

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (CCO)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

60800

Agenda Number

17.

Meeting Date:

August 18, 2016

Department:

Capital Contracting Office

## Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with PRUDENT TECHNOLOGIES, INC., for the construction of the Eliza Spring Outlet Daylighting project for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,400,000. (District 8)

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

## Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

**Purchasing  
Language:**

Best Value to the City of Austin of five proposals received.

**Prior Council  
Action:**

June 16, 2016 – City Council approved code amendments allowing the project to exceed impervious cover limitations, certain pollution control requirements, construction within the buffer of a critical environment, and cuts that exceed four feet of depth. Ordinance 20160616-075

February 25, 2016 – City Council authorized the use of the Competitive Sealed Proposal methodology.

**For More  
Information:**

Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Sarah Torchin, 512-974-7141; Matt Duree, 512-974-6346; Lucy Bonee, 512-974-7967; Jules Parrish, 512-974-9385.

**Boards and  
Commission  
Action:**

**Related Items:**

**MBE / WBE:**

This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9A (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 8.41% MBE and 0.43% WBE participation.

### Additional Backup Information

Eliza Spring Amphitheater is located north of Barton Springs Pool and home to the largest population of the endangered Barton Springs salamander. As part of the Barton Springs Master Plan, the proposed Eliza Spring Outlet Daylighting project will create additional habitat for the endangered Barton Springs Salamander and will help the City of Austin fulfill the Barton Springs Pool Habitat Conservation Plan. This plan was put in place so that the City could receive an Incidental Take Permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and continue to operate Barton Springs Pool as a recreational facility.

The Barton Springs salamander is an endangered, completely aquatic salamander found only in a few locations in Central Texas, including four springs in Zilker Park. Natural habitat for Barton Springs Salamanders is characterized by shallow, fast flowing water near springs that contains rocky substrate and aquatic vegetation, which provide hiding spaces for salamanders and their macroinvertebrate prey. The dense native plants that are adapted to the moist areas around stream channels provides abundant shade to the salamander habitat in the stream, and the nutrients from the leaves contribute to the food web in the stream that indirectly feeds the salamanders. The vegetation also reduces surface water runoff into the stream and erosion on the land adjacent to the streams, which provides a more stable stream environment.

Three of the four spring environments in Zilker Park were highly modified in the late 1800s and early 1900s. When the original structure was built in 1903, the stream that connected Eliza Spring to Barton Creek exited the amphitheater through a four foot space between the amphitheater walls. This stream, along with its salamander habitat, was destroyed in the late 1920s and the spring water placed inside a buried 24 inch diameter pipe. Stone masonry was added to the original structure to completely enclose the amphitheater.

The project consists of the removal of 1920s-era limestone masonry currently blocking the original 1903 keyhole opening which will allow the spring to flow from the amphitheater to Barton Creek. A buried 24 inch pipe will then be converted back to an open stream, a process known as daylighting. This daylighting process will recreate a stream habitat for the Barton Springs salamander, and re-establish an overland surface channel that exits the amphitheater. This will improve the potential for long term species recovery and increase the salamander's resiliency to continued changing water quality and quantity conditions. A concrete and micropile wall will be built to stabilize the exterior amphitheater walls. In addition, two storm drain pipes will be replaced and re-aligned to make space for the area needed for restoring the channel to its historic path.

Protective measures have been taken throughout this project to care for the endangered salamander and its environmentally sensitive habitat. Measures have also been taken to preserve both above ground and below ground historical features of the amphitheater-style swimming enclosure which is included in the 1985 Barton Creek National Archeological and Historic District and the National Register of Historic Places.

The project team held monthly public meetings, from November 2013 to February 2015, specifically for the Eliza Spring Daylighting Project prior to and during the early design phase. The project has been included as an agenda item at meetings of the Joint Committee of the Parks Board, the Parks Board and the Land Facilities Subcommittee of the Parks Board, and has been recommended by the Planning Commission, Environmental Commission, and the Historical Landmark Commission.

The Competitive Sealed Proposal method of contracting allowed the City to evaluate and score proposers on comparable relevant experience to assist in ensuring that the services will be provided by a duly qualified and experienced contractor offering best value to the City. A city-staffed panel reviewed, evaluated, and ranked the proposals based on published evaluation criteria. Council's authorization of this request allows for negotiation and execution of a contract with the top-ranked contractor that offers the best value to the City on the basis of published selection criteria. The preliminary engineer's construction estimate for this project was \$800,000. All five proposals received exceeded the estimate. Should the City be unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the top-ranked contractor, said contractor will be notified in writing that negotiations will cease. Pursuant to statute, staff will then proceed to negotiate with the next contractor in the order of selection ranking, returning to Council prior to contract execution.

The contract allows 210 calendar days for completion of this project with construction start anticipated to be October 16, 2016 when both the high-use season of the Barton Springs pool ends and the Austin City Limits music festival has ended. This project is located within zip code 78746 (District 8). The project will be managed by the Public Works Department.