

AGENDA



Thursday, February 4, 2010

Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 19

Subject: Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 36-month professional service agreement with COLORADO RIVER WATCH FOUNDATION, INC., Austin, TX to provide water quality monitoring and training for At-Risk youth for the Austin Water Utility and Watershed Protection Department in an amount not to exceed \$818,000, with two 12-month extension options in amounts not to exceed \$295,000 for the first extension option and \$300,000 for the second extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,413,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$124,918 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009–2010 Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility. Funding in the amount of \$80,582 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009–2010 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining 26 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

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

For More Information: Steve Aden, Purchasing Manager, 974-2021.

Purchasing Language: Sole proposal received.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9B of the City Code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting Opportunities were identified; therefore no goals were established for this solicitation.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

This contract is to provide water quality monitoring and training for At-Risk youth for the Austin Water Utility and the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

The benefits to the City relate directly to the basic goal of the Program which are:

- to improve the water quality of the Colorado River Watershed through water quality monitoring analysis;
- to improve the academic achievements of middle and high school students in Austin identified as “At-Risk”; and
- to increase the knowledge and awareness these students have of environmental issues and science-based activities resulting, in some cases, in the students pursuing technical careers.

The Austin Water Utility and Watershed Protection and Development Review Department benefit directly when students alert the City about water quality problems they observe in the field. City staff can then quickly investigate and take any necessary action. The City and community have benefited as students develop reliable work habits and improve their academic performance as a part of their River Watch experience. Several of the program participants have been successfully employed as part of the Summer Youth Employment Program and others have held internships with the City. Independent evaluations of the program show that participants are less likely to leave school before graduation than some of their peers. Interviews with Austin Youth River Watch students also demonstrate they have an increased

awareness of and interest in their environment. Although only a few have chosen science-based careers, we are confident that the training and support the Youth receive through this program will help them be more responsible stewards of our environment.

MBE/WBE solicited: 2/1

MBE/WBE bid: 0/0

RFP NO. STA0006

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Eighteen notices were sent, including two MBEs and one WBE. One proposal was received, with no response from the MBE/WBEs.
- b. The current pricing represents a 1% increase to the last contract award in July 2006.

APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Only proposal received. Colorado River Watch Foundation, Inc. has been the provider of these services for over 13 years.
- b. The Purchasing Office concurs with the Austin Water Utility's and Watershed Protection Department's recommended award.
- c. Advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and Internet.