PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 132352.4, the following statutory requirements apply to procurements of services, unless a justification in Section 5 of this policy applies. If the estimated total cost of required services exceeds one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000), the services will not be performed by another government entity, and the services are not within the category of services defined in Section 4525 of the Government Code, SANDAG must solicit bids in writing and award the work in a competitive procurement process that is in the best interest of SANDAG. Services defined in Section 4525 include: architectural, landscape architectural, engineering, environmental, land surveying services, and construction project management services, as those terms are defined in Government Code section 4525 (hereinafter "Section 4525 Services"). If Section 4525 Services with a contract value in excess of $50,000 must be procured or the contract will be funded with federal money SANDAG will make the procurement pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 4525) of Division 5 of Title 1 of the Government Code. SANDAG must use the procedures of the Brooks Act if federal funds are used and the services are architectural or engineering in nature (hereinafter "A&E Services"). Contracts that do not exceed these statutory limitations may be procured using simplified procedures. All references to the Executive Director in this policy also apply to the Executive Director’s designees.

Procedures

1. Micro Purchase Agreements. For purposes of this policy, the term “micro purchase amount” shall mean an amount that will not exceed the ceiling amount for micro purchases set by the applicable funding agency(ies) for the procurement. These procedures apply to the procurement of all services at or below the micro purchase amount.

   1.1 For purchases at or below the micro purchase amount, a micro purchase procurement method may be used. A micro purchase procurement is a noncompetitive purchase technique; however, the price of the service must still be fair and reasonable.

   1.2 There should be equitable distribution among qualified service providers in the local area and no splitting of procurements to avoid competition.

   1.3 An offer is only required from the vendor of choice and a purchase order, invoice, or simple letter agreement may be used instead of a standard services agreement when the risk to SANDAG is considered low, in the discretion of the Manager of Contracts and Procurement.

2. Small Purchase Agreements (in excess of micro purchase amount - $100,000). These procedures apply to the procurement of all services excluding Section 4525 Services.

   2.1 If the estimated value of the contract is $100,000 or less, staff may select a qualified proposer whose proposal is most advantageous to the Board, price and all other
factors considered, with the approval of their division director or department
director.

2.2 The Executive Director shall determine the selection procedure for contracts valued
in excess of the micro purchase amount and no more than $100,000, to distribute
work in a fair and equitable manner. Prior approval of the selection procedure shall
be obtained from the applicable level of management. An informal competitive
process shall be followed with price, rate quotations or best value obtained from an
adequate number of qualified sources to ensure that SANDAG is obtaining a fair
and reasonable price. The informal competitive process must be documented by
staff. In obtaining price or rate quotations, a scope of work shall be developed and
supplied to all bidders.

3. Major Service Agreements ($100,001 and greater). These procedures apply to the
procurement of all services, except Section 4525 Services, of $100,001 or more and
procurement of Section 4525 Services in excess of the micro purchase amount.

3.1 Normally, a "one-step" selection procedure will be used for service contracts in
excess of $100,000. The "one-step" competitive process is as follows:

3.1.1 Firms shall submit a response to a SANDAG Request for Proposals (RFP) or
Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The RFP/RFQ shall include:

3.1.1.1 Pass/fail criteria to be used as an initial screening of responses. Such
criteria shall include, but not be limited to, insurance requirements,
licensing, and any other consideration which would make the
proposer ineligible to perform the work.

3.1.1.2 All evaluation factors and their relative importance.

3.1.1.3 The standard contract language that the successful proposer will be
required to comply with, including applicable federal clauses and
certifications.

3.1.2 Notice of the professional services required shall be published at least once
in a newspaper of general circulation and at least one minority publication
in San Diego County, on SANDAG’s website and electronic vendor portal and
in such publications as appropriate in San Diego County, at least three
weeks before the proposal due date. The notice shall state that SANDAG is
interested in receiving responses from qualified firms, and indicate how
additional information can be obtained, and the time and place for
receiving responses.

3.1.3 Notice shall also be sent to firms or individuals previously known to be
interested in providing the required services, including small and emerging
businesses on SANDAG various interested party lists, and to appropriate DBE
firms or individuals listed in the SANDAG vendor database and the California
Unified Certification Program (CUCP) Database.
3.1.4 Responses to an RFP/RFQ shall list all proposed subconsultants and subcontractors, their area of the work, and identify which of them are certified DBEs.

3.1.5 Responses to a RFP/RFQ shall include a detailed cost estimate.

3.1.5.1 For Section 4525 Services, separately bound or sealed cost proposals shall be submitted as part of the process and shall not be opened until after the evaluation committee has ranked the proposers. Cost proposals shall be excluded as an evaluation factor and will only be used by the Executive Director, when negotiating within the prescribed budget, except as provided in 3.1.5.2 below.

3.1.5.2 For all other services, the cost proposal shall be submitted along with the technical proposal and will be used as an evaluation factor by the evaluation committee.

3.1.6 The responses shall be evaluated by an evaluation committee. The evaluation committee should consist of SANDAG staff and, unless waived by a Director on the basis that it is not in the best interest of the agency, at least one person from outside the agency.

3.2 The top-ranked firm(s) shall then be interviewed, if deemed necessary. The final list of qualified firms shall be based on the response to the RFP/RFQ, references, the interview, and other relevant factors. Selection may be based on a best value determination. “Best value” means a value determined by objective criteria and may include, but is not limited to, price, features, functions, life-cycle costs, and other criteria deemed appropriate by SANDAG. A summary of the findings of the evaluation committee will be included in a recommendation memo to the Executive Director. The memo shall include the evaluation committee’s recommendation for negotiations with one or more firms in the competitive range.

3.2.1 The Executive Director will approve or reject the recommendation based upon information provided by the evaluation committee, and other factors as deemed appropriate, including, but not limited to, qualifications, ability to meet schedule and budget, cost of work, meeting insurance requirements, and DBE participation for federally funded projects. The Executive Director may also interview one or more of the firms prior to making a selection.

3.2.2 Approval by the Executive Director of the recommendation shall be deemed approval to enter into negotiations with one or more firms in the competitive range.

3.2.2.1 For contracts for Section 4525 Services, the separately submitted cost proposal shall be used as a basis for negotiation. Negotiations will be conducted by the Executive Director, and can include factors other than cost, such as staffing levels, project schedule, etc. Should
negotiations fail, the Executive Director, will enter into negotiations with the next ranked firm. Once negotiations are complete, a contract incorporating the negotiated terms and conditions will be prepared for the approval of the Executive Director. Only the cost proposal of the firm in negotiations shall be opened.

3.2.2.2 For all other service contracts, the cost proposals from the firm(s) in the competitive range shall be used as a basis for negotiation. Negotiations will be conducted by the Executive Director, and can include factors other than cost, such as staffing levels, project schedule, etc. If negotiations are only conducted with one firm and those negotiations fail, staff will enter into negotiations with the next ranked firm. If negotiations are conducted with more than one firm in the competitive range, then staff may attempt to obtain the most favorable terms by negotiating with all of the firms. Once negotiations are complete, a contract incorporating the negotiated terms and conditions will be prepared for the approval of the Executive Director.

3.3 For those services that are able to be defined with a very explicit scope of work containing detailed, straight-forward specifications that will allow consistent responses, proposers will be considered qualified or not qualified based on predetermined criteria. Cost proposals will then be opened for those proposers considered qualified and the consultant with the lowest bid will be awarded the contract. The department directors will determine whether the nature of any of the services within their purview lend themselves to using this low bid procedure.

3.4 If desired, a “two-step” selection process may be followed, as follows:

3.4.1 Letters of Interest/Statements of Qualifications (LOIs/SOQs) shall be solicited from the current SANDAG consultant list for the particular services specialty.

3.4.2 Notice of the professional services required shall be on SANDAG’s website and electronic vendor portal and in such other publications as appropriate in San Diego County, at least three weeks before the proposal due date. The notice shall state that SANDAG is interested in receiving LOIs/SOQs from qualified firms, and indicate how additional information can be obtained, and the time and place for receiving responses.

3.4.3 Requests for LOIs/SOQs may be sent to firms or individuals previously known to be interested in or capable of providing the required services. Reasonable effort shall be made to send requests to minority firms known to be capable of providing the required services.

