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Councilmember, City of East Palo Alto

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Councilmember, City of El Cerrito

September 3, 2026

NOTICE OF UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY:

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) for 2027 REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK LEGAL AND REGULATORY SUPPORT SERVICES BENCH CYCLE 1

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE of the above-titled upcoming contract opportunity. The upcoming project is described more fully in Attachment A, Preliminary Project Description and Attachment A-1, Preliminary Scope of Work. **All details included in this notice are preliminary and subject to change.**

Proposers are responsible for checking the ABAG's procurement website (https://mtc.bonfirehub.com) for the official procurement documents for the opportunity when it is posted. Please register as a Document Taker now to receive notices of any changes to the procurement by downloading a document under the Files tab, or by submitting a question about this opportunity through Bonfire's message system. The message system can be accessed under the Messages tab → Opportunity Q&A field. Responses to the procurement must be submitted in accordance with the instructions set forth in the official procurement documents when published.

For further information, please submit a question through Bonfire or contact the point of contact listed below.

Point of Contact:
Noah Cohen, Contract Specialist
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Thank you for your interest.

Best regards,

Noah Cohen

Noah Cohen
Contract Specialist

ATTACHMENT A
PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

AGENCY: Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

ANTICIPATED RELEASE DATE: September 2026

ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE: January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2029

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Proposals must demonstrate that the firm or team submitting the proposal ("Proposer") meets the following Minimum Qualifications to be eligible for consideration for this project. Firms that do not meet Minimum Qualifications will not be evaluated.

For Categories 1, 2 and 3:

1) At least five (5) years of experience with regulatory policy, reporting, and other compliance matters on behalf of portfolio administrator(s) of energy efficiency funds, including interacting with the CPUC and other state agencies. Preparation of all forms of written comments, testimony and opinion letters, as well as advocacy at hearings and workshops.

For Categories 4 and 5:

1) Demonstrate experience in strategic positioning, as demonstrated through prior engagements where firm or team provided strategic advice or direction.

DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS: The following qualifications are not required in order for a Proposer to be determined eligible for consideration, but Proposers will be scored on these qualifications under Section VIII. Proposal Evaluation, Subarticle C. Evaluation Panel and Evaluation Criteria.

For all Categories:

1. Knowledge of the California Energy Efficiency (particularly in the Bay Area and on the central coast) landscape, including the different market actors, and different methods of program evaluation.
2. Understanding of state climate related goals, the responsibilities of the different state agencies for meeting these goals, and experience before the relevant state entities including the California Energy Commission, California Air Resources Board, and California Independent System Operator.
3. Ability to tap into a stakeholder network for coalition and relationship building.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: BayREN seeks qualified firm(s), that will support both BayREN and 3C-REN, to provide regulatory support and representation before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), primarily in the Energy Efficiency, Building Decarbonization, and other related proceedings. The contract will be co-funded by 3C-REN and the majority of the filings will be on behalf of both RENs. The support includes following relevant proceedings, submitting comments, providing assistance with the preparation of new applications, preparing

witness testimony, providing recommendations for participation in new proceedings of relevance, and providing assistance with strategy and stakeholder engagement. This list is not exhaustive. Proposers are encouraged to review the most recent rulings and party comments in the CPUC Rulemaking R.25-04-010.

Through this RFQ, BayREN may select separate firms to perform each service categories, one firm to perform all five categories, or any combination thereof.

Category 1 – Monitoring Regulatory Policy and Reporting

Category 2 – Drafting Legal/Regulatory Briefs

Category 3 – Legal/Regulatory Representation

Category 4 – Strategic Support and Recommendation

Category 5 – Provide Assistance with Stakeholder Engagement

Respondents may submit a proposal for an individual category or for multiple categories described above. To be eligible for evaluation, the respondent team must meet the Minimum Qualifications (MQs) described in Section II of this RFQ.

In response to later procurements and projects, Consultants may add additional specialty subconsultant(s) as needed later for specific project assignments.

ATTACHMENT A-1
PRELIMINARY SCOPE OF WORK

Through this RFQ, ABAG shall create a pre-qualified bench of consultants ("Bench") from which ABAG may contract on a per-project/task basis to provide Regulatory Policy, Compliance, Reporting, and Strategic Support services for the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) and Tri-County Regional Energy Network (3C-REN).

All required services shall be authorized by Task Order, initiated and developed according to the Task Order Process described in Attachment A-1, of Appendix D, MTC Standard Consultant Contract. Task Orders shall include, at a minimum, a detailed description of the work to be performed, a completion date for performance, a maximum payment amount, payment terms (deliverables-based or time and materials) and subconsultant participation (if any), in a completed form as shown in Attachment A-2, Task Order Form, Appendix D, ABAG Standard Consultant Contract, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Under the professional services agreement, the Consultant will complete various tasks and deliverables as follows:

CATEGORY 1 – MONITORING REGULATORY POLICY AND REPORTING:
Monitoring Energy Efficiency, Decarbonization, and other proceedings of relevance to Regional Energy Networks and provide recommendations regarding level of participation in a proceeding.

- Task 1.1: Monitor CPUC proceedings related to Energy Efficiency, Decarbonization, and others relevant to Regional Energy Networks (RENs) and provide policy updates, strategic guidance, and recommendations regarding level of participation in a proceeding.
- Task 1.2: Monitor California Energy Commission, California Air Resources Board, and other state agencies relevant to RENs and provide policy updates, strategic guidance, and recommendations regarding level of participation in proceedings.
- Task 1.3: Attend CPUC and other relevant stakeholder meetings and workshops, staying abreast of regulatory reporting requirements and conveying/advocating solutions that serve the best interests of the joint RENs.
- Task 1.4: Ad hoc regulatory services that arise due to changes in relevant legislation and/or CPUC guidance.

CATEGORY 2 – DRAFT LEGAL/REGULATORY BRIEFS

- Task 2.1: Coordinate and lead the development of drafting regulatory briefs (i.e. Opening and Reply Comments, Applications, Preparing witness testimony, etc.) for relevant filings with the CPUC. This task may also include submitting comment letters to the California Energy Commission (CEC) proceedings that focus on energy efficiency and building decarbonization.
- Task 2.2: File and notify appropriate service lists of Advice Letters, Comments, Portfolio Applications, etc.
- Task 2.3: Discuss approach/strategy on behalf of BayREN and 3C-REN with other Portfolio Administrators to determine opportunities for alignment

CATEGORY 3 – LEGAL/REGULATORY POLICY REPRESENTATION

- Task 3.1: Represent BayREN and/or 3C-REN before the CPUC, CEC other state agencies including for workshops, hearings and ex parte meetings.

CATEGORY 4 – STRATEGIC SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

- Task 4.1: Staying apprised of BayREN and 3C-REN's current and proposed program portfolios.
- Task 4.2: Provide strategic programmatic and portfolio recommendations based on state policy changes and/or priorities.

CATEGORY 5 – PROVIDE ASSISTANCE WITH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT