



Contract Number

24-1105

SAP Number

Land Use Services Department

Department Contract Representative
Telephone Number

Jolly Bakunawa
909-387-5039

Consultant

Benchmark Land Use Group, Inc.
dba Benchmark Resources

Consultant Representative
Telephone Number

David E. Brown
916-983-9193

Contract Term

11/19/2024 – 11/18/2027

Original Contract Amount

NTE \$6,000,000 - Aggregate Total

Amendment Amount

N/A

Total Contract Amount

NTE \$6,000,000 - Aggregate Total

Cost Center

6950001000

Grant Number (if applicable)

N/A

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the San Bernardino County (County) Land Use Services Department (Department) seeks to obtain on-call contract services including contract planning, environmental analysis, and Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) compliance to supplement the efforts of County staff in the Planning Division on an as-needed basis.

WHEREAS, the County conducted a competitive process to find Benchmark Land Use Group, Inc. dba Benchmark Resources (Consultant) to provide these services; and

WHEREAS, based upon and in reliance on the representations of Consultant in its response to the County's Request for Proposals, the County finds Consultant qualified to provide contract planning services, environment analysis, and/or SMARA Compliance services; and

WHEREAS, the County desires that such services be provided by Consultant and Consultant agrees to perform these services as set forth below;

NOW, THEREFORE, the County and Consultant mutually agree to the following terms and conditions:

A. RESERVED

B. CONSULTANT RESPONSIBILITIES

Consultant shall perform services customarily and typically rendered in the fields of the following service types upon the request of the Department:

B.1 Contract Planning Services – Contract planning contractors shall process land use and development applications as an extension of County staff. Contract planners shall act as County project managers for assigned applications with access to County files, email communications, permit and property data systems and support services. Contract planners shall be responsible for reviewing applications, preparing environmental analysis documents, coordinating the review and incorporating the requirements of other County departments and other agencies in conditions of approval. Contract planners shall also prepare and present staff reports and complete project file documentation and County permit and time tracking systems data input. Typical application assignments include, but are not limited to conditional use permits, subdivisions, general plan amendments and variances.

B.2 Environmental Analysis – Environmental analysis contractors shall analyze land use applications and development projects under review in the Department. The contractors shall work under the direction of County staff to provide objective environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Typical services would include preparation of initial studies and environmental assessments, as well as supporting technical reports, including but not limited to traffic, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, and visual impact analyses and water quality management plan.

B.3 SMARA Compliance Services – SMARA compliance contractors shall assist the Department with implementation of lead agency responsibilities pursuant to the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). Services may include, but would not be limited to inspections, review of reclamation plans, plans of operation, financial assurance cost estimates, and communications on behalf of the Department with mine operators and the California Office of Mine Reclamation.

C. GENERAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

C.1 Recitals

The recitals set forth above are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

C.2 Contract Amendments

Consultant agrees any alterations, variations, modifications, or waivers of the provisions of the Contract, shall be valid only when reduced to writing, executed and attached to the original Contract and approved by the person(s) authorized to do so on behalf of Consultant and County.

C.3 Contract Exclusivity

This is not an exclusive Contract. The County reserves the right to enter into a contract with other consultants for the same or similar services. The County does not guarantee or represent that the Consultant will be permitted to perform any minimum amount of work, or receive a minimum amount of compensation, under the terms of this Contract.

C.4 Attorney's Fees and Costs

If any legal action is instituted to enforce any party's rights hereunder, each party shall bear its own costs and attorney's fees, regardless of who is the prevailing party. This paragraph shall not apply to those costs and attorney's fees directly arising from a third-party legal action against a party hereto and payable under Indemnification and Insurance Requirements.

C.5 Background Checks for Consultant Personnel

Consultant shall ensure that its personnel (a) are authorized to work in the jurisdiction in which they are assigned to perform services; (b) do not use legal or illegal substances in any manner which will impact their ability to provide services to the County; and (c) are not otherwise disqualified from performing the services under applicable law. If requested by the County and not in violation of applicable law,

Consultant shall conduct a background check, at Consultant's sole expense, on all its personnel providing services. If requested by the County, Contractor shall provide the results of the background check of each individual to verify that the individual meets Consultant's standards for employment. Such background check shall be in the form generally used by Consultant in its initial hiring of employees or contracting for contractors or, as applicable, during the employment-screening process but must, at a minimum, have been performed within the preceding 12-month period. Consultant personnel who do not meet the County's hiring criteria, in County's sole discretion, shall not be assigned to work on County property or services, and County shall have the right, at its sole option, to refuse access to any of Consultant's personnel to any County facility.

C.6 Change of Address

Consultant shall notify the County in writing, of any change in mailing address within ten (10) business days of the change.

C.7 Choice of Law

This Contract shall be governed by and construed according to the laws of the State of California.

C.8 Compliance with County Policy

In performing the services and while at any County facilities, Consultant personnel (including subcontractors) shall (a) conduct themselves in a businesslike manner; (b) comply with the policies, procedures, and rules of the County regarding health and safety, and personal, professional and ethical conduct; (c) comply with the finance, accounting, banking, Internet, security, and/or other applicable standards, policies, practices, processes, procedures, and controls of the County; and (d) abide by all laws applicable to the County facilities and the provision of the services, and all amendments and modifications to each of the items addressed in subsections (b), (c), and (d) (collectively, "County Policies"). County Policies, and additions or modifications thereto, may be communicated orally or in writing to Consultant or Consultant personnel or may be made available to Consultant or Consultant personnel by conspicuous posting at a County facility, electronic posting, or other means generally used by County to disseminate such information to its employees or contractors. Consultant shall be responsible for the promulgation and distribution of County Policies to Consultant personnel to the extent necessary and appropriate.

County shall have the right to require Consultant's employees, agents, representatives and subcontractors to exhibit identification credentials issued by County in order to exercise any right of access under this Contract.

C.9 Confidentiality

Consultant shall protect from unauthorized use or disclosure the names and other identifying information concerning persons receiving services pursuant to this Contract, except for statistical information not identifying any participant. Consultant shall not use or disclose any identifying information for any purpose other than carrying out the Consultant's obligations under this Contract, except as may otherwise be required by law. This provision will remain in force even after the termination of the Contract.

C.10 Primary Point of Contact

Consultant will designate an individual to serve as the primary point of contact for the Contract. Consultant or designee must respond to County inquiries within two (2) business days. Consultant shall not change the primary contact without written acknowledgement to the County. Consultant will also designate a back-up point of contact in the event the primary contact is not available.

C.11 County Representative

The Land Use Services Department Director or his/her designee shall represent the County in all matters pertaining to the services to be rendered under this Contract, including termination and assignment of this Contract, and shall be the final authority in all matters pertaining to the services/Scope of Work by Consultant. If this Contract was initially approved by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, then the Board of Supervisors must approve all amendments to this Contract, unless otherwise delegated.

C.12 Damage to County Property

Consultant shall repair, or cause to be repaired, at its own cost, all damages to County vehicles, facilities, buildings or grounds caused by the willful or negligent acts of Consultant or its employees or agents. Such repairs shall be made immediately after Consultant becomes aware of such damage, but in no event later than thirty (30) days after the occurrence.

If the Consultant fails to make timely repairs, the County may make any necessary repairs. The Consultant, as determined by the County, shall repay all costs incurred by the County for such repairs, by cash payment upon demand, or County may deduct such costs from any amounts due to the Consultant from the County, as determined at the County's sole discretion.

