



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 12/5/2023

---

File #: 23-1383

---

**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Aviation

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**SUBJECT:**

Professional Services Agreement with Armstrong Consultants, Inc. for Installation of Murray Field Airport (EKA) Runway 12/30 Vertical Guidance Systems (PAPI-4) Final Design

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve, and authorize, the Humboldt County, Director of Aviation, or designee thereof, to execute the attached Professional Services Agreement with Armstrong Consultants, Inc. for Murray Field Airport (EKA) Runway 12/30 Vertical Guidance Systems (PAPI-4) final design in the amount of \$98,620 for the period of Nov. 28, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2024; and
2. Authorize the Director of Aviation, or designee thereof, to execute any and all subsequent amendments, to the attached Professional Services Agreement with Armstrong Consultants Inc., after review and approval by County Counsel, Risk Management, and the County Administrative Office.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grant No. 3-06-0072-019-2022

Aviation Capital Projects (3539170)

**DISCUSSION:**

The Visual Approach Slope Indicators (VASIs) are a set of lights positioned in a specific way near a runway to help pilots maintain the correct descent path when approaching that runway for landing. These lights give pilots a visual reference to ensure they are descending at the correct angle for a safe landing. However, VASIs are becoming outdated as they rely on older technology and are no longer receiving support by the FAA. As a result, airports are replacing VASIs with Precision Approach Path Indicators (PAPIs). PAPIs are a more modern and reliable technology for providing pilots vertical guidance during their approach to the runway.

An existing, FAA-owned and operated, VASI system is currently installed at Murray Field Airport (EKA) on the Runway 30 end. Historically, a VASI system was also installed on the Runway 12 end; however, this system has been out of service for many years. The attached Professional Services Agreement would engage Armstrong Consultants, Inc. to produce the final design associated with the installation of new PAPI systems on both ends of Runway 12/30.

The Federal Aviation Administration, Air Traffic Organization (ATO) has agreed to participate in this project and a separate grant is funding a reimbursable agreement with the FAA ATO for their design support. FAA ATO design support is required when the FAA has agreed to own and operate these systems upon installation. FAA operation and ownership will minimize Department of Aviation staff time, financial obligations, and other resources for the Department of Aviation throughout the life cycle of these new PAPI systems.

The Department of Aviation previously applied for, and accepted, FAA BIL Grant Number 3-06-0072-019-2023 to cover 90% of the cost, or \$90,000, for completing final design, in accordance with FAA regulations. The remaining 10% of the local cost was included in the fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 adopted budget.

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was conducted in early 2021, seeking qualified airport planning, architecture/engineering, environmental and consultants to provide the services needed to accomplish a complex FAA-Airport Improvement Plan program for the County Aviation System, in accordance with the FAA regulations. A pre-qualification list was presented to, and approved by, the Board of Supervisors on April 27, 2021. Armstrong Consultants, Inc. was pre-qualified on that list.

Accordingly, the Department of Aviation recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve, and authorize, the Humboldt County, Director of Aviation, or designee thereof, to execute the attached Professional Services Agreement with Armstrong Consultants, Inc. for installation of Murray Field Airport (EKA) Runway 12/30 Vertical Guidance Systems (PAPI-4) final design in the amount of \$98,620 for the period of Nov. 28, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2024. Staff also recommends that the Board authorize the Director of Aviation, or designee thereof, to execute any and all subsequent amendments, up to 10% of the total project cost, to the attached Professional Services Agreement with Armstrong Consultants Inc., after review and approval by County Counsel, Risk Management, and the County Administrative Office.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

<b>Expenditures (3539170)</b>	<b>FY23-24 Adopted</b>
Budgeted Expenses	\$98,620
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$98,620</b>
<b>Funding Sources (3539170 8186)</b>	<b>FY23-24 Adopted</b>
State/Federal Funds	\$90,000
Local Share	\$8,620
<b>Total Funding Sources</b>	<b>\$98,620</b>

**Narrative Explanation of Financial Impact:**

The attached Professional Services Agreement with Armstrong Consultants, Inc. has a total amount payable of \$98,620 for the period of Nov. 28, 2023 through Dec. 31, 2024.

The majority of expenses will be reimbursed to the County of Humboldt through previously accepted FAA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Grant No. 3-06-0072-019-2023. The Federal BIL Grant makes up 90% of the total project cost, or \$90,000 and the County of Humboldt is responsible for the remaining 10%. Both the federal and local share were included in the FY 2023-24 approved budget for the Department of Aviation, Aviation Capital Projects (3539170). As a result, approval of the agreement with Armstrong Consultants, Inc. will not impact the General Fund.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact with this item.

**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:**

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework priority of seeking outside funding sources to benefit Humboldt County needs

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

Federal Aviation Administration

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Board could choose not to approve the Agreement or allow the Director of Aviation, or designee thereof, to sign such agreements. However, this alternative is not recommended as it will inhibit the ability for the Department of Aviation to complete final design for the installation of EKA PAPIs and would force the Department of Aviation to forfeit an FAA BIL Grant that would reimburse the County of Humboldt for 90% of costs, up to \$90,000, for this project.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Professional Services Agreement - EKA PAPI Final Design

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Board Order No.: D-1; D-2

Meeting of: 04/27/2021; 09/12/2023

File No.: 21-509; 23-1248