“Pass/fail” criteria will be established by staff and clearly stated in the LOI/SOQ to be used as a screening of responses. Such criteria shall include, but not be limited to: adherence to project budget, insurance requirements, and DBE participation.
3.4.4 An evaluation committee will be formed, which should consist of SANDAG staff and at least one person from outside the agency.

3.4.5 The evaluation committee will evaluate the SOQs and a memo will be prepared for the Executive Director summarizing the evaluation committee’s findings and recommending one or more qualified firms to be invited to receive an RFP. Following approval by the Executive Director, staff shall issue an RFP to the qualified firm(s). The RFP shall include all evaluation factors and their relative importance and the contract that the successful proposer will be expected to execute (including all applicable federal clauses and certifications).

3.4.6 From this point, the steps above for a one-step procurement should be followed.

4. Compliance with Brooks Act Provisions for Federally Funded Contracts. If federal funds are used and the services are A&E in nature, SANDAG shall comply with the provisions of the Brooks Act.

5. Other Than Full and Open Competition

Normally, SANDAG will utilize a full and open competition when soliciting bids or proposals for procurements in excess of $100,000. Under certain circumstances, however, a procurement may be justified that does not utilize full and open competition. These procurements are known as limited competition procurements. When less than full and open competition is used, SANDAG shall solicit offers from as many potential sources as is practicable under the circumstances. Noncompetitive procurement is known as sole source procurement. Noncompetitive and limited competition procurements shall only be permitted when the conditions below are met.

5.1 When the project will be paid for in whole or in part by federal funds, one of the conditions allowing a limited competition or sole source procurement set forth in the latest version of Federal Transit Administration Circular 4220.1, or the equivalent from other federal funding agencies, must be met. For projects funded in whole or in part by Caltrans or Federal Highway Administration funds, the applicable provisions in the Caltrans Local Assistance Procedures Manual must be met.

5.2 When there are no federal funds involved one of the following additional factors may be utilized to justify a limited competition or sole source procurement:

5.2.1 There is only one consultant capable of providing the services because the services are unique or highly specialized.

5.2.2 The services should be purchased from a particular consultant in the interest of economy or efficiency as a logical follow-on to services already in progress under a competitively awarded contract.

5.2.3 The cost to prepare for a competitive procurement exceeds the cost of the services.
5.2.4 The services are essential to maintain research or operational continuity.

5.2.5 The service is one with which staff members who will use the deliverables have specialized training and/or expertise and retraining would incur substantial cost in time and/or money.

6. General Conditions

6.1 In the event that circumstances dictate other than the processes indicated above for procurements that will exceed $300,000, prior Board concurrence shall be obtained following submittal of a written statement by staff setting forth the reasons for not pursuing all or part of any of the processes.

6.2 Where proposals received are deemed inadequate by the Executive Director, the Board may authorize a negotiated contract with a recommended firm based on a newly approved scope of services, performance schedule, and/or instructions and conditions.

6.3 The Executive Director is not required to make a contract award if he/she determines that the proposals received or contract terms negotiated by SANDAG staff are not in the best interests of SANDAG.

6.4 The Executive Director may approve contract amendments that exceed the project budget totaling up to $300,000 that are necessary to complete services originally contemplated subject to the limitations set forth in Section 12.2 of this policy. The Board will be notified of all such amendments. Contract amendments that will cause the project budget to be exceeded by more than $300,000 or those contemplating a significant change in the original scope of services must be processed in accordance with the SANDAG procurement manual and policies.

6.5 For purchases in excess of the micro purchase amount involving federal funds, all applicable federal requirements and certifications must be attached to the purchase order or contract. For purchases that exceed $50,000, a contract may be used in order to ensure provisions are included to protect the interests of SANDAG.

6.6 The Board's Equal Employment Opportunity Program and adequate audit provisions to allow the SANDAG independent performance auditor access to the contracted entity’s records needed to verify compliance with the terms specified in the contract will be incorporated by reference in all SANDAG service contract templates. The Board’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program shall be incorporated by reference in all services contracts that are federally funded. DBEs shall have every possible opportunity to participate in the procurement of services as set forth in the Board's DBE program.

