

AGENDA



Thursday, July 23, 2009

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**
Item No. 74

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a contract with TEXAS SOLAR POWER CO., INC., Austin, TX, to provide solar photovoltaic system installation services, in an amount not to exceed \$180,535.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$31,535 is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Austin Energy Operating Budget. Additional funding sources include \$87,000 from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) and \$62,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).

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

For More Information: Sandy Calles, Buyer Sr. 322-6487

Purchasing Language: Lowest bid of two bids received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C 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 Electric Utility Commission.

Prior Council Action: Dec. 6, 2007 – Approved grant from DOE; Sept. 25, 2008 – Approved grant from SECO and approved purchase of equipment for the Texas Solar for Schools Program.

This contract will provide photovoltaic system installation services for 10 schools located in the Austin Energy (AE) service area as part of the Solar for Schools Program. Schools receiving the installations include: Webb Middle School, Lyndon B. Johnson High School, and Rodriguez Elementary School in AISD; Valley View Elementary in Eanes ISD; Canyon Ridge Middle School and River Place Elementary in Leander ISD; Del Valle Middle School and Ojeda Junior High School in Del Valle ISD; and Decker Middle School and Oak Meadows Elementary School in Manor ISD. Installation of this equipment is expected to be completed by October 2009.

Funding in the amount of \$62,000 is provided through a grant approved in December 2007 from the Department of Energy (DOE), which established a Solar City Partnership to promote the use of solar energy. The total of that grant was \$186,930. One of the tasks included in that grant was the installation of solar energy systems in local schools. In addition, \$87,500 is provided through a grant from the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). The SECO grant, totaling \$100,000, was approved in September 2008 for the Texas Solar for Schools Program. The remaining \$31,535 will be provided by Austin Energy. A separate solicitation will secure the purchase of additional photovoltaic modules for this project.

The Texas Solar for Schools Program previously installed solar projects at the following schools:

Austin Independent School District (AISD):
Maplewood Elementary School
Brykerwoods Elementary School
Kealing Middle School

Bedichek Middle School
Blanton Elementary School
Cunningham Elementary
Garza Independence High School
Martin Middle School
Murchison Middle School
O. Henry Middle School
Davis Elementary School
Zilker Elementary School
Clint Small Middle School
Garcia (Gustavo L.) Middle School

Round Rock Independent School District (RRISD):
Pond Springs Elementary
Westwood High School

Lake Travis Independent School District (LTISD):
Lake Travis High School
Lake Travis Elementary School

Pflugerville Independent School District (PISD):
Dessau Elementary School
Parmer Lane Elementary School

Austin Community College (ACC):
Riverside Campus
Rio Grande Campus

A total 18.5 kW in demand savings is expected as a result of these installations. The combined energy production at these schools will be 88,000 kWh per year. The energy improvement will save an estimated 29,139 kWh per year and produce an estimated 29 renewable energy credits per year. These savings are equivalent to an estimated 33,090 vehicle miles traveled, the removal of four cars from our roadways, or the planting of 646 trees or 32 acres of forest in Austin's parks.

Through the Solar for Schools Program, AE shares a joint mission with the DOE and SECO to maximize energy efficiency while protecting the environment, and to promote community education and outreach. The purpose of this program is to carry out part of AE's 2003 Strategic Plan in promoting energy conservation through the use of alternative energy sources and generating Renewable Energy Credits. The plan calls for AE to implement a highly visible public awareness and education program that will involve the installation of photovoltaic system projects at schools, branch libraries, and community centers. MBE/WBE solicited: 1/0 MBE/WBE bid: 1/0

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. Two hundred twenty-six notices were sent, including one MBE. Two bids were received including one MBE.
- c. The pricing offered represents a 16% decrease from the last contract award in July 2007.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Lowest bid received. Texas Solar Power Co is not the previous provider of these services.
- b. The Purchasing Office concurs with Austin Energy's recommended award.
- c. Advertised on the Internet.