

## AGENDA



Thursday, March 5, 2009

**Contract and Land Management  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**Item No. 5**

---

**Subject:** Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with H.R. GRAY, Austin, TX to provide professional value engineering services for the Waller Creek Tunnel Project, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is attached.

**For More Information:** Gary Jackson 974-7115; 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 16.50% MBE and 14.20% WBE subconsultant participation.

---

The consultant will provide a Value Engineering review of the Waller Creek Tunnel (WCT) project designs and construction execution plan and address the recommendations of an initial Value Engineering review report completed in July 2008.

The WCT project is a proposed storm water bypass tunnel beginning with an inlet structure in Waterloo Park and discharging via an outlet structure at Lady Bird Lake near Waller Beach and the Four Seasons Hotel. The tunnel will be approximately 22-feet in diameter and almost one mile long.

The project is the first phase of an area master plan to address development, public use, hike and bike access, and aesthetics for the Waller Creek District. The tunnel project will consist of several construction projects with some small projects starting construction in 2009, and planned to be substantially complete in 2014. The initial Value Engineering that has been completed was programmatic in nature and will be reviewed as part of this process.

The project is expected to reduce the size of the 100 year floodplain of the lower Waller Creek watershed by an estimated 28 acres and allow denser development in a very desirable area of downtown. The pump station at Waterloo Park will maintain constant water flow in the creek during the dry season, thus improving water quality and allowing a creek side atmosphere for public venues or natural settings. Inlet weirs along the creek will increase the ability to maintain storm water levels and water quality by adding stilling ponds and waterfalls along the creek.

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 return to Council and request authorization to begin negotiations with the alternate recommendation listed below. This authorization provides for value engineering services in the amount of \$300,000.

The anticipated total completion time for this agreement is approximately two years from the date of City Council approval. Specific project schedules will be developed mutually by the project manager and the value engineering consulting firm.

Participation goals stated in the solicitation were 16.50% MBE; 14.20% WBE. The recommended and alternate firms provided a MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and were 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 525 firms on September 26, 2008. The RFQ was obtained by 31 firms, and two firms submitted qualification statements. Neither firm was a certified MBE/WBE firm. Both firms were evaluated, and interviewed. Interviewing the two firms resulted in the following recommendation: H.R. Gray, Austin, TX (staff recommendation) and Camp Dresser & McKee Inc, Austin, TX (alternate).