

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	45452	Agenda Number	3.
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Meeting Date: August 13, 2015

Department: Contract Management

## Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with the following five staff recommended firms, or other qualified responders as selected by Council, to Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP174: FREESE & NICHOLS, INC.; ESPEY CONSULTANTS, INC. dba RPS; LOCKWOOD, ANDREWS & NEWNAM, INC.; HDR ENGINEERING, INC.; and BROWN & GAY ENGINEERS, INC., for engineering services for the 2015 Watershed Engineering Flood Hazard Mitigation Rotation List for an estimated period of five years or until financial authorization is expended, with the total contract amount not to exceed \$10,000,000 divided among the five firms, or if additional qualified responders are selected, a total contract amount not to exceed \$15,000,000 divided among the selected firms.

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating and/or Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department

## Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**Purchasing Language:** Staff recommendations are the most qualified firms out of eighteen firms evaluated through the City's qualifications-based selection process.

**Prior Council Action:**

**For More Information:** Jorge Morales, 512-974-3345; Pam Kearfott, 512-974-3361; Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Elizabeth Godfrey-Weidig, 512-974-7141

**Boards and Commission Action:**

**Related Items:**

**MBE / WBE:** This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program by meeting the goals with 15.80% MBE and 15.80% WBE participation.

## Additional Backup Information

Rotation list contracting allows the City to always have a group of qualified consultants available to perform a specific type of recurring work in a timely manner to meet the project needs of the City. The objective of this rotation list is to provide consultant engineering services to the Watershed Protection Department for flood hazard mitigation. Prior to issuing this solicitation, it was reviewed by the City's Rotation List Advisory Committee, which is made up of staff from the Contract Management Department, Small and Minority Business Resource Department, Public Works Department and the Watershed Protection Department as the requesting sponsor department. The total authorization amount, the number of firms to be recommended for selection, and the authorization amount per firm were discussed and reviewed by the Committee.

Firms were selected through the City's standard Qualifications-Based Selection ("QBS") process. The Selection process is a nationally recognized practice for selecting professional services for federal, state and local governments. Professional services, as defined by law, include the following: engineering, architectural, surveying, landscape architecture, commissioning and comprehensive planning. In Texas, Chapter 2254 of the Government Code lays out a process for the selection of professional services consultants based strictly on demonstrated competence and qualifications. After determining the most qualified, statute provides for negotiation of a fair and reasonable price with the selected vendor or vendors.

The current process employed by the City has been in place since 2012. It includes eight evaluation criteria items totaling 100 points. The scored Evaluation Criteria covers the firm's experience in the following areas: prime firm's organizational structure, prime firm's comparable experience, experience of key personnel, experience of firms performing the major scopes of work related to the overall scope, experience with Austin issues, and the City's experience with the prime firm.

The City's Watershed Protection Department provides services in its three primary missions of the watershed management program: water-quality protection, flood mitigation and stream erosion. The Watershed Engineering Division includes the Localized Flood Hazard Mitigation and Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Sections, which implement engineered solutions to creek and storm drain problems. This section of the Watershed Protection Department requires professional engineering services to assist in the execution of the Capital Improvement Program projects, development of code/criteria updates and studies related to creek and storm drain issues. Typical project assignments for professional services will range in cost from approximately \$100,000 to \$500,000.

The City anticipates conducting the projects in various phases such as; Phase I – Preliminary Engineering Studies, Phase II – Design Phase, Phase III – Bid Phase and Phase IV – Construction Phase. For small projects, the planning and design phase may be combined. Some Phase I assignments may consist of assessments, studies or planning efforts or involve less than the full scope of services for the phase. The final scope of services for the individual project assignments will be developed with the selected firms.

The engineering service needs for Watershed Engineering Division's flood hazard mitigation mission are specialized and diverse. The recommended firms have the personnel, technical knowledge and experience to provide planning, preliminary engineering, design and construction phase services. The services provided through this rotation list, include, but are not limited to:

- Planning, preliminary engineering, design and/or construction phase services for the upgrade, repair and rehabilitation of undersized low water crossings, culverts and bridges and associated upstream and downstream channel modifications;
- Planning, preliminary engineering, design and/or construction phase services for storm drain improvements to address localized flooding problems that may include mitigation to address downstream impacts due to improved conveyance, and may include storm water quantity and quality treatment opportunities;
- Planning, preliminary engineering, design and/or construction phase services for channel modifications which may include stream bank stabilization and include the implementation of natural channel design techniques;

- Planning, preliminary engineering, design and/or construction phase services for flood- detention structures and associated storm water quality treatment opportunities;
- Assistance to the City in revising/updating the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance rate maps;
- Environmental, hydrologic and hydraulic assessment of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for compliance with City, State and/or Federal requirements;
- Evaluation of local flood conditions using innovative technologies such as but not limited to two dimensional modeling;
- Evaluation of storm drains condition assessments to make rehabilitation recommendations.

The total funding authority for the 2015 Watershed Engineering Flood Hazard Mitigation Rotation List is \$10,000,000 with the authority for each of five firms to be approximately \$2,000,000. The 2011-2014 Watershed Flood Hazard Mitigation Rotation List included five firms with a per-firm authorization of \$1,500,000 for a total contract amount of \$7,500,000.

This request allows for the development of a professional services agreement with each of the five recommended firms for an estimated period of five years or until financial authorization is expended. Initial project assignments will be based on the firm's final ranking as determined during the Request for Qualifications: evaluation (highest to lowest), the maximum cumulative contracted amount in comparison to the estimated task budget for that firm, and the firm's qualifications and availability of expertise at time of project need. Per firm authorizations may be increased or decreased, through the life of the contract, based on the needs of a particular assignment and will follow the established rotation list policies and procedures.

If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with a recommended firm(s), if a selected firm ceases practice during the contract period, or if the City elects to terminate its agreement with one of the selected firms, the remaining assignments will be assigned to the remaining firm(s) for the duration of the contract period.

Participation sub-goals stated in the solicitation were 1.90% African American; 9.00% Hispanic; 4.90% Native/Asian American; and 15.80% WBE. The recommended firms provided an MBE /WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation, and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications for the subject services was sent to 954 firms on December 3, 2014. The RFQ was obtained by 128 firms and 18 submitted qualification statements. Three of the firms were certified MBE /WBE firms.

**RECOMMENDED FIRMS:**

FREESE & NICHOLS, INC.  
 ESPEY CONSULTANTS, INC. dba RPS  
 LOCKWOOD, ANDREWS & NEWNAM, INC.  
 HDR ENGINEERING, INC.  
 BROWN & GAY ENGINEERS, INC.

Freese & Nichols, Inc. is located in Austin, TX  
 Espy Consultants, Inc. dba RPS is located in Austin, TX  
 Lockwood, Andrews, & Newnam, Inc. is located in Austin, TX  
 HDR Engineering, Inc. is located in Austin, TX  
 Brown & Gay Engineers, Inc. is located in Austin, TX

