

A U S T I N C I T Y C O U N C I L

**AGENDA**

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Thursday, August 10, 2006

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**Purchasing Office  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****ITEM No. 42**

**Subject:** Authorize ratification of a contract with BRENNTAG SOUTHWEST, Sand Springs, OK, for the emergency purchase of approximately 588,000 lbs. of liquid chlorine for the Austin Water Utility's Ullrich Water Treatment Plant, in an estimated amount not to exceed \$540,960.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Approved Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**Additional Backup Material**

(click to open)

**BRENNTAG\_RATIF\_MEMO**

**For More Information:** Stephen Aden, Supervising Senior Buyer, 974-2021

**Purchasing Language:** Emergency Purchase

The Ullrich Water Treatment Plant (Ullrich WTP) is one of three water treatment plants providing potable water to the City of Austin's water customers. The Ullrich WTP is under construction to expand the plant capacity from 100 Million Gallons per Day (MDG) to 160 Million Gallons per Day (MGD). The plant expansion includes converting the existing chlorine feed disinfection system from using one-ton cylinders to using bulk storage of liquid chlorine. In order for the Ullrich WTP to produce 160 MGD, the new bulk Chlorine system must be functional.

The 160 MGD capacity is necessary to meet the peak summer water demands of the City's potable water distribution system in order to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the citizens of Austin. In order to do so, the City requires a long term (1 year plus) contract to supply bulk liquid chlorine. Until a long term contract has been secured, the City cannot be assured of meeting its peak summer water demands; therefore, until a long-term bulk chlorine supply contract can be obtained, the City must purchase bulk chlorine from an interim supplier in order to meet the City's demands.

The City's Purchasing Office has made multiple attempts to secure a long term contract with two different firms. Of the only two firms that have bid in the past, one is not interested in bidding until the rebuilt bulk chlorine system *has been proven functional and reliable and the other does not have the proper equipment to deliver and off-load the chemicals.*

Brenntag Southwest does not normally bid in the Austin area, but has agreed to assist us during this critical stage of the construction at Ullrich WTP. Brenntag Southwest began making deliveries of approximately 28,000 lbs per/week to the Ullrich WTP on June 25, 2006, and will continue through November 12, 2006.



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Toby Hammett Futrell, City Manager

**From:** Chris Lippe, P.E., Director  
Austin Water Utility

**Date:** July 6, 2006

**Subject:** Ratification of Emergency Purchase of Bulk Chlorine

This is to inform you that the Austin Water Utility is requesting to purchase bulk chlorine to treat the City's potable water distribution system.

The Ullrich Water Treatment Plant is one of three water treatment plants providing potable water to the City of Austin's water customers. The Ullrich WTP is under construction to expand the plant capacity from 100 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) to 160 Million Gallons per Day (MGD). The plant expansion includes converting the existing chlorine feed disinfection system from using one-ton cylinders to using bulk storage of liquid chlorine. In order for the Ullrich WTP to produce 160 MGD, the new bulk Chlorine system must be functional.

The 160 MGD capacity is necessary to meet the peak summer water demands of the City's potable water distribution system in order to preserve or protect the public health or safety of the citizens of Austin. In order to do so, the City requires a long term (1 year plus) contract to supply bulk liquid chlorine. Until a long term contract has been secured, the City cannot be assured of meeting its peak summer water demands. Therefore, until a long-term bulk chlorine supply contract can be obtained, the City must purchase bulk chlorine from an interim supplier in order to protect the public health or safety.

The City's Purchasing Office has made attempts to contract a long term contract with two firms, DPC and Altivia. DPC has indicated they are not interested in bidding until the rebuilt bulk chlorine system has been proven functional and reliable. Altivia does not have the proper equipment to deliver and off-load the chemicals. The contractor that has placed a bid during this interim period is Brenntag Southwest. Brenntag does not normally bid in our area but they have agreed to assist us during this critical stage.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Chris Lippe, P.E., Director  
Austin Water Utility

xc: Joe Canales, Deputy City Manager  
Sara Hartley, Administrative Specialist  
Steve Aden, Buyer Senior Supervisor  
Carolyn Castro, Administrative Specialist