendors, suppliers, invitees, consultants, sub-consultants, subcontractors, or anyone employed directly or indirectly by any of them.

9. Conflict of Interest and Non-Solicitation.

- (a) Prior to the City's execution of this Agreement, the Consultant shall complete a City of Fresno conflict of interest disclosure statement in the form as set forth in **Exhibit C**. During the term of this Agreement, the Consultant shall have the obligation and duty to immediately notify the City in writing of any change to the information provided by the Consultant in such statement.
- (b) The Consultant shall comply, and require its subcontractors to comply, with all applicable (i) professional canons and requirements governing avoidance of impermissible client conflicts; and (ii) federal, state, and local conflict of interest laws and regulations including, without limitation, California Government Code Section 1090 et. seq., the California Political Reform Act (California Government Code Section 87100 et. seq.) and the regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission concerning disclosure and disqualification (2 California Code of Regulations Section 18700 et. seq.). At any time, upon written request of the City, the Consultant shall provide a written opinion of its legal counsel and that of any subcontractor that, after a due diligent inquiry, the Consultant and the respective subcontractor(s) are in full compliance with all laws and regulations. The Consultant shall take, and require its subcontractors to take, reasonable steps to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. Upon discovery of any facts giving rise to the appearance of a conflict of interest, the Consultant shall immediately notify the City of these facts in writing.
- (c) Consultant's duties and services under this Agreement shall not include preparing or assisting the City with any portion of the City's preparation of a request for proposals, request for qualifications, or any other solicitation regarding a subsequent or additional contract with the City. The City entering this Agreement shall at all times retain responsibility for public contracting, including with respect to any subsequent phase of this Project. Consultant's participation in the planning, discussions, or drawing of project plans or specifications shall be limited to conceptual, preliminary, or initial plans or specifications. Consultant shall cooperate with the City to ensure that all bidders for a subsequent contract on any subsequent phase of this Project have access to the same information, including all conceptual, preliminary, or

initial plans or specifications prepared by Consultant pursuant to this Agreement.

- (d) In performing the work or services to be provided hereunder, the Consultant shall not employ or retain the services of any person while such person either is employed by the City or is a member of any City council, commission, board, committee, or similar City body. This requirement may be waived in writing by the City Manager, if no actual or potential conflict is involved.
 - (e) The Consultant represents and warrants that it has not paid or agreed to pay any compensation, contingent or otherwise, direct or indirect, to solicit, or procure this Agreement or any rights/benefits hereunder.
 - (f) Neither the Consultant, nor any of the Consultant's subcontractors performing any services on this Project, shall bid for, assist anyone in the preparation of a bid for, or perform any services pursuant to, any other contract in connection with this Project unless fully disclosed to and approved by the City Manager, in advance and in writing. The Consultant and any of its subcontractors shall have no interest, direct or indirect, in any other contract with a third party in connection with this Project unless such interest is in accordance with all applicable law and fully disclosed to and approved by the City Manager, in advance and in writing. Notwithstanding any approval given by the City Manager under this provision, the Consultant shall remain responsible for complying with Section 9(b), above.
 - (g) If the Consultant should subcontract all or any portion of the work to be performed or services to be provided under this Agreement, the Consultant shall include the provisions of this Section 9 in each subcontract and require its subcontractors to comply therewith.
 - (h) This Section 9 shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.
10. Recycling Program. In the event the Consultant maintains an office or operates a facility(ies), or is required herein to maintain or operate same, within the incorporated limits of the City of Fresno, the Consultant at its sole cost and expense shall:
- (a) Immediately establish and maintain a viable and ongoing recycling program, approved by the City's Solid Waste Management Division, for each office and facility. Literature describing the City recycling programs is available from the City's Solid Waste Management Division and by calling City of Fresno Recycling Hotline at (559) 621-1111.
 - (b) Immediately contact the City's Solid Waste Management Division at (559) 621-1452 and schedule a free waste audit, and cooperate with such Division in their conduct of the audit for each office and facility.
 - (c) Cooperate with and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the City's Solid Waste Management Division the establishment of the recycling program in paragraph (a) above and the ongoing maintenance thereof.

