

AGENDA



Thursday, February 25, 2010

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

Item No. 27

Subject: Authorize execution of a professional services agreement with HDR ENGINEERING, INC., Austin, TX, for planning services for the Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan in an amount not to exceed \$1,099,014 plus a \$110,000 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,209,014.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of the Solid Waste Services Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: David Smythe-Macaulay 974-7152; Jessica King 974-7678; Susan Garnett 974-7064; April Thedford 974-7141

Purchasing Language: Best negotiated scope of services and fee.

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 15.80% MBE and 15.80% WBE subconsultant participation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Solid Waste Advisory Commission.

Prior Council Action: May 19, 2005 – Council authorized the Mayor to sign the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords; January 12, 2006 – Council authorize the Guiding Principals for the delivery of Solid Waste Services; January 15, 2009 – Council authorized the Zero Waste Strategic Plan; June 18, 2009 – Council authorizing the negotiation of a professional service agreement.

In May 2005, Council authorized the Mayor to sign the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords and direct the City Manager to develop strategies for their implementation. This action committed the City of Austin to exploring policies regarding a variety of sustainability initiatives, including energy conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, waste reduction, urban nature creation and protection, public transportation, environmental health and water conservation and protection. In support of this commitment, Council authorized a resolution establishing guiding principals for delivering solid waste services and long range solid waste planning. These guiding principals lead to the development and approval of the State's first Zero Waste Strategic Plan for a Texas community in early 2009. The Plan identified four policy priorities and has become the policy framework for the development of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Master Plan (Master Plan).

The purpose of this Master Plan is to establish a cohesive framework for promoting and implementing services that address the policies and goals of the City of Austin while minimizing environmental impacts and enhancing resource conservation opportunities. Using the City's Zero Waste Plan as a foundation, the Master Plan will serve as a business planning document to identify financial requirements, regional waste shed challenges, facility requirements, operational requirements, partnership opportunities (public or private) and program requirements necessary to provide solid waste services to Austin's growing population for the next 50 years.

As part of the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords, the City of Austin authorized two resolutions in 2007 that affected all City of Austin programs and services. The first was the Climate Protection Plan resolution which mandates that all City of Austin facilities, fleets and operations should be carbon neutral by 2020. The second was the Sustainability for City Facilities resolution which authorized the development of protocols and criteria to achieve a minimum LEED Silver rating certification for new buildings and major renovations and to achieve the highest optimal levels of sustainability for existing buildings. The Master Plan will comply with both of these resolutions, with the goal of producing zero waste while reducing the City's carbon footprint and developing sustainable operations.

In January 2009, the City of Austin released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), seeking the most qualified consultant to assist the City in developing the new Master Plan. The selection process resulted in the recommendation and authorization by Council to negotiate a scope and fee with HDR Engineering, Inc. on June 18, 2009. Council further requested that City of Austin staff obtain community input concerning the scope of services before seeking authorization to execute a contract. During July and August of 2009, staff developed an outreach program to solicit input regarding the scope of service through several commission and public meetings. Staff met with the community to answer questions and obtain feedback into the development of a scope framework. Members of the community who could not attend the public input meetings or commission meetings were able to provide input online. An analysis of the comments received revealed the following recurring priorities: Improved Education and Outreach, utilizing a variety of social media to engage the community as well as specific stakeholders; Economic Development, including market evaluation by identifying waste generators and encouraging the development of businesses that could utilize the "wasted" materials; Eco-industrial parks, reuse centers, and community recycling/collection facilities, to provide more opportunities throughout the community to increase diversion participation and co-locate services, including household hazardous waste drop-offs and community composting centers via community gardens; Improved ability to compost and recycle, generally for all Austin properties by possible incentives as well as mandates. Staff incorporated the community input into the scope framework and obtained the Solid Waste Advisory Commission's final recommendation on September 9, 2009. This allowed the completion of scope negotiations with HDR Engineering, Inc. The modified scope framework was used to complete negotiations of the full Scope of Services which is attached and summarized below.

Master Planning Services will include: project management; quality control and quality assurance; review and evaluation of SWS Department services, programs, facilities and general information; review and evaluation of private sector and other governmental entity's services, programs and facilities, including partnership and competition issues; and evaluation of methods for improving local markets for recycled materials, regulating service providers, and establishing mechanisms for regional cooperation. Further services will include economic analysis on service rate impacts and life-cycle pro forma and public outreach. The final deliverable will include a draft and final Master Plan which will address funding and financing and schedule. All supplemental information and tools will be submitted electronically to facilitate continuous updating of the Master Plan.

This authorization will provide funding for planning services only. Staff anticipates returning to Council for additional funding as work on the plan progresses. A contingency has been included to accommodate input from the new Director of Solid Waste Services while maintaining timely implementation of the Master Plan contract.

This authorization allows for the execution of a professional service agreement with the recommended firm. Should the City be unsuccessful in executing the 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.