

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

22449

Agenda Number

6.

Meeting Date:

March 21, 2013

Department:

Contract Management

## Subject

Authorize execution of a construction contract with R.S. ELLIS, INC. DBA SOUTHWEST CORPORATION, for Austin Convention Center Electrical Upgrade 2013 in the amount of \$1,112,922 plus a \$166,938.30 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,279,860.30.

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Budget of the Austin Convention Center Department.

## Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:

Lowest responsive bid of three bids received.

Prior Council Action:

For More Information:

Robert Egan 974-7220; Don Lujan 404-4330; Susan Garnett 974-7064; April Shaw 974-7141.

Boards and Commission Action:

Related Items:

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) through the achievements of Good Faith Efforts with 11.05% MBE and 0.41% WBE subcontractor participation.

## Additional Backup Information

The Austin Convention Center was built in 1992 and expanded to the north in 2002, doubling the size of the facility. The Center is supplied by approximately 12MW (megawatts) of electricity. Over the years, it has become apparent that more electrical power is needed, specifically in the main exhibit halls and in the pre-function area. An initial electrical upgrade of the north exhibit halls was completed in 2008. However, new and larger events are booking space at the facility and an additional upgrade is needed to meet the growing needs of existing and new customers.

This project includes the upgrade of the electrical capacity of the Convention Center on the south side of the building and in the pre-function areas on the north and south sides of the building. The upgrade will allow for safer, easier, and more efficient utilization of existing building power that is required to host the existing shows with growing electrical requirements, and also new shows with large electrical demand. The additional power outlets will also allow greater space utilization for catering and concession contractors in order to meet the growing food and beverage demands of customers and their attendees.

Due to the potential for unforeseen and hidden conditions in the existing building, a 15% contingency has been included to allow for the expeditious processing of any change orders. Experience with the upgrades on the south side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street indicates a high need for contingency funding.

The contract allows 315 working days for completion. This project is located within zip code 78701 and is managed by the Public Works Department.

R.S. Ellis, Inc. DBA Southwest Corporation is located in Austin, TX.