11. General Terms.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, all notices expressly required of the City within the body of this Agreement, and not otherwise specifically provided for, shall be effective only if signed by the Administrator or designee.
- (b) Records of the Consultant's expenses pertaining to the Project shall be kept on a generally recognized accounting basis and shall be available to the City or its authorized representatives upon request during regular business hours throughout the life of this Agreement and for a period of three years after final payment or, if longer, for any period required by law. In addition, all books, documents, papers, and records of the Consultant pertaining to the Project shall be available for the purpose of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions for the same period of time. If any litigation, claim, negotiations, audit or other action is commenced before the expiration of said time period, all records shall be retained and made available to the City until such action is resolved, or until the end of said time period whichever shall later occur. If the Consultant should subcontract all or any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement, the Consultant shall cause each subcontractor to also comply with the requirements of this paragraph. This Section 11(b) shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.
- (c) Prior to execution of this Agreement by the City, the Consultant shall have provided evidence to the City that the Consultant is licensed to perform the services called for by this Agreement (or that no license is required). If the Consultant should subcontract all or any portion of the work or services to be performed under this Agreement, the Consultant shall require each subcontractor to provide evidence to the City that subcontractor is licensed to perform the services called for by this Agreement (or that no license is required) before beginning work.

12. Nondiscrimination. To the extent required by controlling federal, state and local law, the Consultant shall not employ discriminatory practices in the provision of services, employment of personnel, or in any other respect on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. Subject to the foregoing and during the performance of this Agreement, the Consultant agrees as follows:

- (a) The Consultant will comply with all applicable laws and regulations providing that no person shall, on the grounds of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity made possible by or resulting from this Agreement.
- (b) The Consultant will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry,

physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. The Consultant shall ensure that applicants are employed, and the employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era. Such requirement shall apply to the Consultant's employment practices including, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Consultant agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provision of this nondiscrimination clause.

- (c) The Consultant will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Consultant in pursuit hereof, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era.
- (d) The Consultant will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice advising such labor union or workers' representatives of the Consultant's commitment under this section and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- (e) If the Consultant should subcontract all or any portion of the services to be performed under this Agreement, the Consultant shall cause each subcontractor to also comply with the requirements of this Section 12.

13. Independent Contractor.

- (a) In the furnishing of the services provided for herein, the Consultant is acting solely as an independent contractor. Neither the Consultant, nor any of its officers, agents, or employees shall be deemed an officer, agent, employee, joint venturer, partner or associate of the City for any purpose. The City shall have no right to control or supervise or direct the manner or method by which the Consultant shall perform its work and functions. However, the City shall retain the right to administer this Agreement so as to verify that the Consultant is performing its obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof.
- (b) This Agreement does not evidence a partnership or joint venture between the Consultant and the City. The Consultant shall have no authority to bind the City absent the City's express written consent. Except to the extent otherwise

provided in this Agreement, the Consultant shall bear its own costs and expenses in pursuit thereof.

- (c) Because of its status as an independent contractor, the Consultant and its officers, agents, and employees shall have absolutely no right to employment rights and benefits available to the City employees. The Consultant shall be solely liable and responsible for all payroll and tax withholding and for providing to, or on behalf of, its employees all employee benefits including, without limitation, health, welfare and retirement benefits. In addition, together with its other obligations under this Agreement, the Consultant shall be solely responsible, indemnify, defend and save the City harmless from all matters relating to employment and tax withholding for and payment of the Consultant's employees, including, without limitation, (i) compliance with Social Security and unemployment insurance withholding, payment of workers' compensation benefits, and all other laws and regulations governing matters of employee withholding, taxes and payment; and (ii) any claim of right or interest in the City employment benefits, entitlements, programs and/or funds offered employees of the City whether arising by reason of any common law, de facto, leased, or co-employee rights or other theory. It is acknowledged that during the term of this Agreement, the Consultant may be providing services to others unrelated to the City or to this Agreement.
14. Notices. Any notice required or intended to be given to either party under the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to be duly given if delivered personally, transmitted by facsimile followed by telephone confirmation of receipt, or sent by United States registered or certified mail, with postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the party to which notice is to be given at the party's address set forth on the signature page of this Agreement or at such other address as the parties may from time to time designate by written notice. Notices served by United States mail in the manner above described shall be deemed sufficiently served or given at the time of the mailing thereof.
15. Binding. Subject to Section 16, below, once this Agreement is signed by all parties, it shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of, all parties, and each parties' respective heirs, successors, assigns, transferees, agents, servants, employees, and representatives.
16. Assignment.
- (a) This Agreement is personal to the Consultant and there shall be no assignment by the Consultant of its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the prior written approval of the City Manager or designee. Any attempted assignment by the Consultant, its successors or assigns, shall be null and void unless approved in writing by the City Manager or designee.
 - (b) The Consultant hereby agrees not to assign the payment of any monies due the Consultant from the City under the terms of this Agreement to any other individual(s), corporation(s) or entity(ies). The City retains the right to pay any and all monies due the Consultant directly to the Consultant.