C. 13 Debarment and Suspension

Consultant certifies that neither it nor its principals or subcontractors is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency. (See the following United States General Services Administration's System for Award Management website <https://www.sam.gov>). Consultant further certifies that if it or any of its subcontractors are business entities that must be registered with the California Secretary of State, they are registered and in good standing with the Secretary of State.

C.14 Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace

In recognition of individual rights to work in a safe, healthful and productive work place, as a material condition of this Contract, the Consultant agrees that the Consultant and the Consultant's employees, while performing service for the County, on County property, or while using County equipment:

- C.14.1** Shall not be in any way impaired because of being under the influence of alcohol or an illegal or controlled substance.
- C.14.2** Shall not possess an open container of alcohol or consume alcohol or possess or be under the influence of an illegal or controlled substance.
- C.14.3** Shall not sell, offer, or provide alcohol or an illegal or controlled substance to another person, except where Consultant or Consultant's employee who, as part of the performance of normal job duties and responsibilities, prescribes or administers medically prescribed drugs.

Consultant shall inform all employees that are performing service for the County on County property, or using County equipment, of the County's objective of a safe, healthful and productive work place and the prohibition of drug or alcohol use or impairment from same while performing such service for the County.

The County may terminate for default or breach of this Contract and any other Contract the Consultant has with the County, if the Consultant or Consultant's employees are determined by the County not to be in compliance with above.

C.15 Duration of Terms

This Contract, and all of its terms and conditions, shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of the respective parties, provided no such assignment is in violation of the provisions of this Contract.

C.16 Employment Discrimination

During the term of the Contract, Consultant shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, or military and veteran status. Consultant shall comply with Executive Orders 11246, 11375, 11625, 12138, 12432, 12250, 13672, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act and other applicable Federal, State

and County laws and regulations and policies relating to equal employment and contracting opportunities, including laws and regulations hereafter enacted.

C.17 Environmental Requirements

In accordance with County Policy 11-08, the County prefers to acquire and use products with higher levels of post-consumer recycled content. Environmentally preferable goods and materials must perform satisfactorily and be available at a reasonable price. The County requires Consultant to use recycled paper for any printed or photocopied material created as a result of this Contract. Consultant is also required to use both sides of paper sheets for reports submitted to the County whenever practicable.

To assist the County in meeting the reporting requirements of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939), Consultant must be able to annually report the County's environmentally preferable purchases. Consultant must also be able to report on environmentally preferable goods and materials used in the provision of their service to the County, utilizing a County approved form.

C.18 Improper Influence

Consultant shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that no County officer or employee, whose position in the County enables him/her to influence any award of the Contract or any competing offer, shall have any direct or indirect financial interest resulting from the award of the Contract or shall have any relationship to the Consultant or officer or employee of the Consultant.

C.19 Improper Consideration

Consultant shall not offer (either directly or through an intermediary) any improper consideration such as, but not limited to cash, discounts, service, the provision of travel or entertainment, or any items of value to any officer, employee or agent of the County in an attempt to secure favorable treatment regarding this Contract.

The County, by written notice, may immediately terminate this Contract if it determines that any improper consideration as described in the preceding paragraph was offered to any officer, employee or agent of the County with respect to the proposal and award process. This prohibition shall apply to any amendment, extension or evaluation process once a contract has been awarded.

Consultant shall immediately report any attempt by a County officer, employee or agent to solicit (either directly or through an intermediary) improper consideration from Consultant. The report shall be made to the supervisor or manager charged with supervision of the employee or the County Administrative Office. In the event of a termination under this provision, the County is entitled to pursue any available legal remedies.

C.20 Informal Dispute Resolution

In the event the County determines that service is unsatisfactory, or in the event of any other dispute, claim, question or disagreement arising from or relating to this Contract or breach thereof, the parties hereto shall use their best efforts to settle the dispute, claim, question or disagreement. To this effect, they shall consult and negotiate with each other in good faith and, recognizing their mutual interests, attempt to reach a just and equitable solution satisfactory to both parties.

C.21 Legality and Severability

The parties' actions under the Contract shall comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, court orders and governmental agency orders. The provisions of this Contract are specifically made severable. If a provision of the Contract is terminated or held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall remain in full effect.

C.22 Licenses, Permits and/or Certifications

Consultant shall ensure that it has all necessary licenses, permits and/or certifications required by Federal, State, County, and municipal laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. The Consultant shall maintain these licenses, permits and/or certifications in effect for the duration of this Contract. Consultant

will notify County immediately of loss or suspension of any such licenses, permits and/or certifications. Failure to maintain a required license, permit and/or certification may result in immediate termination of this Contract.

C.23 Material Misstatement/Misrepresentation

If during the course of the administration of this Contract, the County determines that Consultant has made a material misstatement or misrepresentation or that materially inaccurate information has been provided to the County, this Contract may be immediately terminated. If this Contract is terminated according to this provision, the County is entitled to pursue any available legal remedies.

C.24 Mutual Covenants

The parties to this Contract mutually covenant to perform all of their obligations hereunder, to exercise all discretion and rights granted hereunder, and to give all consents in a reasonable manner consistent with the standards of "good faith" and "fair dealing".

C.25 Nondisclosure

Consultant shall hold as confidential and use reasonable care to prevent unauthorized access by, storage, disclosure, publication, dissemination to and/or use by third parties of, confidential information that is either: (1) provided by the County to Consultant or an agent of Consultant or otherwise made available to Consultant or Consultant's agent in connection with this Contract; or, (2) acquired, obtained, or learned by Consultant or an agent of Consultant in the performance of this Contract. For purposes of this provision, confidential information means any data, files, software, information or materials in oral, electronic, tangible or intangible form and however stored, compiled or memorialize and includes, but is not limited to: technology infrastructure, architecture, financial data, trade secrets, equipment specifications, user lists, passwords, research data, and technology data.

C.26 Notice of Delays

Except as otherwise provided herein, when either party has knowledge that any actual or potential situation is delaying or threatens to delay the timely performance of this contract, that party shall, within twenty-four (24) hours, give notice thereof, including all relevant information with respect thereto, to the other party.

C.27 Ownership of Documents

All documents, data, products, graphics, computer programs and reports prepared by Consultant pursuant to the Contract shall be considered property of the County upon payment for services (and products, if applicable). All such items shall be delivered to County at the completion of work under the Contract, subject to the requirements of Article D—Term of the Contract. Unless otherwise directed by County, Consultant may retain copies of such items.

C.28 RESERVED

C.29 Air, Water Pollution Control, Safety and Health

Consultant shall comply with all air pollution control, water pollution, safety and health ordinances and statutes, which apply to the work performed pursuant to this Contract.

C.30 Records

Consultant shall maintain all records and books pertaining to the delivery of services under this Contract and demonstrate accountability for contract performance. All records shall be complete and current and comply with all Contract requirements. Failure to maintain acceptable records shall be considered grounds for withholding of payments for invoices submitted and/or termination of the Contract.

All records relating to the Consultant's personnel, consultants, subcontractors, services/Scope of Work and expenses pertaining to this Contract shall be kept in a generally acceptable accounting format. Records should include primary source documents. Fiscal records shall be kept in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and must account for all funds, tangible assets, revenue and expenditures. Fiscal records must comply with the appropriate Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Circulars, which state the administrative requirements, cost principles and other standards for accountancy.