7. Conflicts of Interest

7.1 A consultant is eligible for award of service contracts by SANDAG so long as the contract in question does not create an actual, potential, or apparent conflict of interest. A prohibited conflict of interest exists when because of other activities,
relationships, or contracts, a firm is or may be unable to render impartial, objective assistance or advice to SANDAG; or a firm’s objectivity in performing the contract work is or might be otherwise impaired; or where a firm would receive an unfair competitive advantage. Prohibited conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, the following situations unless otherwise authorized by applicable federal or state law:

7.1.1 Except in cases of design-build contracting, any firm that provides design services to SANDAG will be ineligible for award of a construction contract to construct the improvements, which are the subject of the design services.

7.1.2 Any firm that provides design services to SANDAG will be ineligible for award of any contract to provide construction management services resulting from the specific project for which design services were provided.

7.1.3 Any firm that provides construction management services to SANDAG will be ineligible for award of a construction contract for which construction management services were or will be provided.

7.1.4 Any firm that assists SANDAG or any of its member or affiliated agencies in the preparation of a construction RFP or RFQ document will not be allowed to participate as an offeror or join a team submitting a proposal in response to the that RFP or RFQ. SANDAG may in its sole discretion, however, determine there is not an organizational conflict of interest for a prospective firm where:

7.1.4.1 The role of the firm was limited to provision of preliminary design, reports, or similar “low-level” documents that will be incorporated into the construction RFP or RFQ, and did not include assistance in development of instructions to offerors or evaluation criteria; or

7.1.4.2 Where all relevant documents and reports delivered to the agency by the firm are made available to all offerors; or

7.1.4.3 The role of the firm was limited to preparation of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document related to the project where the CEQA and NEPA processes have been completed prior to issuance of the RFP and RFQ.

7.1.5 SANDAG shall not contract with, and will reject any bid or proposal submitted by, the following persons or entities, unless the Executive Director finds that special circumstances exist which justify the approval of such contract:

7.1.5.1 Persons employed by SANDAG;

7.1.5.2 Profit-making firms or businesses in which SANDAG employees serve as officers, principals, partners or major shareholders;
7.1.5.3 Persons who, within the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, were employed by SANDAG and (1) were employed in positions of substantial responsibility in the area of service to be performed by the contract, or (2) participated in any way in developing the contract or its service specifications; or

7.1.5.4 Profit-making firms or businesses in which the former employees described in subsection 7.1.5.3 serve as officers, principals, partners or major shareholders.

7.2 General consultants or subconsultant firms may provide services on other SANDAG projects. A consultant shall not, however, participate in the review and analysis of, or render opinions regarding, its work performed on other SANDAG projects or as limited in this section. Unless otherwise defined by the Executive Director, a general consultant is a consultant whose procurement is typically for a two-year period with an option for one or more one-year option extensions to provide services as needed for various assigned projects from time to time on a work order or task order basis, rather than for one specific predefined project. General consultants support SANDAG staff in managing other SANDAG consultants. General consultants are prime consultants to SANDAG. Subconsultants to general consultants are not classified as general consultants. General consultant procurements are identified as such during the RFP process.

7.3 A Notice of Potential for Conflict of Interest shall be included within any RFP for services issued by SANDAG. The Notice shall be the policy of the Board as listed herein. Any major service agreement issued in accordance with this policy shall include or make reference to the policy listed herein.

7.4 A “firm” shall be defined as any company or family of companies where there is a single parent board of directors or staff of officers who can influence the policies and actions of the design company, construction management company, and the construction company. A “firm” also shall include any partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity or any member of a joint venture that meets the above-stated definition.

7.5 “Ineligible” firms shall include the prime consultant for the services, subconsultants for portions of the services, and affiliates of either. An affiliate is a firm that is subject to the control of the same persons through joint ownership or otherwise.

7.6 If there is any doubt by a firm regarding a potential conflict of interest for a specific project or function, the appropriate member of management staff, depending on type of project, will, upon written request, provide a written ruling. This procedure is encouraged prior to submittal of proposals or bids. In the event a conflict of interest is determined to exist, a written appeal may be made by the affected firm to the Executive Director within five calendar days of notice from SANDAG the conflict. The Executive Director shall determine the adequacy of the appeal and make a subsequent final decision. No further appeal shall be considered.
7.7 The Executive Committee shall review and, if appropriate, waive any actual or apparent conflict of interest that may exist or arise as a result of concurrent legal representation of SANDAG and parties whose interests may conflict.