17. Compliance With Law. In providing the services required under this Agreement, the Consultant shall at all times comply with all applicable laws of the United States, the State of California and the City, and with all applicable regulations promulgated by federal, state, regional, or local administrative and regulatory agencies, now in force and as they may be enacted, issued, or amended during the term of this Agreement.
18. Waiver. The waiver by either party of a breach by the other of any provision of this Agreement shall not constitute a continuing waiver or a waiver of any subsequent breach of either the same or a different provision of this Agreement. No provisions of this Agreement may be waived unless in writing and signed by all parties to this Agreement. Waiver of any one provision herein shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other provision herein.
19. Governing Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by, and construed and enforced in accordance with, the laws of the State of California, excluding, however, any conflict of laws rule which would apply the law of another jurisdiction. Venue for purposes of the filing of any action regarding the enforcement or interpretation of this Agreement and any rights and duties hereunder shall be Fresno County, California.
20. Headings. The section headings in this Agreement are for convenience and reference only and shall not be construed or held in any way to explain, modify or add to the interpretation or meaning of the provisions of this Agreement.
21. Severability. The provisions of this Agreement are severable. The invalidity, or unenforceability of any one provision in this Agreement shall not affect the other provisions.
22. Interpretation. The parties acknowledge that this Agreement in its final form is the result of the combined efforts of the parties and that, should any provision of this Agreement be found to be ambiguous in any way, such ambiguity shall not be resolved by construing this Agreement in favor of or against either party, but rather by construing the terms in accordance with their generally accepted meaning.
23. Attorney's Fees. If either party is required to commence any proceeding or legal action to enforce or interpret any term, covenant or condition of this Agreement, the prevailing party in such proceeding or action shall be entitled to recover from the other party its reasonable attorney's fees and legal expenses.
24. Exhibits. Each exhibit and attachment referenced in this Agreement is, by the reference, incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.
25. Precedence of Documents. In the event of any conflict between the body of this Agreement and any Exhibit or Attachment hereto, the terms and conditions of the body of this Agreement shall control and take precedence over the terms and conditions expressed within the Exhibit or Attachment. Furthermore, any terms or conditions contained within any Exhibit or Attachment hereto which purport to modify the allocation of risk between the parties, provided for within the body of this Agreement, shall be null and void.
26. Cumulative Remedies. No remedy or election hereunder shall be deemed exclusive but shall, wherever possible, be cumulative with all other remedies at law or in equity.

27. No Third Party Beneficiaries. The rights, interests, duties and obligations defined within this Agreement are intended for the specific parties hereto as identified in the preamble of this Agreement. Notwithstanding anything stated to the contrary in this Agreement, it is not intended that any rights or interests in this Agreement benefit or flow to the interest of any third parties.
28. Extent of Agreement. Each party acknowledges that they have read and fully understand the contents of this Agreement. This Agreement represents the entire and integrated agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral. This Agreement may be modified only by written instrument duly authorized and executed by both the City and the Consultant.
29. The City Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute and implement this Agreement. The previous sentence is not intended to delegate any authority to the City Manager to administer the Agreement, any delegation of authority must be expressly included in the Agreement.

[SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE.]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement at Fresno, California, the day and year first above written.