C.31 Relationship of the Parties

Nothing contained in this Contract shall be construed as creating a joint venture, partnership, or employment arrangement between the Parties hereto, nor shall either Party have the right, power or authority to create an obligation or duty, expressed or implied, on behalf of the other Party hereto. In the performance of this Contract, Consultant, its agents and employees, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers, employees, or agents of the San Bernardino County. Any provision of this Contract that may appear to give the County any right to direct the Consultant concerning the details of performing the services/Scope of Work, or to exercise any control over such performance, shall mean only that the Consultant shall follow the direction of the County concerning the end results of the performance.

C.32 Release of Information

No news releases, advertisements, public announcements or photographs arising out of the Contract or Consultant's relationship with County may be made or used without prior written approval of the County.

C.33 Strict Performance

Failure by a party to insist upon the strict performance of any of the provisions of this Contract by the other party, or the failure by a party to exercise its rights upon the default of the other party, shall not constitute a waiver of such party's right to insist and demand strict compliance by the other party with the terms of this Contract thereafter.

C.34 Subcontracting

Consultant shall obtain County's written consent, which County may withhold in its sole discretion, before entering into Contracts with or otherwise engaging any subcontractors who may supply any part of the services to County. At County's request, Consultant shall provide information regarding the subcontractor's qualifications and a listing of a subcontractor's key personnel including, if requested by the County, resumes of proposed subcontractor personnel. Consultant shall remain directly responsible to County for its subcontractors and shall indemnify County for the actions or omissions of its subcontractors under the terms and conditions specified in Article G. All approved subcontractors shall be subject to the provisions of this Contract applicable to Consultant Personnel.

For any subcontractor, Consultant shall:

- 34.1** Be responsible for subcontractor compliance with the Contract and the subcontract terms and conditions; and
- 34.2** Ensure that the subcontractor follows County's reporting formats and procedures as specified by County.
- 34.3** Include in the subcontractor's subcontract substantially similar terms as are provided in Articles B. Consultant Responsibilities and C. General Contract Requirements.

Upon expiration or termination of this Contract for any reason, County will have the right to enter into direct Contracts with any of the subcontractors. Consultant agrees that its arrangements with subcontractors will not prohibit or restrict such subcontractors from entering into direct contracts with County.

C. 35 Subpoena

In the event that a subpoena or other legal process commenced by a third party in any way concerning the Services provided under this Contract is served upon Consultant or County, such party agrees to notify the other party in the most expeditious fashion possible following receipt of such subpoena or other legal process. Consultant and County further agree to cooperate with the other party in any lawful effort by such other party to contest the legal validity of such subpoena or other legal process commenced by a third party as may be reasonably required and at the expense of the party to whom the legal process is directed, except as otherwise provided herein in connection with defense obligations by Consultant for County.

C.36 Termination for Convenience

The County reserves the right to terminate the Contract, for its convenience, with or without cause, with a thirty (30) day written notice of termination. Such termination may include all or part of the services described herein. Upon such termination, payment will be made to the Consultant for services rendered and expenses reasonably incurred prior to the effective date of termination. Upon receipt of termination notice Consultant shall promptly discontinue services unless the notice directs otherwise. Consultant shall deliver promptly to County and transfer title (if necessary) to all completed work, and work in progress, including drafts, documents, plans, forms, data, products, graphics, computer programs and reports.

C.37 Time of the Essence

Time is of the essence in performance of this Contract and of each of its provisions.

C.38 Venue

The parties acknowledge and agree that this Contract was entered into and intended to be performed in San Bernardino County, California. The parties agree that the venue of any action or claim brought by any party to this Contract will be the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District. Each party hereby waives any law or rule of the court, which would allow them to request or demand a change of venue. If any action or claim concerning this Contract is brought by any third-party and filed in another venue, the parties hereto agree to use their best efforts to obtain a change of venue to the Superior Court of California, County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino District.

C.39 Conflict of Interest

Consultant shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that no conflict of interest exists between its officers, employees, or subcontractors and the County. Consultant shall make a reasonable effort to prevent officers, employees, subcontractors, or members of governing bodies from using their positions for purposes that are, or give the appearance of being motivated by a desire for private gain for themselves or others such as those with whom they have family business, or other ties. Officers, employees, and agents of cities, counties, districts, and other local agencies are subject to applicable conflict of interest codes and state law. In the event the County determines a conflict of interest situation exists, any increase in costs, associated with the conflict of interest situation, may be disallowed by the County and such conflict may constitute grounds for termination of the Contract. This provision shall not be construed to prohibit employment of persons with whom Consultant's officers, employees, or agents have family, business, or other ties so long as the employment of such persons does not result in increased costs over those associated with the employment of any other equally qualified applicant.

Consultant acknowledges and agrees that it will not submit a bid, or enter into an agreement with a third party, for the construction of the Project or any future phases of a Project on which it has previously performed work that was assigned to it under this Contract. Consultant agrees not to affiliate with, or receive financial consideration from, any third party in connection with this Project, except as specifically authorized under this Contract.

Consultant understands per the attached Conflict of Interest and Political Reform Act Obligations (Attachment B) that the Land Use Services Department Director has determined Consultant meets Disclosure Determination number 2 and that disclosure is required.

C.40 Former County Administrative Officials

Consultant agrees to provide, or has already provided information on former San Bernardino County administrative officials (as defined below) who are employed by or represent Consultant. The information provided includes a list of former County administrative officials who terminated County employment within the last five years and who are now officers, principals, partners, associates or members of the business. The information also includes the employment with or representation of Consultant. For purposes of this provision, "County administrative official" is defined as a member of the Board of Supervisors or such officer's staff, County Executive Officer or member of such officer's staff, County department or group head, assistant department or group head, or any employee in the Exempt Group, Management Unit or Safety Management Unit.

C.41 Disclosure of Criminal and Civil Procedures

County reserves the right to request the information described herein from Consultant. Failure to provide the information may result in a termination of the Contract. The County also reserves the right to obtain the requested information by way of a background check performed by an investigative firm. The Consultant also may be requested to provide information to clarify initial responses. Negative information discovered may result in Contract termination.

Consultant is required to disclose whether the firm, or any of its partners, principals, members, associates or key employees (as that term is defined herein), within the last ten years, has been indicted on or had charges brought against it or them (if still pending) or convicted of any crime or offense arising directly or indirectly from the conduct of the firm's business, or whether the firm, or any of its partners, principals, members, associates or key employees, has within the last ten years, been indicted on or had charges brought against it or them (if still pending) or convicted of any crime or offense involving financial misconduct or fraud. If the response is affirmative, the Consultant will be asked to describe any such indictments or charges (and the status thereof), convictions and the surrounding circumstances in detail.

In addition, the Consultant is required to disclose whether the firm, or any of its partners, principals, members, associates or key employees, within the last ten years, has been the subject of legal proceedings as defined herein arising directly from the provision of services by the firm or those individuals. "Legal proceedings" means any civil actions filed in a court of competent jurisdiction, or any matters filed by an administrative or regulatory body with jurisdiction over the firm or the individuals. If the response is affirmative, the Consultant will be asked to describe any such legal proceedings (and the status and disposition thereof) and the surrounding circumstances in detail.

For purposes of this provision "key employees" includes any individuals providing direct service to the County. "Key employees" do not include clerical personnel providing service at the firm's offices or locations.

C.42 Copyright

County shall have a royalty-free, non-exclusive and irrevocable license to publish, disclose, copy, translate, and otherwise use, copyright or patent, now and hereafter, all reports, studies, information, data, statistics, forms, designs, plans, procedures, systems, and any other materials or properties developed under this Contract including those covered by copyright, and reserves the right to authorize others to use or reproduce such material. All such materials developed under the terms of this Contract shall acknowledge the San Bernardino County as the funding agency and Consultant as the creator of the publication. No such materials, or properties produced in whole or in part under this Contract shall be subject to private use, copyright or patent right by Consultant in the United States or in any other country without the express written consent of County. Copies of all educational and training materials, curricula, audio/visual aids, printer material, and periodicals, assembled pursuant to this Contract must be filed with the County prior to publication.

C.43 Artwork, Proofs and Negatives

All artwork, proofs, and/or negatives in either print or digital format for anything produced under the terms of this Contract are the property of the County. These items must be returned to the County within ten (10) days, upon written notification to the Consultant. In the event of a failure to return the documents, the County is entitled to pursue any available legal remedies. In addition, Consultant will be barred from all future solicitations, for a period of at least six (6) months.

C.44 Iran Contracting Act

IRAN CONTRACTING ACT OF 2010, Public Contract Code sections 2200 et seq. (Applicable for all Contracts of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more). In accordance with Public Contract Code section 2204(a), the Consultant certifies that at the time the Contract is signed, the Consultant signing the Contract is not identified on a list created pursuant to subdivision (b) of Public Contract Code section 2203 as a person (as defined in Public Contract Code section 2202(e)) engaging in investment activities in Iran described in subdivision (a) of Public Contract Code section 2202.5, or as a person described in subdivision (b) of Public Contract Code section 2202.5, as applicable.

Consultants are cautioned that making a false certification may subject the Consultant to civil penalties, termination of existing contract, and ineligibility to bid on a contract for a period of three (3) years in accordance with Public Contract Code section 2205.

C.45 RESERVED

C.46 Errors, Omissions and/or Conflicts

Consultant shall be responsible for the integrity of all design and research studies prepared or approved by the Consultant and should County suffer damages due to errors, omissions, and/or conflicts within such documents, the Consultant shall be responsible to County for costs of all such damages.

C. 47 Regulatory Agencies

Except for emergencies, or except for situations where contact is required by law or relevant professional canons of ethics (in which case Consultant will use its professional efforts to notify and confer with the County before such contact, the parties recognizing that there may not be time for such in an emergency), Consultant shall not contact the Local Enforcement Agency, South Coast Air Quality Management District or other regulatory agencies concerning any site that is the subject of this Contract without Land Use Services Department prior approval.

C. 48 California Consumer Privacy Act

To the extent applicable, if Contractor is a business that collects the personal information of a consumer(s) in performing Services pursuant to this Contract, Contractor must comply with the provisions of the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA). (Cal. Civil Code, §§1798.100, et seq.). For purposes of this provision, "business," "consumer," and "personal information" shall have the same meanings as set forth at Civil Code section 1798.140. Contractor must contact the County immediately upon receipt of any request by a consumer submitted pursuant to the CCPA that requires any action on the part of the County, including but not limited to, providing a list of disclosures or deleting personal information. Contractor must not sell, market or otherwise disclose personal information of a consumer provided by the County unless specifically authorized pursuant to terms of this Contract. Contractor must immediately provide to the County any notice provided by a consumer to Contractor pursuant to Civil Code section 1798.150(b) alleging a violation of the CCPA, that involves personal information received or maintained pursuant to this Contract. Contractor must immediately notify the County if it receives a notice of violation from the California Attorney General pursuant to Civil Code section 1798.155(b).

C. 49 RESERVED

C.50 Campaign Contribution Disclosure (SB 1439)

Contractor has disclosed to the County using Attachment D - Campaign Contribution Disclosure Senate Bill 1439, whether it has made any campaign contributions of more than \$250 to any member of the Board of Supervisors or other County elected officer [Sheriff, Assessor-Recorder-Clerk, Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector and the District Attorney] within the earlier of: (1) the date of the submission of Contractor's proposal to the County, or (2) 12 months before the date this Contract was approved by the Board of Supervisors. Contractor acknowledges that under Government Code section 84308, Contractor is prohibited from making campaign contributions of more than \$250 to any member of the Board of Supervisors or County elected officer for 12 months after the County's consideration of the Contract.

In the event of a proposed amendment to this Contract, the Contractor will provide the County a written statement disclosing any campaign contribution(s) of more than \$250 to any member of the Board of Supervisors or other County elected officer within the preceding 12 months of the date of the proposed amendment.

Campaign contributions include those made by any agent/person/entity on behalf of the Contractor or by a parent, subsidiary or otherwise related business entity of Contractor.

D. TERM OF CONTRACT

This Contract is effective as of November 19, 2024, and expires November 18, 2027 but may be terminated earlier in accordance with provisions of this Contract. The Contract term may be extended for two additional one-year periods by mutual agreement of the parties.

E. COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- E.1** Department will contact Contractor and request a fixed fee for specific work and service(s) needed for a specific job and/or project.
- E.2** Contractor shall submit a fixed fee quote for the specific job and/or project based upon the Contractor's Cost Proposal (Attachment A).
- E.3** Department will supply pertinent data, maps and/or other information available for Contractor to complete a thorough fixed fee proposal.
- E.4** Once the Department receives the fixed fee quotes and service proposals and approves, a Work Order (WO) will be initiated with the Contractor.
- E.5** All work will be authorized by the issuance of an approved, written WO itemizing the work and scope of services for the fixed fee agreed upon for each assignment.
- E.6** The WO shall include the service request and the Contractor's proposal for the agreed not-to-exceed fee per service as submitted by the Contractor.
- E.7** No work shall be initiated until an approved WO with an issued tracking number has been issued by the Department and received by the Contractor.
- E.8** Multiple assignments may be issued under a single WO and/or under separate work orders based upon the needs of the Department.

F. FISCAL PROVISIONS

- F.1** The maximum amount of reimbursement/payment under this Contract shall be an aggregate amount not to exceed \$ 6,000,000 and shall be subject to availability of other funds to the County. The consideration to be paid to Consultant, as provided herein, shall be in full payment for all Consultant's services and expenses incurred in the performance hereof, including travel and per diem.

Consultant bears the risk that it may not be able to generate its anticipated (or any) profit in completing its performance of all required items of work for the specified level of compensation. In no event shall Consultant be entitled to receive compensation for any item of work required of Consultant under the terms of the Contract, which item of work is not performed by Consultant (including Consultant's agents and approved subcontractors).

- F.2** Consultant's "Cost Proposal", attached as Attachment A, hereto, sets out the Consultant's estimate of the cost (including wages) of completing the Scope of Work for a specific job and/or project in connection with a WO. The Cost Proposal was used by the County to determine the reasonableness of the cost of Consultant's proposal and is further used in making progress payments to Consultant and in making payment to Consultant in the event of the termination of the Contract prior to the completion of all items of work. Consultant is not entitled to any additional compensation by virtue of its costs (including wages) for any item of work exceeding the cost set forth in its Cost Proposal, including excess costs related to delays in completion of the Project. Payment shall be made on a percent of task completed to the County's satisfaction pursuant to Attachment A and the applicable WO.

