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High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Agency Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

ltem	HDC JPA Budget Description	Proposed FY26 Amount
1	California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support for NEPA Reevaluation Work : Provide funding for California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) staff support to conduct the NEPA Reevaluation work that will be delegated by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to the CHSRA to support HDC JPA's environmental clearance that is needed to obtain a Record of Decision. Budgeted amount for FY26 is based on workplan that California High Speed Rail Authroity (CHSRA) provided, which is budgeted for fiscal year 2026.	\$1,940,000
2	 Re-evaluate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) & Record of Decision (ROD): Complete the NEPA Re-evaluation/Re-validation and Record of Decision (ROD) with Final Review by the FRA NEPA designation entity California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). Tasks for FY26 include: -Addressing comments, provide revised version for CHSR final review. Prepare final version for NEPA Re-evaluation and prepare a ROD for CHSRA final approval. -Draft a Letter of Concurrence and re-initiate ROD Section 7 consult. Complete Section 106 process, Tribe Consultation. Prepare CEQA addendum for state funding. Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process. 2. Conclude Surface Transportation Board (STB) Petition Approval process. Contractors: Transportation Solutions: \$248,000 Epic Land Solutions, Inc.: \$555,000 Circlepoint: \$1,368,000 Venable LLP: \$294,000 Arrellano Associates \$120,000. Other sub contacors as needed based on NEPA process. 	\$2,585,000
3	Service Development Plan (SDP) Update: Metro will continue as lead on the HDC Service Development Plan (SDP) that will be submitted to FRA for their consideration in FY26. Based on FRA direction, the current January 2023 SDP requires additional analysis and cost updates due to the alignment, structural, and operational changes made to the Project since January 2023. This budgeted amount may be reimbursed to the HDC JPA through the Federal Railroad Administration Corridor Identification Grant Stage 2 at 90% federal, 10% Measure M.	\$2,310,000
4	HDC JPA Management: Oversee agency management including technical analysis, grant applications, budgetary activities, equity focused planning, administration, engineering, right-of-way planning, stakeholder engagement and communications. For FY26, HDC JPA management functions will be augmented to meet the increased project needs requiring the services of a senior level project management/planning, engineering and right-of-way (ROW) planning support, communications staff, and administrative support staff. As the project progresses beyond the environmental phase into preliminary engineering and final design, the HDC JPA requires additional staffing to support the increasing complexity, expertise, and level of effort. Contractors: AVS Consulting, Inc.: \$344,500 Cal Strategic Management: \$290,000 ERCL Consulting LLC: \$121,110 HDC As-Needed Staff Support: \$68,900	\$824,510
5	Financial Advisory Services: Conduct ongoing financial planning & analysis, modeling, and structural management analysis to support project development into the fiscal year 2026 that includes identifying, developing, and refining the project funding plan, analyze options for local, state, and federal funding contributions toward the project, prepare local, state, federal grant applications and provide grants management support, coordinate with station integration planning work, provide updated ridership forecasting as needed, identify credit enhancement strategies, Coordinate with the Engineering Design Services firm that will be onboarded. Maintain and update on an	\$1,165,000

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6	Program Management Support and Construction Management Support Services (PMC) : Procure the professional services of a program management support and construction management support services (PMC) firm to support HDC JPA with overseeing the work related to the phases of Engineering and Design, Construction, Transition to Operational Control, and Closeout. This work includes development of statements of work, contract development, contract administration support, local, regional, state, federal, and interjurisdictional grant agreement compliance, procurement support services, set and monitor program controls, project management, third party management including utility relocation, right-of-way acquisition & relocation plans and implementation, cost scheduling & control functions, cost estimating, environmental compliance, configuration management, transition to operational management, and other related support services. For FY25, the PMC contractor will be performing work at a level of effort that will be commensurate with transitioning from the environmental phase into the Preliminary Engineering phase of the project consisting of developing the Preliminary Engineering and Design (PE) statement of work and contract development, and developing a right-of-way acquisition and relocation plan. This budgeted amount is estimated for a 6 month work period during FY 25. Estimate is based on a previous three-year look ahead that will be revised to reflect the updated Service Development Plan assumptions and costs.	\$0
7	Engineering Design and Related Advisory Services (EDS) : The Engineering, Design, and related services (EDS) firm to support HDC JPA Executive Management with overseeing the work related to the engineering and design services that will be necessary for FY26. This work includes conducting advanced conceptual planning and engineering work that includes the following tasks: 1) oversight of the engineering work to be conducted for the Service Development Plan; 2) coordinate with the conceptual engineering work to be conducted by the Environmental Clearance Team; 3) engineering oversight of the work to be conducted to integrate the HDC JPA High Speed Rail Project into the Palmdale Station with California High Speed Rail Authority and the Victor Valley Station with the Brightline West organization; 4) coordinate with the California High Speed Rail Authority, Federal Railroad Administration and other State Agencies; 5) Coordinate with ROW Acquisition Planning work effort; 6) support grant applications and grant agreement compliance; 7) provide cost scheduling, control, and estimating functions, as well as other related support services. Funding for this task will be partially funded by the \$16.5 million TIRCP grant funding allocated to HDC JPA.	\$2,480,000
8	 County of Los Angeles Treasury, Auditor-Controller, Legal Counsel, Public Works Staff Support: Monthly Support for Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable functions, Legal Counsel Support, Budget Oversight, Board Meetings staffing, Agency Oversight & Compliance Items, Procurement /Contract Services plus Request for Proposals preparation and Oversight, and contract execution. Public Works Procurement/Vendor Services: \$120,000 Procurement support services to advise, monitor, and provide oversight for preparing request for proposals, contract development and execution, memoranda of understanding (MOU), state and federal procurement compliance processes. These support services will include procuring contracts in the areas of professional services contracts and architectural and engineering contracts. For FY26, the support includes support for Controller related functions, budget oversight, grants reporting, invoice payments, financial reporting, interagency funds transfers, monthly reconciliation reports, and other related financial reports. Legal Counsel: \$60,000 - Monthly Support for legal counsel to review agency contracts, memorandum of understanding (MOU), funding agreements, Board of Director reports, Agency Regulatory Compliance, Grant Applications & Compliance, Procurement Documents: Request for Proposals process, contractual agreements, contract execution, and other related services. 	\$270,000
9	LA Metro Staff Support : Provide Metro staff support from several departments including Regional Rail Program, Cost Estimating, Countywide Planning support and assistance on an as-needed basis to support HDC JPA.	\$150,000
10	Stakeholder and Public Engagement and Planning Assistance: Provide communications, community engagement, and other related planning assistance to support the Agency communications and planning functions.	\$90,000

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11	Audit Services: County of Los Angeles Audit Services	\$30,000
12	LA Metro Funding Agreement Audit Services	\$25,340
13	Multi-Media Promotion, Materials & Advertising. US HSR Association yearly membership	\$45,000
14	IT Support, Software & Website Mgmt.	\$22,500
15	Total Adopted FY25 Budget & Proposed FY26 Budget	\$11,937,350
16	Less: Reserve Fund-Cash on Hand as of March 31, 2024	\$0
17	Measure M Funds Requested for FY26 Budget	\$11,937,350