

CONSULTING PLANNERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR HIRING A CONSULTING PLANNER?

Cities usually call M-Group when there is an anticipated gap in staffing. M-Group will recommend one of our planners based on the City's needs, and set up an interview with City staff. If City staff finds the planner to be a good match, M-Group and the City will sign a contract for the duration of the staffing need.



WHY IS IT BETTER TO HIRE A FIRM RATHER THAN AN INDIVIDUAL?

M-Group hires well-rounded planners with solid knowledge, and performs rigorous background and reference checks. This saves our clients precious time validating the abilities of a potential planner. M-Group has specialists in policy, development review, and environmental planning, and can provide advice in special cases. Should the client require a staffing replacement for any reason, M-Group can provide this service with minimal turnaround time.



HOW DO YOUR CONSULTING PLANNERS ADD VALUE TO A CITY DEPARTMENT?

M-Group's planners have worked for a wide range of City planning departments and have broad knowledge and experience in various types of entitlement procedures and policy planning.



WHAT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS COULD ARISE FROM THIS ARRANGEMENT?

M-Group planners have been well-received at many City departments around the Bay Area. M-Group Principals check in with Planning Managers and Directors regularly to ensure that planners are performing at or above expectations.

HOW DO YOUR PLANNERS COMPENSATE FOR THE LACK OF INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE?

Due to their extensive background, M-Group planners adapt quickly, look to find answers to their own questions from available City's resources, and hit the ground running. Clients are expected to provide only explanations on specific protocol or administrative procedures.

HOW DOES CALPERS AFFECT CONSULTING PLANNERS?

There are restrictions for CalPERS retirees when they return to work for CalPERS or non-CalPERS employers. M-Group reviews the restrictions for each planner to ensure there are no potential conflicts for our clients.

"THEY HAD A STRONG FOCUS ON CLIENT RELATIONS AND ALSO PROVIDED SOLID PLANNING WORK, QUICKLY LEARNING THE CODES AND POLICIES. THE QUALITY OF THEIR WORK WAS RECOGNIZED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS."

- JAMES LINDSAY, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, CITY OF SARATOGA



QUESTIONS?

Call (650) 938-1111 or visit our website at m-group.us