



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**ACTION ITEM: 1.2**

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** October 9, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Riverside County Youth Ecology Corps Consultant

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Committee approve a Sole Source Agreement with New Ways to Work to assist in the Establishment of a Youth Ecology Corps Program in Riverside County.

**BACKGROUND:**

Preservation of our ecosystems is of national concern, and researching ways to become energy self-sufficient has become more critical than ever. Recently, the Riverside County Economic Development Agency/Workforce Development Division (EDAWD), in partnership with California Family Life Center (CFLC) and Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) piloted a summer program to expose youth to learning about ways to preserve water ecosystems in Riverside County. The summer program was well received by the youth, EMWD and has sparked interest from other Water Districts in Riverside County. In response, the EDAWD would like to implement a Youth Ecology Corps modeled after the successful Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps which was developed and implemented by New Ways to Work. The Youth Ecology Corps program will focus on ecosystem education and workforce training for occupations within the water utility industry, aimed at employing youth while teaching them about environmental stewardship.

The Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps (SCYEC) program is a recognized best practice model from which Riverside County would customize to create a program designed to be responsive to the needs of Riverside County. As the primary designer of the SCYEC, New Ways to Work has developed the framework for implementation with the various water districts throughout Riverside County. Initially, New Ways to Work will provide technical assistance to the Youth Opportunity Centers program providers to implement, expand and grow the Riverside County Youth Ecology Corps.

New Ways to Work will work directly with EMWD, Metropolitan Water District (MWD), other water utilities and parks to implement the program and identify program expansion strategies, develop goals and plans for growth and sustainability beyond the first pilot program year. New Ways to Work’s expertise will allow us to identify potential partners on federally-owned lands in the county, as well as other potential project sponsors.

New Ways to Work is being procured as a sole source because they are the only known Youth Ecology Service Provider and they have extensive experience, established partnerships within the water utility industry and a replicable program design which can be implemented in Riverside County and possibly statewide in the future. Current staff capacity and expertise is not sufficient to carry out the necessary duties to implement this project

The term of the agreement with New Ways to Work will be from September 1, 2013 to September 1, 2014. The total cost of the agreement and work to be performed will not exceed \$27,000 under Title I Workforce Investment Act Youth Funds.

<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Date: October 9, 2013 Approval: Yes</p>	<p>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCURRENCE</p> <p>Required: Yes</p>
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