7.8 SANDAG staff and third parties with whom SANDAG does business shall comply with SANDAG administrative policies concerning Standard of Conduct and all relevant Board Policies.

8. Protests to Solicitation, Bid, or Award

8.1 SANDAG shall include in all procurements a procedure to be followed by interested parties who wish to protest a specification or procedure. The procedure shall include the following:

8.1.1 A requirement that protest submittals shall be in writing, be specific to the specification being protested, state the grounds for protest, and include all documentation needed to enable SANDAG to reach a decision.

8.1.2 A statement that the protest shall be submitted within clearly defined time limits prior to receiving proposals or opening bids or prior to award of contracts.

8.1.3 A statement specifying the review and determination process by SANDAG, including time limits for response.

8.1.4 Requirements for submittal of protest reconsideration.

8.1.5 A statement regarding review of the initial protest by a protest review committee and review of protest reconsiderations by the Executive Director, as appropriate.

9. Procedure for Consultants with Claims Against SANDAG on Service Contracts

9.1 On all SANDAG services contracts using a SANDAG contract document with an award estimated to cost more than $100,000, a section shall be included in the contract provisions that specifies how a consultant should file a notice of potential claim for additional funds and the procedures for review and disposition thereof.

9.2 Written notice of the potential claim must be given to the project manager prior to the time the consultant shall have performed the work giving rise to the potential claim, if based upon an act or failure to act of the project manager; or in all other cases, within 15 calendar days of the happening of the event, thing or occurrence giving rise to the potential claim.

9.3 It is the intention of this requirement that differences between the parties arising under and by virtue of the contract be brought to the attention of the project manager at the earliest possible time in order that such matters may be settled, if possible, or other appropriate action promptly taken. The consultant shall agree to have no right to additional compensation for any claim that may be based on any
such act, failure to act, event, thing or occurrence for which no written notice of potential claim as herein required was filed. A claim must be presented and acted upon as a prerequisite to suit thereon.

9.4 If a consultant files an appropriate notice of potential claim,* the administrative procedure shall be as follows:

9.4.1 SANDAG staff shall respond in writing within 25 calendar days with an appropriate decision. It is expected that SANDAG staff shall investigate the area of claim thoroughly and shall issue a decision that is fair to all parties. It is further expected that every effort will be made to resolve the claim at the job level.

9.4.2 If it appears to staff that the claim cannot be settled, the project manager and contracts staff shall, as soon as practicable, forward the details of the claim to the Executive Director and shall so notify the consultant of the action.

9.4.3 The Executive Director shall direct the appropriate department director to obtain all pertinent information, including any oral or written presentation, concerning the claim the consultant might wish to present. The department director shall provide all information to the Executive Director, including any recommendations.

9.4.4 The Executive Director shall report a final decision in writing to the consultant. The written decision shall notify the consultant that this action completes the consultant's administrative remedies and any further dispute would have to be resolved by either a nonbinding Dispute Resolution Board or binding arbitration if provided for in the provisions of the contract and agreed to by both parties, or litigation.

9.4.5 The final recommendation of the Dispute Resolution Board or arbitration shall be presented to the Executive Director for approval before going to the Board for action.

9.4.6 Any claim disputes not resolved by the Executive Director shall be reported to the Board at one of the Board's regular meetings.

9.5 If a contract amendment proposed for the settlement of a claim causes a budget impact over $300,000, the amendment must be sent to the Board for approval.

9.6 Federal Transit Administration review and concurrence may be required for claim settlements that exceed $100,000 if federal funds are involved.

