A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

AGENDA

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Contract and Land Management **Item No. 5**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Authorize execution of a construction contract with SAK/QUEST JOINT VENTURE, O'Fallon, MO, for the Downtown Wastewater Tunnel project in the amount of $31,969,696.96 plus a $3,196,970 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed $35,166,666.96.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Lora Teed 974-7025; Robin Field 974-7064; April Thedford 974-7141

Purchasing Language: Lowest bid of six (6) bids received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9A of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 6.92% MBE and 5.44% WBE subcontractor participation.

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

The Downtown Wastewater Tunnel will expand the capacity of the wastewater system to accommodate the continued growth of downtown and south Austin. The tunnel will begin near the intersection of Lamar Blvd and Cesar Chavez St and extend approximately 3.5 miles to the Kreig Shaft in east Austin. The tunnel varies in diameter between 8 feet and 10 feet.

The existing primary wastewater line north of Lady Bird Lake is the North Austin Interceptor (NAI). The NAI generally follows the north shore of Lady Bird Lake and collects wastewater from the area roughly bounded by Mopac to the west, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd to the north and Pleasant Valley Rd to the east. The NAI currently operates at or near capacity, and additional capacity is required in the system to accommodate continued growth and redevelopment downtown.

The existing primary wastewater line south of Lady Bird Lake is the South Austin Interceptor (SAI). The SAI generally follows the south shore of Lady Bird Lake and collects wastewater from the area roughly bounded by Mopac to the west, Ben White Blvd to the south and Pleasant Valley Rd to the east. The SAI is expected to reach capacity around 2010, and additional capacity is required in the system to accommodate continued growth and redevelopment in south Austin.

A major weak point in the system, the Shoal Creek Lift Station, is located along the NAI near the crossing of Cesar Chavez St over Shoal Creek. During periods of high flow and major rain events, the Shoal Creek Lift Station surcharges, resulting in overflows in the system.

The Downtown Wastewater Tunnel project accomplishes the following goals: Eliminating overflows in the NAI; Relieving flows in the NAI downstream of the Shoal Creek Lift Station; Removing the Shoal Creek Lift Station, an aging and high maintenance structure, from the system; Removing the Toomey Lift Station

from the system; Relieving flows in the SAI; and Creating additional capacity in the wastewater system for continued growth near downtown Austin.

The Downtown Wastewater Tunnel project is expected to begin construction in January 2010, the decommissioning and demolition of the Shoal Creek Lift Station will occur in late 2011 and project completion occurring by March 2012.

The Downtown Wastewater Tunnel team has met with multiple stakeholder groups along the Downtown Wastewater Tunnel alignment that may or may not be impacted by the construction activities. These groups include the Long Center, Palmer Events Center, Parks and Recreation Board, Parks and Recreation Department, Austin Independent School District, East Austin Community Leaders, Zach Theater, YMCA, Holly Decommissioning Committee, Zilker Neighborhood Association, Friends of Town Lake Park, Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association, Barton Place Condos, East Cesar Chavez Planning Team, Martin Middle School, the Bridges Condos, and the RBJ Center residents. Further, in response to the number of City of Austin projects planned in East Austin between Lady Bird Lake and approximately 7th Street, the project team collaborated on the Community Improvements Open House held at Metz Recreation Center on March 4, 2009.

Due to the potential for unknown subsurface conditions, a 10% contingency in funding has been included to allow for the expeditious processing of any future change orders.

The contract allows 835 calendar days for completion of this project.

The Engineer's cost estimate is $58,592,681.07.