

AGENDA



Thursday, December 11, 2008

Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 24

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with ECOLOGICAL COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION (ECOMM), Austin, TX to provide professional archaeological services for the Zilker Park Archaeological Investigation project, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Jules Parrish 974-9385; Rosie Truelove 974-3064; April Thedford 974-7141

Purchasing Language: Best qualification statement of two (2) 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 8.30% MBE and 20.00% WBE subconsultant participation.

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

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) required and agreed to a two-phase archaeological investigation in the vicinity of the Zilker Park rugby field as mitigation for potential impact to cultural resources during construction of the Barton Creek Lift Station Relief Tunnel Section 1. Specifically, in lieu of monitoring spoil material during tunnel excavation, THC required additional investigation in an adjacent area as mitigation for any disturbance of artifacts during tunnel construction.

The agreement between THC and the Austin Water Utility required two phases. The first phase included an augering program, laboratory analysis and report, which was submitted to the THC for their review in February, 2008. Phase 1 was completed by PBS&J, the design consultant for the Barton Creek Lift Station Relief Tunnel Project. In addition to the scientific findings of Phase 1, the report also drew conclusions regarding the optimal location and depth for Phase 2, the Data Recovery Excavation phase. THC supports the conclusions of the Phase 1 report and the scope of work for Phase 2.

The Data Recovery Excavation phase will excavate a total surface area of 172 square feet to a depth of 18 feet, and will include on-site analysis, laboratory analysis and report of findings per the requirements and standards outlined by the THC and the Antiquities Code of Texas, and in accordance with City of Austin specifications.

The consultant and all parties participating on this project will be required to comply with all OSHA regulations. In addition, security personnel will be required on site throughout the excavation and backfill phases at any time contracting staff is not present.

The Scope of Services for the excavation phase also includes an on-site public outreach program. This will require the development of a temporary interpretive exhibit associated with the excavation. The

exhibit will be staffed with an individual knowledgeable of the archaeology site and the region, eight hours a day, seven days a week during the period when the data recovery excavation is in progress.

This request allows for the development of a professional service agreement with the recommended firm. This authorization provides for archaeological investigation services for Phase 2 in the amount of \$700,000.

The anticipated total completion time for this agreement is approximately one and a half years from the date of City Council approval. Specific project schedules will be developed mutually by the project manager, the archaeological consulting firm and the impacted City Departments.

Participation subgoals stated in the solicitation were 1.7% African American; 9.5% Hispanic; 5.3% Native/Asian American and 14.2% WBE. The recommended firm provided a MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 34 firms on August 22, 2008. The RFQ was obtained by 18 firms, and two firms submitted qualification statements. One of the firms was a certified MBE firm. Of the two firms evaluated, one firm was short-listed and interviewed. Interviewing the short-listed firm resulted in the following recommendation.