

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action (CLMD)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

54023

Agenda Number

7.

Meeting Date:

January 28, 2016

Department:

Capital Contracting Office

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP, INC., (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders to Request For Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP191 to provide engineering services for Albert H. Ullrich Water Treatment Plant Conversion to On-Site Generation of Sodium Hypochlorite Project for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Capital Budget of the Austin Water.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:

Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of two firms evaluated through the City's qualifications-based selection process.

Prior Council Action:

For More Information:

Robyn K. Smith, 512-974-2624; Tiger Davis, 512-972-0201; Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Sarah Torchin, 512-974-7141.

Boards and Commission Action:

Recommended by the Water Wastewater Commission on January 13, 2016.

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B of the City Code Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program by exceeding the goals with 16.50% MBE and 18.00% WBE participation.

Additional Backup Information

The City operates three major water treatment plants: Ullrich Water Treatment Plant, Davis Water Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant No. 4 which provide drinking water for the City of Austin. The Ullrich Water Treatment Plant has a firm treatment capacity of 167 million gallons per day and utilizes chloramine for disinfection. The chloramine process requires the combined use of a chlorine system and an ammonia system. The Plant currently utilizes gas chlorine to disinfect the water and achieve requirements specified in drinking water regulations administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Although the Plant has a long history of safe usage of chlorine gas, given the environmental, security, supply, cost, and public concerns associated with transportation and storage of large quantities of toxic gas Austin Water has decided to pursue an inherently safer technology.

On-Site Generation of Sodium Hypochlorite systems produce chlorine in the form of a weak sodium hypochlorite (bleach) solution using table salt, water, and electricity. This technology has a proven track record and mitigates the risks associated with using chlorine gas. Water Treatment Plant # 4 has been using an On-Site Generation System successfully since it was commissioned in November 2014. Although the City has successfully and safely used chlorine throughout its various treatment facilities for more than 80 years, the City desires to incorporate inherently safer technologies when available and where feasible. The City initiated a feasibility study for implementing onsite generation of sodium hypochlorite which was performed by Carollo Engineers, Inc. in August 2011. In the future, federal regulations could impose restrictions on the use of gas chlorine by water utilities, possibly by 2018 or thereafter. Thus a delay in the approval of this Professional Services Agreement could result in an inability to comply with federal regulations.

The selected firm shall develop, at a minimum, three options to convert the existing chlorine system to an onsite generation of sodium hypochlorite process and make recommendations on how to proceed. Proposed options shall maximize repurposing and reuse of existing facilities, structures and processes, where practical. Subsequently, the recommended firm shall design and develop construction documents that shall achieve the option the City selects. The selected firm shall also develop options and make recommendations to convert the existing ammonia system to liquid ammonia sulfate as part of the preliminary design phase. Depending on available budget, the City will determine whether or not to proceed with implementing liquid ammonia sulfate improvements in the final design and construction of this project. The plants shall remain operational throughout the project; the selected firm shall be required to perform all services of work without negatively impacting plant production.

This authorization provides for funding of services related to design services. This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may select another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with that provider.

A complete solicitation package, including bid tabulation, is on file with the City's Capital Contracting Office and is available on the City's Financial Services Austin Finance Online website. Link: [Solicitation Documents](#).

RECOMMENDED FIRM: JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP INC. is located in Austin, Texas

ALTERNATE FIRM: CAROLLO ENGINEERS, INC. is located in Austin, Texas