CITY OF FRESNO,
a California municipal corporation

Southwest Strategies Group,
a Delaware corporation

By: [Signature] 12/15/2024
850A517DB3DD42E..., PE, PLS
Director of Public Utilities

By: [Signature] 11/26/2024
B2DA24832AF844B...
Name: Malle Vaddi

No signature of City Attorney required. Standard Document #ALL-S Generic CSA – Not to Exceed (11-2024) has been used without modification, as certified by the undersigned.

Title: Vice President Finance
(If corporation or LLC., Board Chair, Pres. or Vice Pres.)

By: [Signature] 11/26/2024
3F1A91A408624ED..., PE
Assistant Director of Public Utilities

By: [Signature] 11/26/2024
5BDF028427EE48D...
Name: Chris Wahl
Title: Chief Executive Officer
(If corporation or LLC., CFO, Treasurer, Secretary or Assistant Secretary)

ATTEST:
TODD STERMER, CMC
City Clerk

Any Applicable Professional License:
Number: N/A
Name: N/A
Date of Issuance: N/A

By: [Signature] 12/16/2024
CAB3057983E04D4...
Tina M. Your
Deputy

Addresses:

CITY:
City of Fresno
Attention: Paul Amico, PE,
Assistant Director of Public Utilities
1626 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706
Phone: (559) 621-8612
E-mail: paul.amico@fresno.gov

CONSULTANT:
Southwest Strategies Group
Attention: Sarah Rossetto, Vice President
12770 El Camino Real, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92130
Phone: (530) 304-8704
E-mail: srossetto@katzandassociates.com

Attachments:

- 1. Exhibit A - Scope of Services
- 2. Exhibit B - Insurance Requirements
- 3. Exhibit C - Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form

EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Consultant Service Agreement between City of Fresno (City) and Southwest Strategies Group (Consultant) Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program Support

PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Key goals of the Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program include informing customers about the following:

1. The services DPU provides and the value customers receive.
2. The importance of utility rate adjustments.
3. Schedule and program changes.
4. Service requirements, local regulations and requirements, and resources and programs available.
5. Environmental issues and the role customers play in preventing and/or resolving them.
6. Environmental and resource protection.
7. How utility issues affect our community and economy.
8. Statutory and regulatory mandates, and other regulatory-required communication.
9. Resource management plans and programs, including water conservation, recycled water, solid waste recycling, etc.
10. The importance of asset management.
11. Other Department and Division issues.

DPU's Administration Division is responsible for leading and managing the Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program and will be managing this scope of work. In this role, DPU Administration oversees and coordinates engagement and education activities across the operating divisions, prioritizes messaging needs, drives consistency in engagement and education materials and messaging, and approves all engagement and education activities and deliverables. DPU Administration is also responsible for communication with City Administration regarding Department operations, utility services, emergencies, and all other DPU business.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Scope of Services includes providing engagement and education program management consulting services for the following tasks over a three-year period starting January 1, 2025:

1. Leveraging the experience and expertise of public engagement and education experts to develop DPU's strategic communications plan.
2. Developing the Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program plan and advising on the annual Program budget.
3. Providing expert opinions on the most effective means and methods for conducting stakeholder engagement and public education and on specific engagement and education campaigns.
4. Developing themes and content for routine customer communications and providing communications experts' services for designing collateral materials.
5. Translating collateral materials into Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, or other languages as needed.
6. Provide services such as videography, photography, graphic design, animation, copy writing, voiceover, and on-air talent for social media and mainstream media messaging.
7. Supporting the Proposition 218 process communication and notice printing.
8. Providing as-needed Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education activities for unplanned or emergency communications.
9. Managing DPU customer polling and research.

