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AB-400 Local agency design-build projects: authorization. (2023-2024)

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Assembly Bill No. 400

CHAPTER 201

An act to amend Sections 22161 and 22169 of the Public Contract Code, relating to public contracts.

[Approved by Governor September 22, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State September 22, 2023.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 400, Blanca Rubio. Local agency design-build projects: authorization.

Existing law authorizes a local agency, as defined, with approval of its governing body, to procure design-build contracts for public works projects in excess of \$1,000,000, awarding the contract either to the lowest bid or the best value. "Local agency" is defined, in part, for this purpose to include specified local and regional agencies responsible for the construction of transit projects, including any joint powers authority formed to provide transit service. Existing law, among other requirements for the design-build procurement process, requires specified information submitted by a design-build entity to be certified under penalty of perjury. These provisions authorizing the use of the design-build procurement process are repealed on January 1, 2025.

This bill would delete from the definition of "local agency" any joint powers authority formed to provide transit services, and would instead expand that definition to include any joint powers authority responsible for the construction of transit projects, thereby authorizing additional joint powers authorities to use the above-described design-build procurement process. The bill would extend the repeal date to January 1, 2031. By expanding the design-build authorization to additional joint powers authorities and by extending the design-build authorization, the bill would expand the crime of perjury, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 22161 of the Public Contract Code is amended to read:

22161. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Best value" means a value determined by evaluation of objective criteria that relate to price, features, functions, life-cycle costs, experience, and past performance. A best value determination may involve the selection of the lowest cost proposal

meeting the interests of the local agency and meeting the objectives of the project, selection of the best proposal for a stipulated sum established by the procuring agency, or a tradeoff between price and other specified factors.

(b) "Construction subcontract" means each subcontract awarded by the design-build entity to a subcontractor that will perform work or labor or render service to the design-build entity in or about the construction of the work or improvement, or a subcontractor licensed by the State of California that, under subcontract to the design-build entity, specially fabricates and installs a portion of the work or improvement according to detailed drawings contained in the plans and specifications produced by the design-build team.

(c) "Design-build" means a project delivery process in which both the design and construction of a project are procured from a single entity.

(d) "Design-build entity" means a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, or other legal entity that is able to provide appropriately licensed contracting, architectural, and engineering services as needed pursuant to a design-build contract.

(e) "Design-build team" means the design-build entity itself and the individuals and other entities identified by the design-build entity as members of its team. Members shall include the general contractor and, if utilized in the design of the project, all electrical, mechanical, and plumbing contractors.

(f) "Local agency" means the following:

(1) A city, county, or city and county.

(2) A special district that operates wastewater facilities, solid waste management facilities, water recycling facilities, or fire protection facilities.

(3) Any transit district, included transit district, municipal operator, included municipal operator, any consolidated agency, as described in Section 132353.1 of the Public Utilities Code, any joint powers authority, any county transportation commission created pursuant to Section 130050 of the Public Utilities Code, or any other local or regional agency, responsible for the construction of transit projects.

(4) The San Diego Association of Governments, as referenced in the San Diego Regional Transportation Consolidation Act (Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 132350) of Division 12.7 of the Public Utilities Code).

(5) The Stanislaus Regional Water Authority.

(g) (1) Except as specified in subdivision (h), for a local agency defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (f), "project" means the construction of a building or buildings and improvements directly related to the construction of a building or buildings, county sanitation wastewater treatment facilities, and park and recreational facilities, but does not include the construction of other infrastructure, including, but not limited to, streets and highways, public rail transit, or water resources facilities and infrastructure. For a local agency defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (f) that operates wastewater facilities, solid waste management facilities, or water recycling facilities, "project" also means the construction of regional and local wastewater treatment facilities, regional and local solid waste facilities, or regional and local water recycling facilities.

(2) For a local agency defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (f), "project" means the construction of regional and local wastewater treatment facilities, regional and local solid waste facilities, regional and local water recycling facilities, or fire protection facilities.

(3) Except as specified in subdivision (h), for a local agency defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (f), "project" means a transit capital project that begins a project solicitation on or after January 1, 2015. A "project," as defined by this paragraph, that begins the solicitation process before January 1, 2015, is subject to Article 6.8 (commencing with Section 20209.5) of Chapter 1. "Project," as defined by this paragraph, does not include state highway construction or local street and road projects.

(4) For a local agency defined in paragraph (4) of subdivision (f), "project" has the same meaning as in paragraph (3), and shall also include development projects adjacent, or physically or functionally related, to transit facilities developed or jointly developed by the local agency.

(5) For a local agency defined in paragraph (5) of subdivision (f), "project" means the Stanislaus Regional Water Authority's Regional Surface Water Supply Project.

(h) In recognition of the additional transportation funds made available by the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (Chapter 5 of the Statutes of 2017), and to accelerate the delivery of transportation projects to the public, in addition to the authority provided in other subdivisions of this section, for a local agency defined in paragraph (1) or (3) of subdivision (f), for up

to six projects to be selected by the Department of Transportation, a "project" also means construction or rehabilitation of local streets and roads, including, but not limited to, bridge replacement and railroad grade separations. Consistent with Provision 2 of Item 2660-110-0042 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2016, as amended by Chapter 7 of the Statutes of 2017, three projects shall be reserved for and selected by the Riverside County Transportation Commission, with the first priority for the projects listed in that budget item.

SEC. 2. Section 22169 of the Public Contract Code is amended to read:

22169. This chapter shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2031, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.