

AGENDA



Thursday, February 25, 2010

Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION
Item No. 43

Subject: Authorize award and execution of two 12-month requirements service contracts for survey and inventory of Golden-Cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireo birds for the Austin Water Utility with HICKS & COMPANY, Austin, TX in an estimated contract amount not to exceed \$57,072, and BAER ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING, INC, Austin, TX in an estimated contract amount not to exceed \$51,313.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$108,385 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

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

For More Information: Roy Rivers, Buyer II / 974-2596

Purchasing Language: Lowest bids of six 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 Water & Wastewater Commission.

This contract is to provide for professionally conducted surveys for the Gold-Cheeked Warbler and Black-Capped Vireo, two endangered species of birds. These surveys will be conducted using Federal standards and accepted protocols for identifying the presence or absence of these birds on the Austin Water Utility's Water Quality Protection Land. In addition, territories of any birds found will be documented to understand the extent of any areas occupied by such endangered species. Surveys will be conducted on the majority of properties managed by the Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) program, an area of over 8,400 acres. These surveys will guide WQPL staff as they plan prairie and savanna restoration activities around territories either in terms of timing or location of restoration activities. This will allow the WQPL to avoid the 'take' of any endangered species. A large scale survey effort has not been conducted on these lands since 2003 and significant cost savings are likely realized based on the timing of this work with the depressed economy.

MBE/WBE solicited: 0/5

MBE/WBE bid: 0/0

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. Fifty-three notices were sent, including five WBEs. There are no known MBEs available for these services. Six bids were received, with no response from the WBEs.
- c. The pricing offered represents a decrease of 39% from the last contract award in March 2009. This decrease can be attributed to the overall depressed economy and is well-timed to realized cost savings for these services.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Lowest bids received. Baer Engineering and Environmental Consulting, Inc. was the previous provider of these services.
- b. The Purchasing Office concurs with the Austin Water Utility's recommended award.
- c. Advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and on the Internet.