- F.3** Consultant shall provide County itemized monthly invoices, in arrears, and in a format acceptable to the County for services performed under this Contract within twenty (20) days of the end of the previous month. The County shall make payment to Consultant within sixty (60) working days after receipt of invoice or the resolution of any billing dispute.
- F.4** Consultant shall accept all payments from County via electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly deposited into the Consultant's designated checking or other bank account. Consultant shall promptly comply with directions and accurately complete forms provided by County required to process EFT payments.
- F.5** County is exempt from Federal excise taxes and no payment shall be made for any personal property taxes levied on Consultant or on any taxes levied on employee wages. The County shall only pay for any State or local sales or use taxes on the services rendered or equipment and/or parts supplied to the County pursuant to the Contract.
- F.6** Costs for services under the terms of this Contract shall be incurred during the contract period except as approved by County. Consultant shall not use current year funds to pay prior or future year obligations.
- F.7** Funds made available under this Contract shall not supplant any federal, state or any governmental funds intended for services of the same nature as this Contract. Consultant shall not claim reimbursement or payment from County for, or apply sums received from County with respect to that portion of its obligations that have been paid by another source of revenue. Consultant agrees that it will not use funds received pursuant to this Contract, either directly or indirectly, as a contribution or compensation for purposes of obtaining funds from another revenue source without prior written approval of the County.
- F.8** Consultant shall adhere to the County's Travel Management Policy (8-02 and 08-02SP1) when travel is pursuant to this Contract and for which reimbursement is sought from the County. In addition, Consultant is encouraged to utilize local transportation services, including but not limited to, the Ontario International Airport.

G. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

G.1 Indemnification

The Consultant agrees to indemnify, defend (with counsel reasonably approved by County) and hold harmless the County and its authorized officers, employees, agents and volunteers from any and all claims, actions, losses, damages and/or liability arising out of this Contract from any cause whatsoever, including the acts, errors or omissions of any person and for any costs or expenses incurred by the County on account of any claim except where such indemnification is prohibited by law. This indemnification provision shall apply regardless of the existence or degree of fault of indemnities. The Consultant indemnification obligation applies to the County's "active" as well as "passive" negligence but does not apply to the County's "sole negligence" or "willful misconduct" within the meaning of Civil Code section 2782.

G.2 Additional Insured

All policies, except for Worker's Compensation, Errors and Omissions and Professional Liability policies shall contain additional endorsements naming the County and its officers, employees, agents and volunteers as additional named insured with respect to liabilities arising out of the performance of services hereunder. The additional insured endorsements shall not limit the scope of coverage for the County to vicarious liability but shall allow coverage for the County to the full extent provided by the policy. Such additional insured coverage shall be at least as broad as Additional Insured (Form B) endorsement form ISO, CG 2010.11 85.

G.3 Waiver of Subrogation Rights

Consultant shall require the carriers of required coverages to waive all rights of subrogation against the County, its officers, employees, agents, volunteers, contractors and subcontractors.

All general or auto liability insurance coverage provided shall not prohibit Consultant and Consultant's employees or agents from waiving the right of subrogation prior to a loss or claim. Consultant hereby waives all rights of subrogation against the County.

G.4 Policies Primary and Non-Contributory

All policies required herein are to be primary and non-contributory with any insurance or self-insurance programs carried or administered by the County.

G.5 Severability of Interests

Consultant agrees to ensure that coverage provided to meet these requirements is applicable separately to each insured and there will be no cross liability exclusions that preclude coverage for suits between Consultant and County or between County and any other insured or additional insured under the policy.

G.6 Proof of Coverage

Consultant shall furnish Certificates of Insurance to the County Department administering the Contract evidencing the insurance coverage at the time the Contract is executed, additional endorsements, as required shall be provided prior to the commencement of performance of services hereunder, which certificates shall provide that such insurance shall not be terminated or expire without thirty (30) days written notice to the Department, and Consultant shall maintain such insurance from the time Consultant commences performance of services hereunder until the completion of such services. Within fifteen (15) days of the commencement of this contract, Consultant shall furnish a copy of the Declaration page for all applicable policies and will provide complete certified copies of the policies and endorsements immediately upon request.

G.7 Acceptability of Insurance Carrier

Unless otherwise approved by Risk Management, insurance shall be written by insurers authorized to do business in the State of California and with a minimum "Best" Insurance Guide rating of "A- VII".

G.8 Deductibles and Self-Insured Retention

Any and all deductibles or self-insured retentions in excess of \$10,000 shall be declared to and approved by Risk Management.

G.9 Failure to Procure Coverage

In the event that any policy of insurance required under this Contract does not comply with the requirements, is not procured, or is canceled and not replaced, County has the right but not the obligation or duty to cancel this Contract or obtain insurance if it deems necessary and any premiums paid by County will be promptly reimbursed by Consultant or County payments to the Consultant will be reduced to pay for County purchased insurance.

G.10 Insurance Review

Insurance requirements are subject to periodic review by County. The Director of Risk Management or designee is authorized, but not required, to reduce, waive or suspend any insurance requirements whenever Risk Management determines that any of the required insurance is not available, is unreasonably priced, or is not needed to protect the interests of County. In addition, if the Department of Risk Management determines that heretofore unreasonably priced or unavailable types of insurance coverage or coverage limits become reasonably priced or available, the Director of Risk Management or designee is authorized, but not required, to change the above insurance requirements to require additional types of insurance coverage or higher coverage limits, provided that any such change is reasonable in light of past claims against County, inflation, or any other item reasonably related to the County's risk.

Any change requiring additional types of insurance coverage or higher coverage limits must be made by amendment to this contract. Consultant agrees to execute any such amendment within thirty (30) days of receipt.

Any failure, actual or alleged, on the part of County to monitor or enforce compliance with any of the insurance and indemnification requirements will not be deemed as a waiver of any rights on the part of County.

- G.11** Consultant agrees to provide insurance set forth in accordance with the requirements herein. If Consultant uses existing coverage to comply with these requirements and that coverage does not meet the specified requirements, Consultant agrees to amend, supplement or endorse the existing coverage to do so.

Without in anyway affecting the indemnity herein provided and in addition thereto, Consultant shall secure and maintain throughout the contract term the following types of insurance with limits as shown:

- G.11.1** Workers' Compensation/Employer's Liability – A program of Workers' Compensation insurance or a state-approved, self-insurance program in an amount and form to meet all applicable requirements of the Labor Code of the State of California, including Employer's Liability with \$250,000 limits covering all persons including volunteers providing services on behalf of the Consultant and all risks to such persons under this contract.

If Consultant has no employees, it may certify or warrant to the County that it does not currently have any employees or individuals who are defined as "employees" under the Labor Code and the requirement for Workers' Compensation coverage will be waived by the County's Director of Risk Management.

With respect to Consultants that are non-profit corporations organized under California or Federal law, volunteers for such entities are required to be covered by Workers' Compensation insurance.

- G.11.2** Commercial/General Liability Insurance – Consultant shall carry General Liability Insurance covering all operations performed by or on behalf of Consultant providing coverage for bodily injury and property damage with a combined single limit of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000), per occurrence. The policy coverage shall include:
- a. Premises operations and mobile equipment.
 - b. Products and completed operations.
 - c. Broad form property damage (including completed operations).
 - d. Explosion, collapse and underground hazards.
 - e. Personal injury.
 - f. Contractual liability.
 - g. \$2,000,000 general aggregate limit.

- G.11.3** Automobile Liability Insurance – Primary insurance coverage shall be written on ISO Business Auto coverage form for all owned, hired and non-owned automobiles or symbol 1 (any auto). The policy shall have a combined single limit of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for bodily injury and property damage, per occurrence.

If Consultant is transporting one or more non-employee passengers in performance of contract services, the automobile liability policy shall have a combined single limit of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for bodily injury and property damage per occurrence.

If Consultant owns no autos, a non-owned auto endorsement to the General Liability policy described above is acceptable.

G.11.4 **Umbrella Liability Insurance** – An umbrella (over primary) or excess policy may be used to comply with limits or other primary coverage requirements. When used, the umbrella policy shall apply to bodily injury/property damage, personal injury/advertising injury and shall include a “dropdown” provision providing primary coverage for any liability not covered by the primary policy. The coverage shall also apply to automobile liability.

G.11.5 **Professional Liability** – Professional Liability Insurance with limits of not less than one million (\$1,000,000) per claim and two million (\$2,000,000) aggregate limits

or

Errors and Omissions Liability Insurance – Errors and Omissions Liability Insurance with limits of not less than one million (\$1,000,000) and two million (\$2,000,000) aggregate limits

G.11.6 **RESERVED**

G.11.7 **RESERVED**

H. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

H.1 This Contract shall be binding upon County and Consultant and their respective successors and assigns.

H.2 Neither the performance of this Contract, nor any part thereof, nor any monies due or to become due thereunder may be assigned by Consultant without the prior written consent and approval of County.

H.3 **Death or Incapacity:** If the Consultant transacts business as an individual, his/her death or incapacity shall automatically terminate this Contract as of the date of such event, and neither he/she nor his/her estate shall have any further right to perform hereunder, and County shall pay him/her or his/her estate the compensation payable under Article F, Fiscal Provisions, for any services rendered prior to such termination not heretofore paid, reduced by the amount of additional costs which will be incurred by County by reason of such termination. If there be more than one Consultant and any one of them die or become incapacitated and the others continue to render the services covered herein, County will make payment to those continuing as though there had been no such death or incapacity and County will not be obliged to take any account of the person who died or became incapacitated or to make any payments to such person or his estate. The provision shall apply in the event of progressive or simultaneous occasions of death or incapacity among any group of persons named as Consultant herein, and if death or incapacity befalls the last one of such group before this Contract is fully performed, then the rights shall be as if there had been only one Consultant.

I. RIGHT TO MONITOR AND AUDIT

I.1 The County, State and Federal government shall have absolute right to review and audit all records, books, papers, documents, corporate minutes, and other pertinent items as requested, and shall have absolute right to monitor the performance of Consultant in the delivery of services provided under this Contract. Consultant shall give full cooperation, in any auditing or monitoring conducted. Consultant shall cooperate with the County in the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of this Contract and comply with any and all reporting requirements established by the County.

I.2 All records pertaining to services delivered and all fiscal, statistical and management books and records shall be available for examination and audit by County representatives for a period of three years after final payment under the Contract or until all pending County, State and Federal audits are completed, whichever is later.

J. CORRECTION OF PERFORMANCE DEFICIENCIES

- J.1** Failure by Consultant to comply with any of the provisions, covenants, requirements or conditions of this Contract shall be a material breach of this Contract.
- J.2** In the event of a non-cured breach, County may, at its sole discretion and in addition to any other remedies available at law, in equity, or otherwise specified in this Contract:
- a. Afford Consultant thereafter a time period within which to cure the breach, which period shall be established at the sole discretion of County; and/or
 - b. Discontinue reimbursement to Consultant for and during the period in which Consultant is in breach, which reimbursement shall not be entitled to later recovery; and/or
 - c. Withhold funds pending duration of the breach; and/or
 - d. Offset against any monies billed by Consultant but yet unpaid by County those monies disallowed pursuant to Item "b" of this paragraph; and/or
 - e. Terminate this Contract immediately and be relieved of the payment of any consideration to Consultant. In the event of such termination, County may proceed with the work in any manner deemed proper by County. The cost to County shall be deducted from any sum due to Consultant under this Contract and the balance, if any, shall be paid by Consultant upon demand.
- J.3** Unless a remedy is specifically designated as exclusive, no remedy conferred by any of the specific provision of the Contract is intended to be exclusive of any other remedy, and each and every remedy shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to every other remedy given hereunder, now or hereafter existing at law or in equity or by statute or otherwise. The election of any one or more remedies by either Party shall not constitute a waiver of the right to pursue other available remedies.

K. NOTICES

All written notices provided for in this Contract or which either party desires to give to the other shall be deemed fully given, when made in writing and either served personally, or by facsimile, or deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to the other party as follows:

San Bernardino County
Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 1st Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415
Phone: 909-387-5039
Attn: Jolly Bakunawa

Benchmark Land Use Group, Inc. dba
Benchmark Resources
2515 East Bidwell Street,
Folsom, CA 95630
Phone: 916-983-9193
Attn: David E. Brown

Notice shall be deemed communicated two (2) County working days from the time of mailing if mailed as provided in this paragraph.

L. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Contract, including all Attachment, Exhibits and other attachments, which are attached hereto and incorporated by reference, and other documents incorporated herein, represents the final, complete and exclusive agreement between the parties hereto. Any prior agreement, promises, negotiations or representations relating to the subject matter of this Contract not expressly set forth herein are of no force or effect. This Contract is executed without reliance upon any promise, warranty or representation by any party or any representative of any party other than those expressly contained herein. Each party has carefully read this Contract and signs the same of its own free will.

M. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Agreement. The parties shall be entitled to sign and transmit an electronic signature of this Agreement (whether by facsimile, PDF or other mail transmission), which signature shall be binding on the party whose name is contained therein. Each party providing an electronic signature agrees to promptly execute and deliver to the other party an original signed Agreement upon request.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the San Bernardino County and Consultant have each caused this Contract to be subscribed by its respective duly authorized officers, on its behalf.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

► *Dawn Rowe*
Dawn Rowe, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Dated: NOV 19 2024

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED THAT A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

By *Lynna Monell*
Lynna Monell
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
of the San Bernardino County
Deputy

Benchmark Land Use Group, Inc. dba
Benchmark Resources

(Print or type name of corporation, company, contractor, etc.)

By ► *Bruce Steubing*
Bruce Steubing (Nov 1, 2024 09:30 PDT)
(Authorized signature – sign in blue ink)

Name Bruce Steubing
(Print or type name of person signing contract)

Title Vice President
(Print or Type)

Dated: 11/01/2024

Address 2515 East Bidwell Street
Folsom, CA 95630

FOR COUNTY USE ONLY

Approved as to Legal Form
► *Jason Searles*
Jason Searles, Supervising Deputy County Counsel

Date 11/13/24

Reviewed for Contract Compliance

► *Marlene Ambriz*
Marlene Ambriz, Assistant Director

Date 11/13/24

Reviewed/Approved by Department

► *Mark Wardlaw*
Mark Wardlaw, Director

Date 11/13/24

**ATTACHMENT A
COST PROPOSAL**

San Bernardino County
Purchasing Department

Proposal for
On-Call Planning Services

No. LUS24-LUS-5537
Page 1

ATTACHMENT E – FEE PROPOSAL SHEET(S)

RFP LUSD24-LUS-5537

On-Call Planning Services

Proposer's All-Inclusive Fee
(Including reimbursable expenses, such as
travel costs, printing costs, etc.)

