

AGENDA



Thursday, August 30, 2007

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
Item No. 47

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract with VARIAN, INC., Walnut Creek, CA, for the purchase of an inductively coupled plasma-optical emission spectrometer for the Austin Water Utility in a total contract amount not to exceed \$86,432.

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

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Steve Aden, Supervising Sr. Buyer, 974-2021.

Purchasing Language: Lowest bid of three bids received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore no goals were established for this solicitation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

This contract is for the purchase of an ICP-Optical Emission Spectrometer for the Austin Water Utility's Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Laboratory. This instrument is used to analyze water, wastewater, biosolids and soils for elemental metals constituents in support of the City's water quality related mandates imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and related local ordinances.

This equipment will replace the current instrument on hand that is 12 years old and is in need of constant adjustment and frequent servicing to meet production requirements.

Without this replacement instrument, the laboratory may not be able to provide the necessary support in a timely manner. Samples may have to be sent to a contract laboratory, with a turnaround time rate of three weeks (to obtain results) as compared to less than two weeks for the Utility's in-house staff. In addition, rush (emergency) samples can be processed in-house within 48 hours when necessary to meet our customers' needs.

MBE/WBE solicited: 1/1

MBE/WBE bid: 0/0

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. Ten notices were sent, including one MBE and one WBE. Three bids were received, with no response from the MBE/WBEs.
- c. This is the first purchase of its type in twelve years; therefore, there is no relevant pricing history available.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Lowest bid received.
- b. The Purchasing Office concurs the Austin Water Utility's recommended award.
- c. Advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and the Internet.