



Date: August 30, 2019

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Patrick H. West, City Manager 

Subject: **Update on the Independent Jobs Coordinator Pilot Program**

At its June 11, 2019 meeting, the City Council directed the City Manager to hire an Independent Jobs Coordinator to work with contractors for all eligible projects under the remaining term of the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) and provide recommendations to the Joint Administrative Committee (JAC), and to fund the pilot program offset by revenue from qualified PLA projects up to \$20,000. This memorandum provides an update regarding activities of the Independent Jobs Coordinator pilot program and next steps.

BACKGROUND

At its April 16, 2019 meeting, the City Council directed the City Manager to return to City Council within 30 days with options for having an independent jobs coordinator on all eligible project and associated costs; and, to provide information, via memorandum, regarding additional services that could be provided and what those costs would be. The City Manager was also directed to return to the City Council with proposed solutions in order that it could then make recommendations to the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Joint Administrative Committee (JAC) for consideration. This memorandum provides an update regarding activities to date and a status report of initial findings per City Council direction.

On May 7th, representatives of the City Manager's Office met with the Chairs of the JAC to identify options for having an independent jobs coordinator on all eligible PLA projects, discuss best practice models, identify funding sources, and to suggest next steps. The meeting included JAC representatives from the Building and Construction Trades Council, Pacific Gateway, and City staff. While the JAC did not recommend amendments to the current PLA for its remaining term, the JAC recommended a pilot program where the City hires an independent jobs coordinator to work with contractors for all eligible projects under \$10M, and to document the impacts of the pilot program on the local workforce recruitment goals of the PLA.

On June 11th, the City Council approved a pilot program that includes a number of key priorities including: continuity of services across projects, familiarity with local workforce and community-based partners, ability to move workers across projects as they are completed, limited start-up time and costs for new projects, and consistent communication with City staff for reporting on local workforce recruitment goals and objectives of the PLA. Additionally, to address priorities of the City Council and the community providing input at the meeting, the independent jobs coordinator would work directly with construction contractors to recruit local workers on eligible projects, and contractors would agree to work with the independent jobs coordinator as part of the construction bidding process. Finally, the estimated cost for the pilot program as part of the two remaining PLA-eligible projects - totaling \$800,000 and \$1.2 million, respectively - is \$20,000 (or 1 percent of the total project costs).

NEXT STEPS

To implement the pilot program, the City Council directed the City Manager to conduct a Request for Interest and Statement of Qualifications (RFIQ) process to identify and contract with one qualified independent jobs coordinator, with the goal of implementing the pilot project by the end of the year. Since June 11th, City staff have met with experts in this field to craft a scope of work that will be used in the RFIQ process. Staff are currently meeting with Labor Compliance, procurement, and other subject matter experts to finalize the RFIQ. The RFIQ will be released by September 30th with the independent jobs coordinator selected by October 31st to begin work by the end of November. This timeline will allow City staff to work with the independent jobs coordinator on a number of remaining construction projects prior to the completion of the current PLA, concluding in time to provide recommendations for the City Council to consider before renewing or renegotiating the PLA when it expires in Spring 2020.

Results from the pilot would be used to inform changes to the PLA when it expires next year and is open for renegotiation with the Building Trades Council in Spring 2020. In the interim, staff will continue to work with the Building and Trades Council to review best practices and implement strategies to meet and exceed the goals in the PLA.

CONCLUSION

Staff anticipate that it will return to City Council with written updates regarding the results of the pilot program as it unfolds. Thank you for your consideration of this important program to create economic opportunities for the residents of Long Beach. For any questions regarding these matters, please contact John Keisler, Economic Development Director, at john.keisler@longbeach.gov or (562) 570-5282.

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