\$ See Proposer's Attachment

Proposed Man Hours for Services
(including estimated man hours for agency(ies) reviews)

NA Man Hours

Proposed Schedule for Services
(including estimated agency(ies) reviews)

See Proposer's Attachment Weeks

Estimate of Construction Schedule

NA Weeks

Estimate of all costs (if applicable)

\$ See Proposer's Attachment

Attach your fee/rate sheet to this form.

**“Attachment E, may be submitted electronically in ePro as a separate attachment labeled
“Fee Proposal Sheet” with the proposer's name, the RFP number, and the title.”**



**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PROPOSAL FOR RFP NO. LUSD24-LUS-5537:
ON-CALL PLANNING SERVICES (ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND SMARA COMPLIANCE SERVICES)—
SEALED PRICING**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY,
LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
385 N. ARROWHEAD AVE., 1ST FLOOR, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415**

AUGUST 14, 2024

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2.	SERVICES OF COSTS	7
2.1	Costs for Environmental Analysis	7
2.2	SMARA Compliance Services	7

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Fee Schedules
Appendix B	SMARA Inspection and FACE Review

2. SERVICES OF COSTS

Our submittal in response to Request for Qualifications LUSD24-LUS-5537 addressed all of the service areas offered by San Bernardino County (County):

- environmental analysis, and
- California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) compliance services.

This separate cost proposal provides the rates and costs that correlate with each of these service areas.

2.1 Costs for Environmental Analysis

The costs are primarily driven by the scope of the project, project site and environmental circumstances, and the services needed. Specific costs for these services would therefore be developed as projects are defined and assigned. For these service areas, our proposed “San Bernardino County Fee Schedule” (Appendix A) would be used. We will use these ranges as the basis for developing costs associated with a specific work program to be developed based on the environmental analysis services the County assigns. All rates provided in the fee schedule apply to work performed throughout the County and will be the maximum rates charged during the duration of the initial contract period. The table also provides costs for typical incidentals associated with preparation of environmental documents. These rates do not include fees associated with printing and postage for primary work products, travel expenses, and other direct costs associated with future projects, such as any facilities rental fees or other direct expenses associated with public meetings, document filing fees, or other outside fees that could be incurred. We believe that cost management is an important responsibility of a reliable consultant, and we would closely monitor expenditures, billings, and level of effort to ensure adherence to our budgets and provide monthly budget tracking.

As the County is aware, planning and environmental analysis work can be dynamic and somewhat dependent on the circumstances encountered and public controversy. Nevertheless, Benchmark Resources is familiar with the work products required and can produce an accurate budget once a project is identified and the scope of work determined. Our approach to budgeting is straightforward and our wide range of experience allows us to minimize surprises.

We have a location central to the majority of California and to federal and state government offices. For extensive work efforts, such as countywide SMARA inspections, our central California location would be no disadvantage. For limited work efforts we have indicated our willingness to only charge travel that would be expected from a competitive firm located within the Inland Empire.

2.2 SMARA Compliance Services

SMARA compliance services involve project-specific efforts (e.g., review of reclamation and operation plans) and some semi-routine efforts (e.g., annual inspections and financial assurance review). Project-specific efforts would be performed according to a defined scope of work and

costs as identified in our “San Bernardino County Fee Schedule” (Appendix A). For the semi-routine efforts, we suggest considering a fixed fee structure, as described below.

Benchmark Resources typically charges a fixed fee for SMARA annual inspections and financial assurance verification, which is set based on the size and complexity of the site. We recommend this method because it is simple and it lets operators know exactly what annual fees they will be assessed. Appendix B, “SMARA Inspection and Face Review,” lists our proposed standard fees for performing annual inspections and financial assurance reviews for the County. These fees cover routine SMARA compliance review activities. If violations are discovered that require substantial effort to resolve, our standard time and materials rates would apply, subject to approval by the County.

The primary conditions affecting the level of effort required to complete a SMARA compliance review include site size, reclamation plan complexity, level of annual surface disturbance, availability of reclamation plan and SMARA compliance documentation, and the site location and access. Any combination of these variables could result in a different ranking for a particular operation. Because special circumstances can arise (such as unusually isolated or large complex mining operations, the operator missing the site meeting, or multiple site visits), we may charge additional time based on our standard fee schedule, subject to authorization by the County. Financial assurance verification is similarly structured and priced.

We understand that the SMARA guidelines require an annual inspection and report. Completing all the mine inspections and reports will take between 8 and 12 weeks. Benchmark Resources has the team to complete the mine inspections and reports within this time, and we are committed to having them completed and submitted to DMR within the 90-day requirement.

Based on our understanding of the County’s mining operations, and using the above cost structure, Table B-2, “Preliminary Cost Assignment of San Bernardino County Mines,” of Appendix B assigns the categorical costs for the anticipated level of effort. This table provides a total cost proposal for the first year of a contract for SMARA inspections and financial assurance verifications. This estimate can be refined after we review the details of the sites with County staff.

APPENDIX A: FEE SCHEDULES

BENCHMARK RESOURCES SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY STANDARD FEE SCHEDULE

Time spent on behalf of a client, and expenditures on behalf of a client, are charged as follows:

Item	Rate
LABOR	
Principal	\$230-\$305/hour
Project Director/Senior Project Manager	\$205-\$255/hour
Senior staff project manager, engineer, geologist	\$185-\$265/hour
Project staff project manager, environmental analyst, resource planner, biologist	\$150-\$215/hour
Technical staff technical editor, CADD/GIS specialist	\$105-\$175/hour
Support staff project analyst/coordinator, document control, database management, document accessibility	\$105-\$155/hour
Clerical staff	\$105-\$115/hour
EXPENDITURES	
Airfare, auto rental, lodging, equipment, subconsultants, and miscellaneous costs	Cost plus 15% ⁽¹⁾
Document Accessibility/Remediation	TBD — Cost Determined by Document Type and In- House Remediation vs Outsourcing
Report production—black and white	\$0.15 (letter), \$0.50 (tabloid)
Report production—color	\$1.00 (letter), \$1.50 (tabloid)
Large format printing—black and white	\$10 (18x24), \$24 (24x36), \$36 (36x48)
Large format printing—color	\$20 (18x24), \$54 (24x36), \$65 (36x48)
Auto mileage	Per Federal Regulations
Per diem	\$60.00 per day

(1) Administrative burden covers associated overhead, carrying costs, warranty, indemnification, and insurance costs.

(2) Ranges shown here will be effective for the duration of the initial agreement.

APPENDIX B: SMARA INSPECTION AND FACE REVIEW

TABLE B-1
RECOMMENDED COST STRUCTURE FOR INSPECTIONS AND FINANCIAL ASSURANCE COST ESTIMATES
SMARA INSPECTIONS LEVEL OF EFFORT/VARIABLES

Condition	Variables			Special Assignment
	Low	Moderate	High	
Size	Small (<10 acres)	Medium (10-30 acres)	Large (>30 acres)	Additional circumstances/ difficulties encountered
Reclamation Plan Difficulty	Straightforward/ complete	Moderate	Complex/ incomplete	
Level of Site Change	Low (<10 acres)	Medium (10 to 20 acres)	Large (>20 acres)	
Document Accessibility and Organization	Accessible	Moderate	Difficult	
Location and Access	Accessible	Moderate	Difficult	SEE STANDARD FEESCHEDULE
COST:	\$1,250	\$2,600	\$3,900	

FINANCIAL ASSURANCE VERIFICATION LEVEL OF EFFORT/VARIABLES

Condition	Variables			Special Assignment
	Low	Moderate	High	
Level of Site Change	Low (<20 acres)	Medium (10 to 20 acres)	Large (>20 acres)	Additional circumstances/ difficulties encountered
Completeness of Existing Estimate	Complete	Average	Incomplete	
COST:	\$1,150	\$1,550	\$2,200	SEE STANDARD FEESCHEDULE

TABLE B-2
PRELIMINARY COST ASSIGNMENT OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MINES¹

Condition	Variables		
	Low	Medium	High
Number of Mines	45	24	20
Total Inspection Cost	\$56,250	62,400	\$76,000
Total Financial Assurance Cost Estimate Verification Cost	\$51,750	\$37,200	\$44,000
Subtotals:	\$108,000	\$99,600	\$122,000
GRAND TOTAL: \$329,600			

(1) Number of Mines based on "list of all the mines currently active" in San Bernardino County, found on the *Mining Home* page of the San Bernardino County Land Use Services website.