TASK 1: PROGRAM PLANNING, BUDGETING, AND MANAGEMENT

This task will be used to establish the overall Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program strategy and 5-year plan and budget. The following activities will be used to complete this task:

1. Prepare for and conduct an in-person kickoff meeting to clarify and discuss the project goals, scope of work, schedule, project communications plan, invoicing and progress reporting, and other related project management topics. Prepare and distribute a meeting summary and high-level project management plan. Assumes participation by four consultants – project manager and three Division leads.
2. Review past outreach and education materials. Develop file library of all messaging, templates, plans and education materials that will be used to inform future strategy. Develop recommendation summary of thematic or global changes to be made for future materials and include recommendation summary as appendix to Strategic Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Plan. Assumes City will provide all relevant past materials for team review.
3. Prepare for and conduct a strategic outreach planning session or sessions with DPU and prepare a Strategic Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Plan that includes a vision and strategy for Department-wide engagement and education programming for the duration of the contract. Prepare a draft Strategic Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Plan, conduct one virtual meeting to review and discuss DPU comments, and prepare a final Strategic Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Plan. Include a roadmap as an appendix to the Strategic Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Plan, which will serve as an overall schedule of milestones and priorities. Advise on annual budget appropriations for implementing the Stakeholder Engagement and Public

Education Program strategy and plan. Assist DPU in preparation of documents and data that support the budget appropriations.

4. Coordinate monthly with DPU Administration and the City Communications Team on engagement and education activities. Meetings will include strategizing and prioritizing Department and Division engagement and education needs, reporting on outstanding and completed activities, and discussing any new engagement and education needs. Manage the meeting series, facilitate agenda development, prepare meeting summaries, and track Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program activities. Meetings can be a mix of virtual and in-person, and a minimum of quarterly in-person meetings or included. Assumes one quarterly in-person meeting and two quarterly virtual meetings, attended by four consultant staff (project manager and Division leads).

TASK 2: ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

This task will be used to conduct specific engagement and education campaigns for each of the operating divisions. DPU recognizes that the level of effort will vary depending on the specific campaign, campaign goals, media selected for the campaign, and the number and frequency of campaign events. An overarching level of effort is included for this task, but specific purchase orders will be developed and issued for each campaign.

This task includes an overall level of effort and cost to provide management consulting services and expert opinions to conduct the following stakeholder engagement and public education campaigns:

1. Solid waste:
 - a. Reducing contamination of recycling and green waste carts
 - b. SB1383 organics recycling
 - c. Disposal of flexible plastic materials
 - d. Proper household hazardous waste disposal (crossover with Wastewater)
2. Wastewater:
 - a. Proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG)
 - b. Reducing the use of and the proper disposal of so-called flushable wipes
3. Water:
 - a. Drought stages and the requirements for each stage
 - b. Water conservation and reducing water waste
 - c. Drought tolerant landscaping practices and lawn-to-garden conversion
4. Administration and Utilities Planning & Engineering
 - a. Highlight facilities, technology, and projects by the Department that benefit our customers
 - b. Promote capital improvement projects

The types of tasks to be included in each campaign may include informational materials (digital and print), notifications, paid advertising, community engagement activities, education programs for a range of audiences, partnerships and special events.

TASK 3: CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

This task will be used to develop content for DPU's routine customer- and public-facing communications through social media, bill inserts, and the website.

1. Develop DPU social media plan and content (Facebook, Twitter/X, Instagram, Nextdoor)
 - a. Develop a rolling three-month social media lookahead schedule incorporating content from all Divisions, Department priority messaging, recruiting opportunities, and other messaging goals identified in the strategy and plan developed in Task 1. The schedule should also track past social media posts and themes to illustrate the ongoing DPU storyline and how the customers and DPU work together to deliver DPU's mission.
 - b. Deliver the social media content prior to the start of each month to DPU Administration for posting on either DPU's or City of Fresno's social media platforms. In accordance with City of Fresno [Administrative Order 8-20](#), content will be provided in a manner that allows members of the public with disabilities to access information that is comparable to information provided to persons with disabilities.
 - c. Photos and videos will be provided as needed to supplement existing DPU assets, and graphics will be identified for all posts (assumes 50/50 split between photos/videos and graphics).
2. Design monthly utility inserts with timely information about key services and issues, in harmony with the social media plan and overall messaging strategy developed in Task 1.
 - a. Develop content and provide graphic design of ADA-compliant monthly standard envelope-size pieces to be sent to a third-party print and mail house for printing and insertion into the City's monthly utility bills. DPU pays for printing directly; this task does not include bill insert printing.
 - b. Includes as-needed translation into Spanish, Hmong, Punjabi, or other languages. Assumes approximately 10,000 words in Hmong and 10,000 words in Punjabi. Spanish translation will be completed in-house.
3. Assist in developing quarterly website updates and revisions, including creating digital image files, videos, and other creative content. DPU will provide high-resolution digital photographs and videos for the website.
4. Support development of required Annual Water Quality Report. Includes content outline and development schedule, coordination with subject matter expert authors to produce draft content, editing services, development of the executive summary, identification of graphics and images, development of layout, translation into Spanish, Hmong and Punjabi, and final production of an ADA-compliant document. Includes two rounds of City review for Annual Water Quality Report – one for draft content and one for full layout. Does not include printing and mailing.

