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June 24, 2019

State of Washington
Capital Projects Advisory Review Board
Project Review Committee (PRC)

Subject: Design-Build Project Application by Grant County PUD for their Load Growth Project

Dear PRC Members,

I am writing in support of the subject application and specifically to strongly endorse the consultant team that Grant County PUD has engaged to support their procurement and management of the Load Growth project. As a charter member and former chair of the PRC, I know that one of your primary responsibilities is to ensure that the applicant has a team with demonstrated expertise in the proposed alternative delivery method.

Along with Vanir and Robynne Thaxton, I served as part of the consultant team that delivered the first Grant County PUD Progressive Design-Build (PD-B) project for upgrades to their substation infrastructure. The Vanir team, led by Scott Tomlinson, did an excellent job in the overall management of the project. Robynne brought her considerable expertise to the procurement phase, essentially creating the procurement and contract documents and managing the entire selection process. Robynne is deeply fluent in the language and intent of RCW 39.10. Her procurement process is designed to ensure full compliance with the statute, including a robust and transparent selection process, detailed documentation of the scoring process and comprehensive debriefs of the successful and unsuccessful proposers. Robynne's thoroughness, attention to detail and deep expertise in the PD-B delivery model were key to setting up the substation project for success.

In my current position at UC San Diego, I have introduced PD-B to our campus. I arranged for Robynne to be hired by the UC Office of the President to work with us in developing new PD-B procurement documents and contracts. As she did at Grant County, Robynne managed the procurement and selection process for our first PD-B project, a \$420M mixed use campus town center. We have since used Robynne's process for two other major projects. I know of no other person with the depth and breadth of PD-B experience that Robynne possesses.

With Vanir and Robynne on their team, Grant County PUD is in very capable hands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric C. Smith".

Eric C. Smith, PE, DBIA
Associate Vice Chancellor
Capital Program Management