



For immediate release: Dec. 23, 2009  
Contact: Chris Coursey 415-717-9968

## **SMART Team Offers Mix of Global Experience, Local Knowledge**

Contracts for the design and engineering of 14 train stations and an operations and maintenance facility were approved at the December meeting of the Board of Directors of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District.

The signing of these two contracts completes what has been a six-month effort to assemble a world-class team of consultants to assist SMART in creating a new, state-of-the-art passenger train and pathway system for the North Bay.

SMART, with a core staff of nine employees, now has the services of 70 specialized contractors available as the agency moves into more detailed design and engineering of the system and assembles the few remaining pieces of property necessary for operation of the 70-mile rail and trail project. The value of these initial contracts is about \$11.3 million.

This is Measure Q tax money at work. Following the approval of Measure Q by 70 percent of the voters in November 2008, SMART began accruing revenues from the quarter-cent sales tax in April. Development of the SMART project is estimated to cost \$590 million, with passenger rail service scheduled to begin in 2014.

SMART has divided consultant work into six specific contract areas: Real Estate Support Services, Vehicle and Systems Design and Engineering, Civil Track and Pathway (CTP) Design and Engineering, Major Bridges Design and Engineering, Stations Design and Engineering and Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) Design and Engineering. Competition for these contracts was spirited, with many dozens of firms submitting proposals as either prime- or sub-contractors.

The successful proposers are a mix of local, regional, state and national firms that will provide SMART with a deep pool of resources and expertise. Working in teams, these firms combine global experience with local knowledge to benefit the project. They include a mix of small and minority-owned businesses, and SMART's goals for inclusion of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises were met or exceeded on all major design contracts.

While there are few firms based in the North Bay that specialize in railroad work, 21 companies based in Marin and Sonoma Counties – 30 percent of the total – will participate in the project. A Santa Rosa firm,

Winzler & Kelly, was selected as the prime contractor for design and engineering services on the Operations and Maintenance Facility.

In addition to providing work for these firms, Measure Q is having further economic impacts in the SMART District. One of the lead CTP firms, HDR Engineering, has tripled the size of its Santa Rosa office space and increased its local staff from four to 10. The lead vehicle design firm, LTK Engineering Services, is opening an office in downtown Santa Rosa. SMART is opening a project office in downtown Santa Rosa, while keeping its administrative offices in downtown San Rafael.

Besides renting office space, Measure Q is also boosting the residential real estate market and returning sales tax revenues into the community in routine, everyday spending. Two LTK employees have moved to Sonoma County from out of state, and three other consultants on the project have relocated here with their families from Oregon, Illinois and Texas.

“The sales tax is being spent where it is being raised,” Community Outreach Manager Chris Coursey told the Board at its December meeting.

**Marin and Sonoma County firms involved in the above-mentioned contracts:**

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Contract(s)</b>
Adobe Associates	Real Estate
Alta Planning	CTP
Brunsing Associates	Real Estate, Stations
Carlenzoli & Associates	CTP
Cinquini & Passarino	CTP, OMF
Carlile-Macy	CTP, Real Estate
Coastland	CTP, Major Bridges
CSW – Stuber Stroeh Engineering	CTP, Real Estate
David Tattersall & Co.	Real Estate
Green Valley Engineers	CTP, Stations
John Eells	Stations
Kathy Wood & Associates	Real Estate
Kleinfelder	CTP, Real Estate
Miller Pacific Engineering	Bridges, OMF
MKM Associates	Stations
Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey	CTP, Stations
Semple Appraisal	Real Estate
TLCD Architecture	OMF
Terre Verde	OMF
W-Trans	CTP
Winzler & Kelly	OMF ( <b>prime</b> ), CTP