

Staff Report 53

PARTY:

California State Lands Commission (Commission)

PROPOSED ACTION:

Authorize the Executive Officer to solicit proposals, obtain quotes, negotiate a fair and reasonable price, and award and execute an agreement for preparation of the Commission's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan in accordance with State policies and procedures.

The scope of work for developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan is anticipated to include, but is not limited, to the following:

- Provide outreach and facilitate meetings to seek input from, lessees, grantees, affected industries, Native American Tribal Nations, environmental justice communities, along with other stakeholders and interested parties
- Interview Commission Staff for input
- Prepare a draft Strategic Plan for review by the State Lands Commission
- Circulate a draft Strategic Plan for public comment
- Receive public comment, analyze input received, consult with Commission Staff, and revise the draft Strategic Plan
- Prepare the final Strategic Plan and make a presentation at a publicly noticed Commission meeting

With the anticipated level of public involvement, it is anticipated that the new Strategic Plan will be brought before the Commission for consideration at a public meeting at the end of 2025.

BACKGROUND:

The Commission adopted its [2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#) at its February 23, 2021 public meeting ([Item 41, February 23, 2021](#)). The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan is the culmination of robust stakeholder input and collaboration and guides the Commission's stewardship of public lands and resources, including meeting challenges such as adapting to sea level rise, addressing climate change,

promoting public access, and having meaningful input from environmental justice communities and Tribal Nations.

The 2021-2025 Strategic Plan contains the following seven Strategic Goals:

1. Leading Climate Activism
2. Prioritizing Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice
3. Partnering with Sovereign Tribal Governments and Communities
4. Meeting Evolving Public Trust Needs
5. Leveraging Technology
6. Committing to Collaborative Leadership
7. Building a Reimagined Workforce

The California State Lands Commission provides the people of California with effective stewardship of the lands, waterways, and resources entrusted to its care based on the principles of equity, sustainability, and resiliency, through preservation, restoration, enhancement, responsible economic development, and the promotion of public access.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:

AUTHORITY:

Public Resources Code sections [6005](#), [6106](#) and [6216](#); Government Code sections [14838.5](#) and [19130](#); Public Contract Code section [10335](#) et seq.; State Contracting Manual, vol. 1 5.80, subd. (A)(9) (rev. 04/22).

PUBLIC TRUST AND STATE'S BEST INTERESTS:

In previous years, staff developed the Strategic Plan with in-house resources. However, consultancy firms have more focused, specialized expertise in outreach and developing strategic plan documents than the Commission staff. Since the Commission only develops its strategic plan every five years, Commission staff do not have the same level of experience and expertise as firms that specialize in developing similar documents on a regular basis. Most recently the Commission benefited from the engagement of consultant who was able to obtain a greater outreach to, engagement with, and input from stakeholders. The input and perspective gained from the consultant's engagement with the community – including Native American tribes and communities, underserved communities and environmental justice advocates, lessees, grantees, affected industries, and other stakeholders and interested parties allowed the Commission to develop a representative and robust Strategic Plan. Approaching the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan with a similar strategy will be in the Commission's best interests.

Further, the Strategic Plan enables the Commission to adapt to emerging challenges, while creating a meaningful and rich framework to effectuate state policy goals, promote public access, generate revenue for both the General Fund and for the benefit of California's State Teachers Retirement System, and enforce the protections of the Public Trust Doctrine in the best interests of the State.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. This proposed action is consistent with the broad goals of the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, to continue to identify drivers of change and to meet evolving challenges.
2. Authorization to solicit proposals, obtain quotes, negotiate a fair and reasonable price, and award and execute an agreement is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act because the authorization is for administrative actions that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, subdivision (b)(5).

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Find that the services contracted are not available within civil service, cannot be performed satisfactorily by civil service employees, or are of such a highly specialized or technical nature that the necessary expert knowledge, experience, and ability are not available through the civil service system, as specified in Government Code section 19130, subdivision (b)(4).
2. Find that the selection of consultants under this process does not affect small businesses as defined in Government Code section 11342.610, because they will be afforded equal opportunity to submit statements of qualifications and performance data.
3. Authorize the Executive Officer or her designee to solicit proposals from consultants, negotiate a fair and reasonable price, and award and execute an agreement for preparation of the Commission's 2026-2030 Strategic Plan in accordance with State policies and procedures.