



Date:	May 9, 2012
To:	Kris Balaji and Trin Campos Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
Cc:	Mike Davis and Claire Bromund
From:	Maggie Townsley Project Director
Subject:	North County Corridor: Technical Studies, EIR/EIS Sections, and EIR/EIS Editing Request for Amendment to Subconsultant Agreement W6-X609-01-S09-005

ICF International (ICF) is currently assisting with the EIR/EIS effort on the North County Corridor Project for the North County Corridor Transportation Expressway Authority (Authority) under a subconsultant agreement to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs). In our supporting role, ICF staff is conducting the tasks listed in our subcontract agreement to assist Jacobs with this effort. Based on recent agency and client requests, we request to amend our agreement to include the tasks listed in the attached scope of work.

If you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact me or Claire Bromund, Project Manager, at (916) 737-3000 or cbromund@icfi.com. We look forward to continuing to assist Jacobs with this project.

Attachments: Amendment Request Scope of Work and Detailed Cost Estimate



Amendment Request

North County Corridor: Technical Studies, EIR/EIS Sections, and EIR/EIS Editing

Amendment Scope of Work

Request to Amend Biological Studies Task (WBS 165.15.15)

Caltrans has directed that additional surveys be done beyond the habitat-level surveys included in our scope of work, already completed. The habitat-level surveys were conducted for the purpose of identifying and mapping the biological communities that are present with the project study area and assessing them for their potential to support suitable habitat for listed species. This effort is required for the Natural Environment Study (NES). These surveys are described on page 12 of our scope in the first sentences in 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of our scope of work. Assumptions regarding the surveys are also included on page 14, 7th bullet).

The additional surveys being directed by Caltrans are species-specific and would follow guidelines and protocols established by resource agency biologists. The intent of the additional surveys is to attempt to prove absence, or verify presence, of specific species within the project study area. Lack of adequate rainfall may affect the outcome of these surveys and may not allow the resource agencies to confirm absence of a species if none are observed during the surveys; resource agencies will decide whether or not to accept the results of surveys after the surveys have been completed.

The species-specific surveys being requested will be used in addition to the habitat information to support the conclusions in the NES and draft environmental document. They will also be used in the Biological Assessment as part of Endangered Species Act compliance documentation. Because the scope of additional surveys could not be accurately estimated at the time our contract was established, it was agreed that our scope of work would include only habitat-level surveys and that species-specific surveys that follow agency guidelines and protocols would be added by an amendment after discussions with Jacobs, the NCC Authority, Caltrans and resource agencies. This follows the three-bullet approach described on page 12 of our scope of work.

Therefore, we request that our contract be amended to include the surveys listed below. Additional biological surveys or reporting efforts are anticipated to be required by Caltrans, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG).

Caltrans is reviewing the species tables provided in December 2011 and will provide a list of species for which Caltrans will require additional surveys. In addition to blooming-season botanical surveys and surveys for California tiger salamander (CTS) and vernal pool branchiopods, based on recent discussions, it is anticipated that Caltrans will require surveys for Swainson's hawk, burrowing owl, and bats. Other species may also be identified by Caltrans, USFWS, or DFG. A separate amendment request will be submitted when the list of species and level of effort is confirmed.

[California Tiger Salamander 2012 Aquatic Surveys, March, April, May 2012](#)

Caltrans has directed the project team to conduct protocol surveys for CTS in all areas of potential habitat within the entire study area of all alternatives. In addition, when potential special-status vernal pool branchiopod species are observed during the CTS aquatic surveys, ICF will attempt to identify them to the species level, when possible. The identification of special-status vernal pool branchiopod species is outside of normal vernal pool branchiopod survey protocol but is being conducted during CTS surveys since brachiopods may also be present. The surveys will not prove absence of special-status vernal pool branchiopod species. These surveys are not included in our original scope of work (page 14, 7th bullet).

We request to amend our contract to include conducting aquatic larval sampling for CTS in the spring of 2012 (March, April, May) following the guidelines established by the USFWS and CDFG in October 2003. In addition to dipnetting, this effort may require minnow trap sampling of at least two habitat locations within the project area. Access is not currently available at all potential habitat locations. Since this work is underway, based on a notice to proceed, the cost estimate for this task assumes that the same number of properties surveyed in March and April will be accessed in May.