5. Provide as-needed graphic design, digital photo and video editing, and translation services for social media, presentations, community meetings, posters, display materials, presentations, and literature. Includes rough level of effort for as-needed tasks.

TASK 4: PROPOSITION 218 SUPPORT AND NOTICE DEVELOPMENT

Additional engagement and education support for the Proposition 218 rate-setting process may include media buys through mediums such as television, radio, print, and digital to amplify key messaging. Develop communication materials (presentations, collateral pieces, media outreach materials, etc.) and conduct logistical support as part of the Proposition 218 process for Water and Wastewater rate updates.

Develop communication plans specific to each Proposition 218 process with messaging, schedule, audiences, strategies, tactics and metrics. Develop core materials for each Proposition 218 process (including fact sheet, Frequently Asked Questions document, presentation, website landing page content and explainer video), and provide recommendations and support for community meetings and stakeholder group presentations.

PacWest should assume that 250,000 notices will need to be sent. Assume that the notice is two to three sheets, printed on both sides, a single protest card, and a return envelope.

TASK 5: OTHER AS-NEEDED ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION SUPPORT

DPU envisions that the above scope includes most or all services that will be performed over the contract term, but other needs may arise from time to time that may require management consulting services and providing expert opinions related to strategic communication and/or engagement and education activities. A general level of effort is was not included for Task 5, and as needs arise, activities will be discussed with DPU to receive concurrence on scope and budget, and the contract may be amended to conduct additional scope activities.

TASK 6: CUSTOMER POLLING AND RESEARCH

Surveys can provide quantitative and statistically valid results for a given topic depending upon the survey design and population queried. This effort would be managed by the consultant but conducted by a third-party research firm. The purposes of the survey would be to:

- Gauge general awareness of and sentiment about DPU
- Identify depth of knowledge around specific DPU issues of interest
- Identify support or opposition around specific DPU issues of interest
- Identify trusted messengers for communications
- Identify willingness to pay for investments

As with any survey, upfront general questions will be asked to guide the participant down a swift path to drill deep into the specific subject matter.

With a third-party polling partner, one (1) city-wide survey would be conducted to determine awareness, depth of knowledge and support for DPU issues of interest. The survey would be conducted in English and Spanish via phone and online. Additional languages are also available as needed.

The survey would have a statistical accuracy of about 10%, which is roughly 90% accuracy. The sample size can be increased to improve accuracy, but the additional cost will be disproportionate to the improvement in accuracy.

The third-party research firm will conduct the survey as a result of their extensive experience conducting public opinion polls with California public agencies and municipalities. The City will review and approve the survey questionnaire prior to the survey implementation, and a detailed findings report will be provided following the survey including all demographics and cross-tabulations. The research firm will present a review of the findings to the City and discuss insights and recommendations.

SCHEDULE OF FEES AND EXPENSES

Southwest Strategies Group | Rate Sheet for Fresno DPU

SOUTHWEST STRATEGIES GROUP	RATES
PRESIDENT/CEO	\$250
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT	\$225
SENIOR DIRECTOR/DIRECTOR	\$200
SENIOR MANAGER	\$185
MANAGER	\$180
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE	\$175
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE	\$165
ACCOUNT COORDINATOR	\$150
SENIOR DESIGN MANAGER/ART DIRECTOR	\$165
DESIGN MANAGER	\$150
DESIGNER	\$125

EXHIBIT B

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

**Consultant Service Agreement between City of Fresno (City)
And Southwest Strategies Group (Consultant)
Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program Support**

MINIMUM SCOPE OF INSURANCE

Coverage shall be at least as broad as:

