



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 20-2435, **Agenda Item #:** 15.

7/29/2020

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP300 to provide engineering services for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion to 100 Million Gallons Per Day project in an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 15.80% MBE and 15.80% WBE participation.]

### **Lead Department**

Capital Contracting Office

### **Managing Department**

Public Works Department

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget of Austin Water.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of three firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

### **For More Information:**

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or [AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov](mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov) <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Beverly Mendez, 512-974-3596, or the Project Manager, Erik Kunkel, 512-974-7027.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

July 15, 2020- Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Penn and Ho recusing and Commissioner Parton absent.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion is permitted to treat and discharge an average daily flow of 75 million gallons per day (MGD) and a two-hour peak flow of 165 MGD. The treated plant effluent discharges into Segment No. 1428 of the Colorado River Basin. A portion of the plant's effluent is used for non-potable water on the plant site and supplies much of the City's growing Reclaimed Water Program. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulates the quality of effluent discharged into the Colorado River and the quality of reclaimed water.

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This project will expand the plant to treat and discharge an annual average daily flow of 100 MGD and a two-hour peak flow of 300 MGD. The expansion is needed based on projected future flows of wastewater into the plant. Wastewater treatment plant expansions are regulated by TCEQ. Rule 305.126 of the Texas Administrative Code states:

“Whenever flow measurements for any sewage treatment plant facility in the state reaches 75% of the permitted average daily or annual average flow for three consecutive months, the permittee must initiate engineering and financial planning for expansion and/or upgrading of the wastewater treatment and/or collection facilities. Whenever the average daily or annual average flow reaches 90% of the permitted average daily flow for three consecutive months, the permittee shall obtain necessary authorization from the commission to commence construction of the necessary additional treatment and/or collection facilities...”

The Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant meets the 75% threshold. Preliminary engineering beginning in Fiscal Year 2020-2021 will allow project completion to occur while flows are still within the capacity of the existing treatment plant.

The Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant provides high-quality wastewater treatment from across the City of Austin and has been a critical element of the overall community’s basic utility infrastructure. Austin Water recognizes that Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant operates within the East Austin community and is dedicated to continuing to be a good neighbor and address potential community impacts as we work to improve this facility to meet stringent environmental standards and to serve the growing needs of our City.

During the design of the project, Austin Water will actively engage neighbors and interested residents to make them aware of the project and to seek their input on possible concerns and community enhancements that could result from the project. In addition, Austin Water will provide timely updates throughout the design process to enable the community to be engaged in the process.

Austin Water has identified community groups adjacent to the facility and will work to engage interest groups and decision-makers who will have a stake in the project. We will use a variety of community outreach strategies, including outreach to community groups, social media, online resources, and neighborhood meetings.

Although this construction project will take place within the existing boundary of the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, anticipated public impacts may include:

- Increase of construction traffic on FM 969 (starting in or after 2024).
- Possible traffic detours on FM 969 near Johnny Morris Rd. to improve access to the site (starting in or after 2024).

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Improved quality of treated effluent to the Colorado River, upon completion of the project (starting around 2028).
- Increased available wastewater treatment capacity for Austin residents (starting around 2028) meeting growth needs in our community for the foreseeable future.
- Increased availability of reclaimed water (starting around 2028) to serve existing and future reclaimed water customers, including customers located in District 1.
- Implementation of additional measures to address aesthetics, such as odor and noise control.

It is important for this project to move forward because of projected future capacity requirements and the TCEQ rule stated above. If the project is not approved and is delayed, the plant may not be able to reliably accept and treat the increased wastewater flows. Austin Water intends to return to City Council to request

additional authorization for final design, bidding phase, construction phase, and warranty phase services, utilizing the selected firm to perform these additional services. The amount of authorization requested for the additional services will be determined after the preliminary engineering phase final recommendations are reviewed and approved by the City.

Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is located within zip code 78724, City of Austin's District 1, but provides services to all City of Austin Council Districts north of the Colorado River, including District 1.

The project will be managed by Public Works.

This authorization provides for funding of the above-listed services. This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council selects. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that Council may select another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with that provider.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment