

AGENDA



Thursday, November 8, 2007

**Public Works
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 46**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with URS CORPORATION, A NEVADA CORPORATION, Austin, TX, for preliminary engineering and program management services for the South IH-35 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements Program in an amount not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Bill Stauber, P.E. 972-0290, Debra Dibble 974-7027, Laura Bohl 974-7064.

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of six 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 19.0% MBE and 15.0% WBE subconsultant participation.

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

The southern area of the City of Austin, specifically along and east of IH-35, is currently experiencing significant development. Utility infrastructure is not currently in place to handle the development being proposed. The Austin Water Utility has developed a service area plan to address the anticipated needs for both water (Exhibit A) and wastewater (Exhibit B) infrastructure improvements and the Utility has developed a long-range implementation schedule in order to complete these improvements.

The City is currently receiving requests for water and wastewater service from a variety of developers in the area and is proceeding in implementing these improvements as part of service extension requests by the developers. This is proving difficult to accommodate within the long-range plan. The Austin Water Utility would like to develop and implement a comprehensive South IH-35 Utility Infrastructure Implementation Plan in order to meet the demands of this ongoing development. The consultant will assist the Utility in developing and implementing this plan.

This authorization provides for funding of services related to both the program management and professional preliminary engineering services for the Program. The consultant will assist in identifying the needed improvements, perform all associated preliminary engineering, and provide continual program management throughout all phases of the Program. Improvements identified in the preliminary engineering phase will be designed by other consultants, selected from a general water and wastewater design rotation list that the City is currently developing for use.

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.

Participation goals stated in the solicitation were 16.5% MBE 14.2% WBE. The recommended and alternate firms provided an MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and were approved by the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 253 firms July 25, 2007. The RFQ was obtained by 67 firms, and six firms submitted qualification statements. One of the submittals is from a certified MBE firm. Of the six firms evaluated, two firms were short-listed and interviewed. Interviewing of the short-listed firms resulted in the attached recommendation.