

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	70414	Agenda Number	24.
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Meeting Date:	May 18, 2017
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Department:	Purchasing
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with ZAPS TECHNOLOGIES, INC., to provide two wastewater monitoring devices, in an amount not to exceed \$141,580.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Operating Budget of Austin Water.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	Sole Source
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov or to the buyer, Gil Zilkha, at 512-974-2696 or Gil.Zilkha@austintexas.gov
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Boards and Commission Action:	May 10, 2017 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 9-0 vote with Commissioners Kellough and Michel absent.
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Related Items:	
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MBE / WBE:	This contract is exempt from the City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.
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Additional Backup Information

The contract is for the purchase of two Liquid Station Model 2000-400 instruments from ZAPS Technologies. These instruments will be used at the South Austin Regional Wastewater Plant and the Walnut Creek Wastewater Plant. This is a sole source purchase that utilizes proprietary technology to measure over 25 parameters, i.e., microbiological, physical and chemical components used to describe wastewater quality. The instrument also has an extended range which enables it to detect very low and very high levels of the same parameter. No chemicals or reagents are needed, since the system uses optics to measure the different parameters. There are other instruments that measure these particular parameters but none that do it in one instrument, at the range that this one does and without reagents.

The data is collected from a steady stream of water and can record measurements as often as every two minutes. The data is transmitted by cellular phone to a database and is accessed from there through a web based platform. The operators at the plant can check the data as often as they wish, but there will be alarms on the parameters of interest and an email or text message will be sent when the parameter reaches the alarm level.

The need for this instrument has come about over the last few years as the influent wastewater stream has been increasingly volatile. The volatility is due in part to conservation lowering the influent flows and thereby making the impact of industry discharges more prevalent. These instruments will save both money for required chemicals and time and will allow the wastewater plants to respond to changes in the influent quality more quickly and thereby avoiding discharge violations and/or a plant upset.

The manufacturer will train City staff on calibration and maintenance of the devices. There is no prior contract, since this equipment has never been used in the past.