1. The most current version of Insurance Services Office (ISO) Commercial General Liability Coverage Form CG 00 01, providing liability coverage arising out of your business operations. The Commercial General Liability policy shall be written on an occurrence form and shall provide coverage for “bodily injury,” “property damage” and “personal and advertising injury” with coverage for premises and operations (including the use of owned and non-owned equipment), products and completed operations, and contractual liability (including, without limitation, indemnity obligations under the Agreement) with limits of liability not less than those set forth under “Minimum Limits of Insurance.”
2. The most current version of Commercial Auto Coverage Form CA 00 01, providing liability coverage arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of automobiles in the course of your business operations. The Automobile Policy shall be written on an occurrence form and shall provide coverage for all owned, hired, and non-owned automobiles or other licensed vehicles (Code 1- Any Auto).
3. Workers’ Compensation insurance as required by the State of California and Employer’s Liability Insurance.
4. Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions) insurance appropriate to Consultant’s profession.

MINIMUM LIMITS OF INSURANCE

The Consultant, or any party the Consultant subcontracts with, shall maintain limits of liability of not less than those set forth below. However, insurance limits available to the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers as additional insureds, shall be the greater of the minimum limits specified herein or the full limit of any insurance proceeds available to the named insured:

1. **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY:**
 - (i) \$1,000,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage;
 - (ii) \$1,000,000 per occurrence for personal and advertising injury;
 - (iii) \$2,000,000 aggregate for products and completed operations; and,
 - (iv) \$2,000,000 general aggregate applying separately to the work performed under the Agreement.
2. **COMMERCIAL AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY:**

\$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and property damage.

3. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE as required by the State of California with statutory limits.

4. EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY:

- (i) \$1,000,000 each accident for bodily injury;
- (ii) \$1,000,000 disease each employee; and,
- (iii) \$1,000,000 disease policy limit.

5. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY (Errors and Omissions):

- (i) \$1,000,000 per claim/occurrence; and,
- (ii) \$2,000,000 policy aggregate.

UMBRELLA OR EXCESS INSURANCE

In the event the Consultant purchases an Umbrella or Excess insurance policy(ies) to meet the "Minimum Limits of Insurance," this insurance policy(ies) shall "follow form" and afford no less coverage than the primary insurance policy(ies). In addition, such Umbrella or Excess insurance policy(ies) shall also apply on a primary and non-contributory basis for the benefit of the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers.

DEDUCTIBLES AND SELF-INSURED RETENTIONS

The Consultant shall be responsible for payment of any deductibles contained in any insurance policy(ies) required herein and the Consultant shall also be responsible for payment of any self-insured retentions.

OTHER INSURANCE PROVISIONS/ENDORSEMENTS

The General Liability and Automobile Liability insurance policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

1. The City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers are to be covered as additional insureds. Consultant shall establish additional insured status for the City under the General Liability policy for all ongoing and completed operations by use of endorsements providing additional insured status as broad as that contained in ISO Form CG 20 10 11 85 or CG 20 10 04 13.
2. The coverage shall contain no special limitations on the scope of protection afforded to the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers. Any available insurance proceeds in excess of the specified minimum limits and coverage shall be available to the Additional Insured.
3. Consultant's insurance coverage shall be primary insurance with respect to the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be excess of the Consultant's insurance and shall not contribute with it. The Consultant shall establish primary and non-contributory status on the General Liability policy by use of ISO Form CG 20 01 04 13, or by an executed endorsement that provides primary and non-contributory status as broad as that contained in ISO Form CG 20 01 04 13.