At the conclusion of the 2012 aquatic CTS surveys (after the combined March, April and May 2012 surveys conclude), a report will be prepared for submission to the USFWS and CDFG. The 2012 aquatic survey report is due to USFWS and CDFG within one month of the last site visit (therefore, June 2012). The results of the surveys will also be documented and used as part of the impact determinations and development of mitigation in the NES. The results will also be used for the CEQA and NEPA impact conclusions in the environmental document, as well as used to define Endangered Species Act-related impacts of the selected alternative in the Biological Assessment.

Deliverables

- Final report for USFWS/CDFG detailing the survey results for the 2012 aquatic surveys, including the required information outlined in the agency guidelines for the species.
- Results of surveys will also be presented in the NES, environmental document and Biological Assessment, as applicable.

Assumptions

- Permission to enter the properties has been arranged by team members other than ICF and made available and provided to ICF prior to the time the surveys need to be conducted.
- Project study area will remain the same as it was for the March surveys.
- Jacobs and Caltrans will each review the USFWS/CDFG survey report once.

To complete the full CTS survey protocol following USFWS and CDFG guidelines, an upland habitat survey followed by a second set of aquatic surveys is required. Reports documenting the results of each of these surveys will also be required by the USFWS/CDFG. These surveys and reports are not included in this amendment request and would require separate authorization. After they are authorized, the upland survey effort would start as early as September of 2012 and continue through March 2013; the second set of aquatic surveys would occur in March, April, and May of 2013. Adequate rainfall is required for these surveys. A separate authorization to amend our scope of work will be requested prior to the start of these surveys.

Dry Season Vernal Pool Branchiopod Surveys, June–September 2012

Caltrans has directed the project team to conduct protocol surveys for vernal pool branchiopods in all areas of potential habitat within the entire study area of all alternatives. These surveys are not included in our original scope of work (page 14, 7th bullet). To start the survey, we request to amend our contract to include conducting one dry season protocol survey for vernal pool branchiopods following the USFWS Interim Survey Guidelines dated April 19, 1996. Up to 60 vernal pools will be surveyed, based on the results of the habitat surveys. Dry season soil samples will be collected once from each pool after the pools have all dried for the summer. The soil samples will be processed by ICF and then sent to Ecorp Consulting for cyst identification. ICF will prepare a survey report for submission to USFWS within 90 calendar days of the conclusion of the dry season survey process.

Deliverables

- Final report for USFWS detailing the dry season survey results, including the required information outlined in the agency guidelines for the species.
- Results of surveys will also be presented in the NES, environmental document and Biological Assessment, as applicable.

Assumptions

- The estimate assumes that permission to enter the properties has been arranged by team members other than ICF and will be available and provided to ICF prior to the time the surveys need to be conducted.

To complete the full vernal pool branchiopod survey protocol, following the USFWS guidelines, a wet-season survey is also required. A report documenting the results of the wet-season survey will also be required by USFWS. The wet season survey and report are not included in this amendment request and would require separate authorization. After it is authorized, the wet-

season survey would start as early as November of 2012 and continue through May 2013. A separate authorization to amend our scope of work will be requested prior to the start of the wet-season survey.

Spring and Summer Botanical Blooming-Season Surveys, April–August 2012

Caltrans has directed that botanical surveys, beyond the habitat-level surveys included in our scope of work and already conducted, be done in 2012 to support the NES. Our contract scope of work specifically mentions that only habitat-level surveys are included (page 12, first sentences in 2nd and 3rd paragraphs). An assumption describing this is also included (page 14, 7th bullet).

These surveys are required to occur in the blooming season for plants whose habitat is present within the project area. The surveys will follow floristic survey standards as well as the protocol established by CDFG in 2009. For this project that means surveys would occur in April-May 2012 for spring blooming species and in July-August 2012 for summer blooming species. We request to amend our contract to include these surveys. Surveys will be conducted within the entire length of all alternatives in all areas of open ground having potential to support sensitive plant species.

