

AGENDA



Thursday, June 21, 2007

Public Works

Item No. 61

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with INTERA INCORPORATED, Austin, TX, for Environmental Commissioning services for the design, construction, and start-up phases of Water Treatment Plant No. 4 in an amount not to exceed \$3,400,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Steve Nelson 974-7145, Ron Gentry 974-7133, Laura Bohl 974-7064.

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of four statements received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 22.3% MBE and 14.5% WBE subconsultant participation.

The City is proceeding with a project to construct Water Treatment Plant No. 4 (WTP 4) on a site within the headwaters of Bull Creek, a suburban water supply watershed which provides prime habitat for several endangered or rare animal species. The site is also located over the Edwards Aquifer, a sensitive groundwater body. Concerns about construction and operation of the plant on this site led to preparation of a plan for protection of the area during design, construction, and operation of the facility. This contract will provide the expertise and personnel needed for effective implementation of that plan (the Environmental Commissioning Plan).

Under the supervision of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, the selected consultant will provide personnel to work closely with the design consultant to evaluate plant designs for their effectiveness in achieving the environmental goals established in the Mitigation Report. The selected consultant will provide recommendations regarding possible design improvements and evaluate monitoring results and compare them to environmental goals. The selected consultant will also evaluate construction and start-up activities relative to environmental goals to verify that plans and designs are functioning as intended.

This request allows for the development of a professional service agreement with the recommended firm. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the recommended firm, negotiations will cease with that firm. Staff will then return to Council and request authorization to begin negotiations with the alternate recommendation listed below.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 404 firms on March 23, 2007. The RFQ was obtained by 37 firms, and 4 firms submitted qualification statements. One of the firms was a certified WBE firm. Of the 4 firms evaluated, 2 firms were short-listed and interviewed. Interviewing of the short-listed firms results in the following recommendation.