9.7 A list of all outstanding claims exceeding $100,000 which involve the use of federal funds shall be included in the federal grants quarterly report.
10. Debarment Procedures for Service Contracts

10.1 In addition to all other remedies permitted by law, SANDAG may, upon advice of the Executive Director and Office of General Counsel, by resolution declare a proposer or consultant ineligible to bid on SANDAG contracts for a period not to exceed three years for any of the following grounds:

10.1.1 unjustified failure or refusal to timely provide or properly execute contract documents;

10.1.2 unsatisfactory performance of contract;

10.1.3 excessive and/or unreasonable claims while performing work for SANDAG;

10.1.4 two or more occasions within a two-year period of failure to submit bond or insurance documents acceptable to SANDAG in the time periods required;

10.1.5 unjustified refusal to properly perform or complete contract work or warranty performance;

10.1.6 unjustified failure to honor or observe contractual obligations or legal requirements pertaining to the contract;

10.1.7 conviction under a state or federal statute or municipal ordinance for fraud, bribery, theft, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property or of any other similar crime;

10.1.8 any offense or action which indicates a lack of business integrity and which could directly affect the reliability and credibility of performance of the consultant on future contracts with SANDAG;

10.1.9 any debarment of the consultant by another governmental agency; and

10.1.10 two or more claims of computational, clerical, or other error in cost proposal submission within a two-year period.

10.2 SANDAG may permanently debar a firm for a conviction under federal or state antitrust statutes involving public contracts or the submission of bid proposals, for any corrupt practices involving the administration or award of a contract with SANDAG, or permanent debarment of the bidder or consultant by another governmental agency, as permitted by law.

10.3 The proposer or consultant shall be provided notice and an opportunity to present evidence and show cause before the Board why such ineligibility should not be declared after the Executive Director has established a factual basis for debarment.

10.4 A consultant's debarment shall be effective amongst SANDAG and any of its subsidiary entities. Debarment prohibits SANDAG and subsidiary entities from executing contracts with the debarred consultant.
10.5 Debarment constitutes debarment of all divisions or other organizational elements of the consultant, unless the development decision is limited by its terms to specific divisions, organizational elements, or commodities. The debarment decision may be extended to include any affiliate of the consultant if the affiliate is (1) specifically named, and (2) given written notice of the proposed debarment and an opportunity to respond.

10.6 Notwithstanding the debarment of the consultant, the Board may continue contracts in existence at the time the consultant is debarred, unless the Board directs otherwise, after receiving advice from the Executive Director as to the effects of termination of an existing agreement.

11. Contract Administration and Consultant Assurances

11.1 SANDAG consultants must meet all applicable laws concerning labor law, labor rates, EEO and licenses.

11.2 SANDAG shall ensure that all services requiring a licensed consultant shall be performed by licensed consultants.

11.3 Consultants will be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 as amended.

11.4 Consultants must provide the minimum scope of insurance as stipulated in the contract.

11.5 Consultants shall be required to provide Workers’ Compensation Insurance to their employees in accordance with the provisions of Section 3700 of the Labor Code. Prior to commencement of work, the consultant shall be required to provide a certificate of compliance to SANDAG.

11.6 Labor compliance requirements on SANDAG contracts shall be consistent with the California Labor Code.

11.7 Consultants shall comply with the EEO requirements set forth by Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act on any project where federal funds are included, and any other requirements established by the Federal Transit Administration.

11.8 Consultants shall comply with Section 1735 of the Labor Code and all other California laws prohibiting discrimination based on protected class status.

12. Amendments to Service Contracts

12.1 All contracts may be amended by a suitable amendment processed in accordance with SANDAG procurements manual and policies.

12.2 The Executive Committee or Transportation Committee or, if not practical, the Board Chair, First Vice Chair, or Second Vice Chair are hereby authorized to approve amendments that will cause the project budget to be changed in an amount
exceeding $300,000 when waiting for Board approval could potentially delay a project or increase the cost of the change. Approval of such items by the Board Chair, First Vice Chair, or Second Vice Chair is not the preferred practice and should only be used if a regular or special meeting of an authorized legislative body is infeasible or impractical. In such an instance, the Executive Director shall notify the Board of the action at the next regular Board meeting.

12.3 All amendments that impact or potentially impact Board-adopted policies shall be brought before the Board for decision.

12.4 All amendments which utilize federal funds shall conform to the Code of Federal Regulations, Volume 2, Part 200 and the most recent version of Federal Transit Administration Circular 4220.1 or the equivalent from other federal funding agencies.

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