

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

848A



FROM: TLMA - Transportation Dept.

SUBMITTAL DATE:
October 6, 2006

SUBJECT: On-call Environmental Services Agreement with the firm of Merkel & Associates, Inc.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board approve the attached Environmental Services Agreement with Merkel & Associates, Inc. and authorize the Chairman to execute same.

BACKGROUND: The Transportation Department needs additional environmental support services to deliver all of the necessary road improvement projects identified and funded in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). In addition to the currently identified and funded projects in the TIP, new projects continue to surface. We need to respond in a timely manner to meet the public needs. The Department needs to use outside consulting firms to assist in the environmental phase of project delivery, often the critical path, to supplement the currently available minimal Department staff.

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL

SEP 28 2006

Departmental By *[Signature]*

(Continued on Page 2)

[Signature]
George A. Johnson
Director of Transportation

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 250,000 / year	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	FY 06/07

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Varies by project	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature
[Signature]

- Policy
- Consent
- Per Exec. Ofc.:
- Policy
- Consent
- Dep't Recomm.:

A request for proposals was advertised in the Press Enterprise and notice was directly mailed to 50+ firms. Twenty one firms submitted proposals. The written proposals and interviews were evaluated by representatives from the Riverside County Transportation Department. Five firms were selected, three full service environmental firms and two specialist (biology, cultural/paleontological) firms.

Merkel & Associates, Inc. was ranked as one of the top five firms and has been selected to provide on-call services. Merkel & Associates, Inc. is one of the two specialist firms, the firm's specialty is biological services including general and focused surveys, wetlands delineations and waters/streambed permitting, Section 7 consultations, restoration plans and construction monitoring. Merkel & Associates, Inc. has extensive experience with transportation projects under both state and federal standards. Merkel & Associates, Inc. will be directed to furnish specific project related environmental tasks to support County staff with the delivery of approved TIP projects. This contract is for an annual amount not-to-exceed \$250,000. It is for a 3-year term (total aggregate of \$750,000). The County has the option to extend the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year terms following the close of the initial three (3) year term. Funding for the services provided for each assignment will come from the respective project funds. These on-call environmental services will afford the Department the ability to respond more quickly to public demands on our road system, as well as obtaining specific environmental expertise in areas that will supplement our staff resources.

Three full service on call agreements for environmental services have been approved; Jones & Stokes Associates on July 11, 2006 and LSA Associates, Inc. on July 25, 2006 and URS Corporation on August 29, 2006. One other specialist firm contract with ASM Affiliates for cultural/paleontological work was also approved on August 29, 2006. Merkel & Associates, Inc's contract is the final contract for on call environmental services.

The terms of the agreement also provide the County with the option to terminate the agreement within 30 days without cause.