



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Joseph G. Pantalione, P.E., Director
Watershed Protection Department

DATE: February 1, 2017

SUBJECT: Request for Ratification RCA - Waller Creek Tunnel Sediment and Debris Removal

Council will be requested to ratify a contract with National Power Rodding Corporation for the dewatering of, sediment removal from, and site access to the Waller Creek Tunnel at the February 9, 2017 City Council meeting. This request for ratification of the contract is the result of the failure to receive any responsive proposals to a November 2016 Request for Proposal and the driving need to perform this work beginning in early February 2017.

The City is currently in the process of completing the Waller Creek Tunnel (WCT) Project which will remove more than 28 acres of land from the 100-year floodplain in the eastern portion of downtown Austin. The project consists of multiple construction contracts including the Waller Creek Tunnel, the Inlet at Waterloo Park, the 8th Street Inlet, and the Outlet at Lady Bird Lake.

Watershed Protection Department (WPD) staff, in conjunction with the Public Works Department (PWD), has had a long term plan and available funding to dewater the tunnel in February 2017 in order to inspect the condition of the tunnel, remove accumulated sediment, and perform additional surveying required to support the FEMA floodplain map revision process. The Dewatering Project work is critical for:

1. commissioning, completing, and accepting the WCT Project due to the pending completion of the multiple construction contracts, and
2. collecting additional survey information to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Letter of Map Revision ("LOMR") process.

Revising the floodplain maps will allow development in the current Waller Creek floodplain as contemplated by the Waller Creek Tax Increment Financing District Project Plan. The failure to obtain this survey data would delay the LOMR process and significantly delay the issuance of amended FEMA floodplain maps.

The tunnel was flooded during a rain event on May 5, 2015. Because the tunnel is actively conveying floodwaters, it is necessary to dewater the tunnel during an extended period of dry weather for testing and warranty inspections. In order to facilitate tunnel dewatering in February 2017 (the beginning of one of the limited windows of seasonal dry weather in Central Texas), a request for proposals (RFP) was issued in November 2016. ***This RFP failed to receive any responsive proposals.*** Nonetheless, the Dewatering Project must begin in the seasonal dry period of early February 2017 in order to provide for the scope of work described above and to coordinate the ultimate transition of this major flood control project to City maintenance. As a contract necessary for the completion of this major urban flood control project, the Dewatering Project constitutes a procurement necessary to preserve and protect the public health and safety of the residents of Austin and, accordingly, is exempt from the requirement of bidding.

Accordingly, in December of 2016, the Watershed Protection Department and the Capital Contracting Office contacted several qualified providers of the services in question and solicited proposals to perform the Dewatering Project work in February of 2017. Four bids were received on January 3, 2017. The City conducted a thorough evaluation of price, comparable experience, safety records, available workforce, and ability to meet the proposed schedule, as reasonably determined by the City, and determined the "best value" to the City of Austin to be National Power and Rodding Corp. for an amount not to exceed \$1,548,316.44 and a contingency of \$155,000.00 for a total amount not to exceed \$1,703,316.40.

The City has executed a contract with the qualified contractor, National Power and Rodding Corp., to perform the work, subject to Council's ratification.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or require additional information.

cc: Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager
Greg Canally, Interim Chief Financial Officer
Robert D. Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
Richard Mendoza, P.E., Director, Public Works Department
Rolando Fernandez, Interim Capital Contracting Officer
Gordon Bowman, Assistant City Attorney, Law Department