



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: June 4, 2024

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Authorizing the Director of Permit Sonoma to execute an agreement with Rincon Consultants,
Inc. to oversee the adequacy of an applicant prepared Environmental Impact Report for the
period of June 2024 to June 2027**

Whereas, on February 9, 2022, Adobe Investments LLC, and Bolero Energy Storage LLC applied for a Use Permit to allow for 1) Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility and 2) a fence that is taller than six feet within the property line setbacks located at 1901 Frates Road, Petaluma; APNs 017-050-006, 017-140-011, -012; Zoned K (Recreation and Visitor-Serving Commercial), F2 (Floodplain) RC50/25 (Riparian Corridor) SR (Scenic Resources) VOH (Valley Oak Habitat); and,

Whereas, it is the standard practice of Permit Sonoma to self-prepare any necessary Environmental Impact Report (EIR), typically through a contract the County enters with an EIR consultant to evaluate the environmental impacts of a project. An applicant may request, and Permit Sonoma may allow, an exception to the standard practice in accordance with Permit Sonoma's Applicant Prepared Environmental Review Policy 8-0-7; and,

Whereas, in April 2024, Permit Sonoma accepted the applicant's request to submit an Applicant-prepared EIR for the Bolero Energy Storage project and on May 2, 2024, the Director of the Sonoma County Permit Resource and Management Department and Bolero Energy Storage, LLC, executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU establishes a cooperative agreement between Permit Sonoma and Bolero ESS, LLC to allow the applicant to provide an Applicant Prepared EIR to be peer reviewed by the County and County hired consulting staff with expenses covered by the applicant; and,

Whereas, on April 15, 2024, Permit Sonoma released a Request for Proposals (RFP), to solicit proposals to conduct peer review of the Applicant-prepared EIR analysis, develop hearing and public meeting materials related to the EIR, and complete related administrative tasks. Three firms responded with proposals for the requested scope of work; and,

Whereas, County staff evaluated and scored the proposals in accordance with the evaluation criteria outlined in the RFP. The review panel consisted of three staff members from the Planning Division of Permit Sonoma. Rincon Consultants, Inc. was scored as the preferred bidder because of the proposal's schedule and comprehensive response to the request. The cost of the not-to-exceed contract is \$155,438.00; and,

Whereas, County staff and independent consultant review is part of the project costs for which the applicant is responsible; and,

Whereas, on June 4, 2024, the Board of Supervisors considered the request at a public meeting conducted in compliance with applicable law.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, authorizes the Director of Permit Sonoma to execute an agreement with Rincon Consultants, Inc. to oversee the adequacy of an applicant prepared Environmental Impact Report for the period of June 2024 to June 2027.

Be It Further Resolved, that the Board of Supervisors designates the Clerk of the Board as the custodian of the documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the decision herein is based. These documents may be found at the office of the Clerk of the Board, 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, California 95403.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins: Rabbitt:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.