

MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Bill Barnes, Deputy of Regional Policy and Implementation

Date: March 24, 2025

Subject: Authorization to enter into contract C-25-0082 with the University of Illinois for water supply planning outreach and education services for a term up to 24 months in an amount not to exceed \$237,000

Action Requested: Approval

Purpose

CMAP seeks authorization to enter into a sole-source contract with the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG) program at the University of Illinois to support water supply planning education and outreach. CMAP and IISG are partners on a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (OWR447) to assist the Northwest Water Planning Alliance (NWPA) and host water education workshops to advance regional sustainability efforts. This contract builds on a proven collaboration and leverages IISG's unique subject matter expertise.

Background

CMAP has led regional water supply planning for decades, frequently partnering with IISG to promote sustainable water use. Recent collaborations include updating the regional water demand forecast, exploring groundwater governance, and supporting NWPA in developing a Water Supply Sustainability Plan (WSSP). These efforts are primarily funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Under this new funding, CMAP and IISG propose two key projects:

1. **NWPA Support** – Providing outreach and educational assistance for implementing the recently completed WSSP. IISG has been involved since the plan's inception in 2021 and served as a co-author, giving them critical insight into its implementation.
2. **Water Education Workshops** – Hosting workshops to advance sustainability efforts across the region. IISG's expertise in workshop design, facilitation, and evaluation—skills not available within CMAP—ensures effective programming aligned with CMAP's priorities.

Procurement Justification

IISG is uniquely suited for this contract due to its deep familiarity with the NWPA WSSP and expertise in water supply sustainability, outreach, and education. As a co-author of the WSSP and a technical advisor throughout its development, IISG possesses unmatched institutional knowledge. No other vendor has this level of direct involvement or expertise in water sustainability within the Chicago metropolitan region. IISG's longstanding collaboration with CMAP—spanning over 15 years—ensures alignment with regional strategies. Additionally, its specialized ability to design, facilitate, and evaluate sustainability workshops is not available within CMAP or widely offered by other organizations.