ATTACHMENT B

CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND POLITICAL REFORM ACT OBLIGATIONS

Consultant shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that no County officer or employee, whose position in the County enables him/her to influence any award of the Contract or any competing offer, shall have any direct or indirect financial interest resulting from the award of the Contract or shall have any relationship to the Consultant or officer or employee of the Consultant.

During the term of this Contract Consultant shall not act a Consultant or perform services of any kind for any person or entity whose interests conflict in any way with those of the County. Consultant shall at all times comply with the terms of the Political Reform Act and the local conflict of interest code. Consultant shall immediately disqualify itself and shall not use its official position to influence in any way, any matter coming before the County in which the Consultant has a financial interest as defined in Government Code section 87103. Consultant represents that it has no knowledge of any financial interests which would require it to disqualify itself from any matter on which it might perform services for the County.

“Consultant” means an individual who, pursuant to a contract with a state or local agency:

(A) Makes a governmental decision whether to:

1. Approve a rate, rule or regulation;
2. Adopt or enforce a law;
3. Issue, deny, suspend, or revoke any permit, license, application, certificate, approval, order, or similar authorization or entitlement;
4. Authorize the County to enter into, modify, or renew a contract provided it is the type of contract that requires County approval;
5. Grant County approval to a contract that requires County approval and to which the County is a party, or to the specifications for such a contract;
6. Grant County approval to a plan, design, report, study, or similar item;
7. Adopt, or grant County approval of, policies, standards, or guidelines for the County, or for any subdivision thereof; or

(B) Serves in a staff capacity with the County and in that capacity participates in making a governmental decision as defined in Regulation 18702.2 or performs the same or substantially all the same duties for the County that would otherwise be performed by an individual holding a position specified in the County’s Conflict of Interest Code.

DISCLOSURE DETERMINATION:

- ☐ 1. Consultant will not be “making a government decision” or “serving in a staff capacity” as defined in Sections A and B above. No disclosure required.
- ☒ 2. Consultant will be “making a government decision” or “serving in a staff capacity” as defined in either Section A or B above. As a result, Consultant shall be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors in a timely manner as required by law.

ATTACHMENT C

RESERVED



ATTACHMENT D

Campaign Contribution Disclosure (SB 1439)

DEFINITIONS

Actively supporting the matter: (a) Communicate directly with a member of the Board of Supervisors or other County elected officer [Sheriff, Assessor-Recorder-Clerk, District Attorney, Auditor-Controller/Treasurer/Tax Collector] for the purpose of influencing the decision on the matter; or (b) testifies or makes an oral statement before the County in a proceeding on the matter for the purpose of influencing the County's decision on the matter; or (c) communicates with County employees, for the purpose of influencing the County's decision on the matter; or (d) when the person/company's agent lobbies in person, testifies in person or otherwise communicates with the Board or County employees for purposes of influencing the County's decision in a matter.

Agent: A third-party individual or firm who, for compensation, is representing a party or a participant in the matter submitted to the Board of Supervisors. If an agent is an employee or member of a third-party law, architectural, engineering or consulting firm, or a similar entity, both the entity and the individual are considered agents.

Otherwise related entity: An otherwise related entity is any for-profit organization/company which does not have a parent-subsidary relationship but meets one of the following criteria:

- (1) One business entity has a controlling ownership interest in the other business entity;
- (2) there is shared management and control between the entities; or
- (3) a controlling owner (50% or greater interest as a shareholder or as a general partner) in one entity also is a controlling owner in the other entity.

For purposes of (2), "shared management and control" can be found when the same person or substantially the same persons own and manage the two entities; there are common or commingled funds or assets; the business entities share the use of the same offices or employees, or otherwise share activities, resources or personnel on a regular basis; or there is otherwise a regular and close working relationship between the entities.

Parent-Subsidiary Relationship: A parent-subsidiary relationship exists when one corporation has more than 50 percent of the voting power of another corporation.

Contractors must respond to the questions on the following page. If a question does not apply respond N/A or Not Applicable.

1. Name of Contractor: Benchmark Land Use Group, Inc.
2. Is the entity listed in Question No. 1 a nonprofit organization under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3)?
 Yes ☐ If yes, skip Question Nos. 3-4 and go to Question No. 5 No ☒
3. Name of Principal (i.e., CEO/President) of entity listed in Question No. 1, if the individual actively supports the matter and has a financial interest in the decision: Bruce Steubing
4. If the entity identified in Question No. 1 is a corporation held by 35 or less shareholders, and not publicly traded ("closed corporation"), identify the major shareholder(s):
David Brown, Bruce Steubir
5. Name of any parent, subsidiary, or otherwise related entity for the entity listed in Question No. 1 (see definitions above):

Company Name	Relationship
Benchmark Land Use Group, Inc	Parent Company
Benchmark Resources	DBA

6. Name of agent(s) of Contractor:

Company Name	Agent(s)	Date Agent Retained (if less than 12 months prior)
No Agent		
No Agent		

7. Name of Subcontractor(s) (including Principal and Agent(s)) that will be providing services/work under the awarded contract if the subcontractor (1) actively supports the matter and (2) has a financial interest in the decision and (3) will be possibly identified in the contract with the County or board governed special district.

Company Name	Subcontractor(s):	Principal and/or Agent(s):
No subcontractors at this tir		
No subcontractors at this ti		

8. Name of any known individuals/companies who are not listed in Questions 1-7, but who may (1) actively support or oppose the matter submitted to the Board and (2) have a financial interest in the outcome of the decision:

Company Name	Individual(s) Name
None known at this time.	
None known at this time.	

9. Was a campaign contribution, of more than \$250, made to any member of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors or other County elected officer within the prior 12 months, by any of the individuals or entities listed in Question Nos. 1-8?

No ☒ If no, please skip Question No. 10.

Yes ☐ If yes, please continue to complete this form.

10. Name of Board of Supervisor Member or other County elected officer: Not Applicable

Name of Contributor: _____

Date(s) of Contribution(s): _____

Amount(s): _____ Not Applicable

Please add an additional sheet(s) to identify additional Board Members or other County elected officers to whom anyone listed made campaign contributions.

By signing the Contract, Contractor certifies that the statements made herein are true and correct. Contractor understands that the individuals and entities listed in Question Nos. 1-8 are prohibited from making campaign contributions of more than \$250 to any member of the Board of Supervisors or other County elected officer while award of this Contract is being considered and for 12 months after a final decision by the County.

Signature: Bruce Steubing

Bruce Steubing (Nov 1, 2024 09:30 PM)

Email: bsteubing@benchmarkresources.com