Deliverables

- Results of surveys will be presented in the NES, environmental document and Biological Assessment, as applicable.

Assumptions

- The estimate assumes that permission to enter the properties has been arranged by team members other than ICF and will be available and provided to ICF prior to the time the surveys need to be conducted.
- Project study area will not change after the start of the surveys.

Because of the lack of rain in 2012 there is a strong likelihood that absence of listed species cannot be adequately determined. Therefore, a second set of spring/summer blooming-season botanical surveys in 2013 is recommended by Caltrans and ICF. These surveys are not included in this amendment request and would require separate authorization. After they are authorized, surveys would start in April (spring) of 2013 and conclude in July/August (summer) 2013. The results of the 2013 surveys would supplement data collected in 2012. A separate authorization to amend our scope of work will be requested prior to the start of the spring survey.

Amendment Cost Estimate

The detailed breakdown of the estimated cost of the tasks listed above is shown on Table 1 (next page). An overview of the cost is shown below.

Cost Overview	
Biological Studies	
March CTS Surveys, 2012	\$14,424
April & May CTS Surveys plus Report, 2012	\$39,596
Dry Season Vernal Pool Branchiopod Surveys plus Report, 2012	\$64,127
Spring and Summer Botanical Blooming-Season Surveys, 2012	\$74,928
Total	\$193,074

Table 1. Cost Estimate for Request for Amendment to Subconsultant Agreement W6-X609-01-S09-005: North County Corridor Technical Studies, EIR/EIS Sections, and EIR/EIS Editing

Task	Employee Name	Consulting Staff																		Labor Total	Direct Expense Total with Markup	Task Total	Task Total with Discount on Labor		
		Townsley M	Davis M	Bromund C	Hill S	Link E	Myers S	Haire J	Howe J	Harris L	Gardiner R	Holson J	Hughes J	Webber L	Duman J	Shigley P	Job J	Rumburg D	Galt E					King P	
		ICF J&S Labor Classification	Sr Consult III	Assoc Consult I	Assoc Consult III	Sr Consult III	Sr Consult II	Assoc Consult III	Assoc Consult I	Assoc Consult III	Assoc Consult II	Assoc Consult III	Sr Consult I	Assoc Consult III	Asst Consult	Asst Consult	Admin Tech	Admin Tech	Admin Tech						
Biological Studies (WBS 165.15)																									
California Tiger Salamander 2012 Aquatic Surveys (March 2012)		9		8			29	39	16	22												\$16,828	\$962	\$17,789	\$14,424
California Tiger Salamander 2012 Aquatic Surveys (April 2012, May 2012 plus report to USFWS/DFG)		4	8	20	8	16	80	136	30	30					8	4	2	2			\$47,020	\$1,980	\$49,000	\$39,596	
Dry-Season Vernal Pool Branchiopod Surveys plus Report to USFWS, 2012		4	8	8	8	16	80		60			200		4	8	4				2	\$48,430	\$25,383	\$73,813	\$64,127	
Spring and Summer Botanical Surveys, 2012		4	8	12	40	16					340	340	16								\$90,360	\$2,640	\$93,000	\$74,928	
Total hours		21	24	48	56	48	109	255	46	82	30	340	540	16	4	16	8	2	2	2					
ICF Jones & Stokes (Year 2008) billing rates		\$220	\$220	\$140	\$100	\$120	\$160	\$130	\$120	\$100	\$120	\$110	\$120	\$120	\$80	\$80	\$55	\$55	\$55						
Labor subtotals		\$4,510	\$5,280	\$6,720	\$5,600	\$5,760	\$17,360	\$33,183	\$5,550	\$8,225	\$3,600	\$37,400	\$64,800	\$1,920	\$480	\$1,280	\$640	\$110	\$110	\$110	\$202,638				
Mark up on all non-labor costs and subcontractors:	10%																								
Direct expense subtotal																								\$2,815	\$30,964
SUBTOTAL																									\$233,602
20% Discount on Labor																									(\$40,528)
TOTAL PRICE																									\$193,074