



AGENDA ITEM: 26-31

DATE OF MEETING: September 9, 2026

ACTION: ☒

INFORMATION: ☐

**APPROVE CONTRACT WITH PODER CONSULTING GROUP, LLC TO PROVIDE
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FROM SEPTEMBER 10, 2026 – DECEMBER 31, 2027
(CONTRACT NO. CF27105 QEL) [\$134,960– PROP 10 FUNDS]**

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

Approve Contract CF27105 with Poder Consulting Group, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$134,960 from September 10, 2026 through December 31, 2027, to support implementation of the Commission's early learning priorities, strategic plan implementation, community engagement and data analysis, and recommendations aligned with the Commission's strategic priorities.

BACKGROUND

Poder Consulting Group, LLC, has provided strategic planning, community engagement, data analysis, and early learning planning services to the Commission since 2025. The previous agreement focused on developing the Quality Early Learning strategy and initiating planning for a school readiness assessment. The proposed contract advances this work into the implementation phase by completing the school readiness landscape assessment and pilot design, aligning implementation activities with the Commission's 2027–2030 Strategic Plan, and supporting the community engagement and analysis necessary to operationalize the resulting recommendations. Utilizing research and data, Poder Consulting Group, LLC provides professional services to strengthen QEL priorities and implementation efforts across strategic goal areas.

January 21, 2026 (Action Item 26-04): The Commission approved Contract No. CF25118, Fourth Amendment, with Poder Consulting Group, LLC, for an amount not-to-exceed \$115,000, for expansion of the scope of work to include Quality Early Learning strategic planning, community input sessions and surveys including data analysis, summary of findings, presentation of results, and school readiness assessment planning.

March 26, 2025, Contract No. CF25118 with Poder Consulting Group, LLC was executed under the Executive Director's spending authority for \$50,000, with a contract term of February 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025. Subsequent amendments extended the agreement to allow for completion of deliverables outlined in the scope of work.

Poder Consulting Group, LLC was selected in accordance with the Commission-approved revised Contract and Procurement Policy (Action Item 25-05), based on the specialized expertise required for the proposed professional services.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

That the Commission:

1. Approve Contract No. CF27105 QEL with Poder Consulting Group, LLC for an amount not to exceed \$134,960 from September 10, 2026 through December 31, 2027, substantially the same form as attached and authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract on behalf of the Commission, subject to Counsel approval as to form; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director, based on the availability of fiscal funding and as approved by County Counsel to sign amendments that exercise the options of Contract No. CF27105, on behalf of the Commission including modifications of the statement of work that stay within the intent of said contract without requiring further action from the Commission.

BUDGET IMPACT

Adequate appropriation has been included in the adopted FY2026/2027 budget. (525440-25800-938001-92950)

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE

Goal Area 1 - Quality Early Learning (92950)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None known

ATTACHMENT

1. CF27105 Poder Consulting Group, LLC