

EXHIBIT 1-A



Rincon Consultants, Inc.
2511 Garden Road, Suite C-250
Monterey, California 93940
831-333-0310

May 19, 2023
Rincon Project No. 23-14635

David Stoldt, General Manager
Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
5 Harris Court, Building G
Monterey, California 93940
Via email: dstoldt@mpwmd.net

Subject: Proposal to Provide Environmental Consulting Services for Future Water Allocations

Rincon Consultants, Inc. is pleased to submit this proposal to assist the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD or District) with environmental consulting services to determine the appropriate level of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for anticipated future water allocations. The following sections of this proposal describe: (1) our project understanding; (2) our proposed scope of work; (3) a schedule for completion of the work program; and (4) our cost estimate.

Project Understanding

With new water sources anticipated to come online in the coming years, the District is considering a water allocation program for the various jurisdictions within the MPWMD service area. This includes the County of Monterey; cities of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, and Seaside; the Monterey Peninsula Airport District; and the Department of Defense (potentially including separate allocation accounts for the Coast Guard, Army, and Navy). The District is requesting support to determine if the allocation qualifies as a “project” under CEQA and, if so, a recommendation of the appropriate level of CEQA review.

Scope of Work

Task 1 Kickoff and Staff Interviews

Upon notice to proceed, Rincon will schedule a kickoff meeting with MPWMD staff and legal counsel. The meeting will serve to discuss scope and approach issues, review and confirm study objectives, and establish an operational protocol. Rincon assumes this meeting will be held virtually and last approximately one hour.

This task also includes subsequent interviews with David Stoldt, Stephanie Locke, and David Laredo (District legal counsel) to understand the allocation process and the District’s goals for allocation as well as to identify and receive key documents to review under Task 2. Each meeting will be virtual, attended by up to two Rincon staff, and last one hour each.

Task 2 Document Review

Rincon will review existing environmental documents pertaining to water supply projects in the District’s service area, as well as those programmatically addressing General Plan buildout for jurisdictions within the service area. This is anticipated to include the following:

- Water Allocation Program EIR, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (April 1990)



- Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project Final EIR/EIS, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary/California Public Utilities Commission (March 2022)
- Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment (PWM/GWR) Project Final Consolidated EIR (October 2015) and Addenda Nos. 1, 2, and 3 (June 2016, February 2017, and October 2017)
- PWM/GWR Modifications Final Supplemental EIR (April 2021) and Addendum No. 1 (November 2021)
- 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy EIR, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (June 2022)
- General Plan EIRs for the County of Monterey and cities of Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Sand City, and Seaside
- Airport Master Plan EIR, Monterey Peninsula Airport District (August 2020)

Other relevant environmental documents, including those for the Coast Guard, Navy, and Army facilities within the MPWMD jurisdiction, will also be reviewed. In addition to the list above, we assume up to five additional CEQA and/or NEPA documents may be reviewed as part of this task.

The purpose of this review is to determine to what extent growth that could be accommodated by the water allocations has already been analyzed under CEQA, and to compare the methodology and assumptions used in the various documents for quantifying water demand.

Task 3 CEQA Approach Memorandum

Based on the interviews and document review completed in Tasks 1 and 2, Rincon will prepare a memorandum that:

- Provides a brief understanding of the anticipated water allocation
- Compares and contrasts the 1990 allocation to the current proposed allocation, highlighting any key differentiators that suggest a different CEQA approach may be warranted
- Considers whether the allocation qualifies as a “project” under CEQA
- Summarizes the documents reviewed under Task 2, with particular emphasis on the land use buildout and water demand calculations in each
- Determines whether growth accommodated or facilitated by the allocation has already been analyzed under CEQA
- Identifies the appropriate level of CEQA documentation for the proposed allocation, if any

Rincon’s in-house legal counsel will be available for consultation during the analysis and will review the approach memorandum prior to submittal. If at any point during the document review, analysis, and memorandum preparation, Rincon determines that an EIR is the most likely appropriate CEQA pathway, we will notify the District immediately to discuss an appropriate course of action. This may include stopping work on the CEQA approach memorandum and preparing a scope of work for environmental review.

Rincon will submit the draft CEQA Approach Memorandum digitally (Microsoft Word) and address one round of consolidated comments from MPWMD. The final memorandum will be submitted in Adobe PDF.



Task 3 Meetings and Project Oversight

In addition to kickoff meeting and key staff interviews identified in Task 1, Rincon's Project Manager and/or Principal-in-Charge will attend up to four one-hour virtual meetings with District staff and legal counsel to discuss the findings of our document review and to advise on the anticipated results of the memorandum analysis. For budgeting purposes, we assume Rincon's in-house legal counsel would attend up to two of these meetings.

This task also includes management and coordination through the duration of the project, including coordination with the District and internal project team; project oversight; budget and schedule management; and project accounting including billing and accounts receivable efforts.

Assumptions and Exclusions

This scope of work includes the following assumptions and exclusions:

- District staff and legal counsel will provide sufficient detail regarding the anticipated water allocation program to develop an adequate understanding of the program for analysis of CEQA applicability.
- Review of each environmental document will not require more than three to four professional staff hours to review and obtain relevant information for the analysis. If the documents are lengthier or more complicated than anticipated, or if additional documents are identified that warrant review, additional budget may be required.
- If at any point during the document review, analysis, and memorandum preparation, Rincon determines that an EIR is the most likely appropriate CEQA pathway, we will notify the District immediately to discuss an appropriate course of action. This may include stopping work on the CEQA approach memorandum and preparing a scope of work for environmental review.
- This scope of work does not include completion of CEQA review.
- Rincon will not provide hard copies of any deliverables. Deliverables will not be formatted to comply with Section 508 accessibility requirements. However, this task can be added for an additional fee.
- All meetings will be held virtually.

Timeline

Rincon will schedule a kickoff meeting within one week of notice to proceed. Interviews (Task 1) will be completed within two weeks of the kickoff meeting, and document review (Task 2) will be completed within approximately four weeks of the kickoff meeting. The CEQA approach memorandum (Task 4) will be submitted for District and legal review within three weeks of completion of the document review, or approximately eight weeks following notice to proceed.



Cost


Rincon will complete the above scope of work for \$26,840, as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Cost Summary

Task		Estimated Cost
Task 1	Kickoff and Staff Interviews	\$2,640
Task 2	Document Review	\$12,280
Task 3	CEQA Approach Memorandum	\$5,646
Task 4	Meetings and Project Oversight	\$5,835
Total		\$26,401

Thank you for considering Rincon for this opportunity. If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please contact Megan Jones at 831-920-5424 or mjones@rinconconsultants.com, or Jennifer Haddow at 805-644-4455 or jhaddow@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.



Megan Jones, MPP
Managing Principal