



CITY OF

NEWPORT BEACH

City Council Staff Report

March 24, 2020
Agenda Item No. S19

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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TITLE: Amendment No. Three to Professional Services Agreement with
Harris Miller Miller & Hanson, Inc. for Aircraft Noise Consulting
Services

ABSTRACT:

Harris Miller Miller & Hanson, Inc. provides aviation noise consulting services to the City of Newport Beach under an agreement first entered into in February 2018. Staff recommends amending the agreement to expand the scope and timeline to enable HMMH to continue to provide technical consulting services to the City as it enters into the next phase of work related to quieter departures.

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve Amendment No. Three to Professional Services Agreement with Harris Miller Miller & Hanson, Inc. for John Wayne Airport - Aircraft Noise Abatement Departure Procedure Analysis for additional noise consulting services, add \$95,000 to the contract for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$235,000, extend the term to April 1, 2021, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute Amendment No. 3 to the agreement.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

The current adopted budget includes sufficient funding for the amended agreement. It will be expensed to the Airport Issues account in the City Manager's Office budget, 01020001 811008.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Newport Beach (City) entered into a professional services agreement with Harris Miller Miller & Hanson, Inc. (HMMH) in February 2018 for John Wayne Airport Noise Abatement Departure Procedure Analysis. The agreement has been amended twice. The first amendment, approved in September 2018, expanded the scope of work and increased the total compensation of the agreement to allow for additional analytical work requested by the City. The agreement was amended again in June 2019 to extend the term of the agreement to June 30, 2020.

With the goal of identifying the safest and quietest commercial aircraft departure procedure possible out of John Wayne Airport (JWA), the City retained HMMH in February 2018 to study the departure procedures utilized at JWA and the associated noise impacts. Among other things, the project was designed to determine if certain air carriers use quieter departure procedures than other carriers with the same aircraft type and similar average maximum takeoff weight. Once the work was underway, the City asked HMMH to perform additional analytical work and the scope of work was amended accordingly.

HMMH's work has enabled the City and the Airport Working Group to engage the air carriers serving JWA in a data-driven process to jointly seek possible operational adjustments that would reduce overflight noise within the existing Noise Abatement Departure Procedures. This collaborative process should conclude by late Spring 2020 and the findings will be made available to the public.

While the work with the air carriers was underway, the City continued to pursue other airport-related initiatives including making changes to the Aviation Committee to enable its members to better engage in airport-related matters. The Committee recently adopted five priorities on which to focus its efforts in 2020:

1. Work toward increasing altitudes to a minimum of 4,000 feet as early as possible during departures.
2. Pursue the "light dispersion" of flights in order to help bring some relief to those residents most impacted by the current departure paths.
3. Develop and advocate for local, state and federal policies and strategies that incentivize air carriers to transition their fleets and bring the most technologically advanced, quietest aircraft to John Wayne Airport.
4. Identify the quietest, safest and most efficient departure procedure technologically possible that will be approved by the FAA.
5. Support legislation to reduce overflight noise and pollution.

The Aviation Committee and its Technical Matters / Departures Subcommittee will pursue these priorities through research, data gathering and analysis. As the priorities focus on reducing overflight noise, staff desires to expand HMMH's scope of work to enable the consultant to assist the Committee's efforts as needed.

Further, as the City and its partners complete the study of possible aircraft operational changes to reduce noise, the next phase of work will involve meeting with the Federal Aviation Administration and Air Traffic Control representatives to discuss other potential changes that could lead to quieter departures. Staff believes this work will require technical expertise in airspace, air traffic control and procedures, aircraft routes, and air carrier and airport operations. HMMH has identified a subconsultant, Kevin Karpe of Diverse Vector Aviation Consulting, with this specialized expertise. Staff recommends further expanding HMMH's scope of work to allow Mr. Karpe to augment their team and work with the City on its FAA interactions and similar noise-reduction efforts.

If approved, this third amendment would expand the scope of work further, extend the term to April 1, 2021, and increase the total compensation allowed under the agreement to \$235,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A – Amendment No. Three to Professional Services Agreement