

Re: R-21

Strongly Opposed.

Each councilperson is urged not accept the Recommendation by Long Beach Airport to adopt Plans and Specifications No. 7136, and to not adopt Categorical Exemption CE-18-185.

There is nothing in the staff report that indicates there are extenuating timing considerations on either the contracted scope of work recommended or disbursing the FA AIP grant monies for it. This should come back to the council once another effort is made to get more than four bids, of whom none were Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women-owned Business Enterprises (WBEs), Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), certified Small Business Enterprises (SBEs), or Long Beach businesses (Local).

The bid for this contract was publicly advertised in the last quarter of 2019, but that was prior to the tremendous changes to the economy and body politic brought on the novel coronavirus. There is also no Office of Equity assessment of the scope of work for the bid or the process for engaging the 28 local, minority-owned and/or women-owned business groups that get the weekly Open Bid Opportunities updates.

There is no doubt that Sully-Miller Contracting's patience and forbearance in this matter would go a long way towards working with the city in the future. But right now, this city needs to see action - and there is nothing particularly specialized about this work - there is no prima facie reason why a local Long Beach contractor could not fill the work on time and under budget. It is incumbent upon the City of Long Beach to make the additional effort to try and find and engage their local contractors and local skilled construction capacity.

This retention of local knowledge and capacity-building and local economic development strengthening is of course itself a plus for sustainability in Long Beach, and would be a far wiser measure of the investment impacts of limited budgetary resources than the standard indirect jobs created and multiplier stats that we expect (not confirm) are induced in the local Long Beach economy. Directly investing in Long Beach is the surest way to build up the vibrant communities that make up our city. The Long Beach Airport is but one City Department, but given its tremendous infrastructure investments and economies of scale, not to mention environmental impacts, every opportunity should be taken by Council members to insist that it become a leader in the long-term sustainability of our City, first and foremost.

Please re-announce the bid for this contract and make every attempt to engage the MBEs, DBEs, WBEs, SBEs and Local firms that can responsibly fill the scope of work for the FAA grant and desired runway improvements at our City's airport. Thank you.