4. All policies of insurance shall contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provision: the Consultant and its insurer shall waive any right of subrogation against the City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers.
5. All policies of insurance required herein shall be endorsed to provide that the coverage shall not be cancelled, non-renewed, reduced in coverage or in limits except after 30 calendar days written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, has been given to the City. The Consultant is also responsible for providing written notice to the City under the same terms and conditions. Upon issuance by the insurer, broker, or agent, of a notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or reduction in coverage or in limits, the Consultant shall furnish the City with a new certificate and applicable endorsements for such policy(ies). In the event any policy is due to expire during the work to be performed for the City, the Consultant shall provide a new certificate, and applicable endorsements, evidencing renewal of such policy not less than 15 calendar days prior to the expiration date of the expiring policy.
6. Should any of the required policies provide that the defense costs are paid within the Limits of Liability, thereby reducing the available limits by any defense costs, then the requirement for the Limits of Liability of these policies will be twice the above stated limits.
7. The fact that insurance is obtained by the Consultant shall not be deemed to release or diminish the liability of the Consultant, including, without limitation, liability under the indemnity provisions of this Agreement. The policy limits do not act as a limitation upon the amount of indemnification to be provided by the Consultant. Approval or purchase of any insurance contracts or policies shall in no way relieve from liability nor limit the liability of the Consultant, its principals, officers, agents, employees, persons under the supervision of the Consultant, vendors, suppliers, invitees, consultants, sub-consultants, subcontractors, or anyone employed directly or indirectly by any of them.

CLAIMS-MADE POLICIES

If the Professional Liability (Errors and Omissions) insurance policy is written on a claims-made form:

1. The retroactive date must be shown, and must be before the effective date of the Agreement or the commencement of work by the Consultant.
2. Insurance must be maintained and evidence of insurance must be provided for at least five (5) years after completion of the Agreement work or termination of the Agreement, whichever occurs first, or, in the alternative, the policy shall be endorsed to provide not less than a five-year discovery period.
3. If coverage is canceled or non-renewed, and not replaced with another claims-made policy form with a retroactive date prior to the effective date of the Agreement or the commencement of work by the Consultant, the Consultant must purchase "extended reporting" coverage for a minimum of five (5) years completion of the Agreement work or termination of the Agreement, whichever occurs first.
4. A copy of the claims reporting requirements must be submitted to the City for review.
5. These requirements shall survive expiration or termination of the Agreement.

VERIFICATION OF COVERAGE

the Consultant shall furnish City with all certificate(s) and applicable endorsements effecting coverage required hereunder. All certificates and applicable endorsements are to be received and approved by the City's Risk Manager or designee prior to City's execution of the Agreement and before work commences. All non-ISO endorsements amending policy coverage shall be executed by a licensed and authorized agent or broker. Upon request of City, the Consultant shall immediately furnish City with a complete copy of any insurance policy required under this Agreement, including all endorsements, with said copy certified by the underwriter to be a true and correct copy of the original policy. This requirement shall survive expiration or termination of this Agreement.

SUBCONTRACTORS

If the Consultant subcontracts any or all of the services to be performed under this Agreement, the Consultant shall require, at the discretion of the City Risk Manager or designee, subcontractor(s) to enter into a separate side agreement with the City to provide required indemnification and insurance protection. Any required side agreement(s) and associated insurance documents for the subcontractor must be reviewed and preapproved by City Risk Manager or designee. If no side agreement is required, the Consultant shall require and verify that subcontractors maintain insurance meeting all the requirements stated herein and the Consultant shall ensure that City, its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers are additional insureds. The subcontractors' certificates and endorsements shall be on file

**EXHIBIT C
DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Stakeholder Engagement and Public Education Program Support

		YES*	NO
1	Are you currently in litigation with the City of Fresno or any of its agents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Do you represent any firm, organization, or person who is in litigation with the City of Fresno?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	Do you currently represent or perform work for any clients who do business with the City of Fresno?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Are you or any of your principals, managers, or professionals, owners or investors in a business which does business with the City of Fresno, or in a business which is in litigation with the City of Fresno?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Are you or any of your principals, managers, or professionals, related by blood or marriage to any City of Fresno employee who has any significant role in the subject matter of this service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Do you or any of your subcontractors have, or expect to have, any interest, direct or indirect, in any other contract in connection with this Project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
* If the answer to any question is yes, please explain in full below.			

Explanation: _____
 To the best of my knowledge, there is no conflict of interest.

Additional page(s) attached.

Signed by:

 B2DA24832AF844B...
 City of Fresno

11/26/2024

Date
 Malle Vaddi, VP Finance

(Name)

Southwest Strategies Group
 (Company)

12770 El Camino Real, Suite 100
 (Address)

San Diego CA 92130
 (City, State Zip)