



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 20-3810, **Agenda Item #:** 9.

1/27/2021

### **Posting Language**

Authorize additional contingency funding for the construction contract with PLW Waterworks, LLC, for the Walnut Creek WW Treatment Plant Sludge Thickener Rehabilitation project in the amount of \$457,795 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$10,529,285.

[Note: This request is for additional contingency funding only. MBE/WBE participation to date information will be provided if a change order is requested.]

### **Lead Department**

Capital Contracting Office

### **Managing Department**

Public Works Department

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget of Austin Water.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Original contract was awarded through a competitive Invitation for Bid solicitation process.

### **Prior Council Action:**

January 23, 2020 - Council awarded a construction contract to PLW Waterworks, LLC, for the Walnut Creek WW Treatment Plant Sludge Thickener Rehabilitation project.

### **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, Garrett Cox, 512-974-9423, or the Project Manager, Gabriel Castaño, 512-974-2937.

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

January 14, 2021 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 7-0 vote, with Commissioners Parton and Williams absent and Commissioner Turrieta off the dais.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (the plant) is permitted to treat and discharge an average daily flow of 75 million gallons per day (MGD) with a peak flow of 165 MGD. The plant currently averages approximately 60 MGD with peak flows in excess of 165 MGD during large rain events. The plant thickens the sludge produced by the treatment process prior to pumping it to the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Plant for further treatment. The thickening process has become increasingly unreliable over time. The existing gravity sludge thickener and equipment were constructed in 1977, are in very poor condition, and are beyond

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their useful life. In order to maintain an effective treatment process, replacement of the existing gravity sludge thickener and the equipment is necessary. Temporary thickening units are required to allow the existing gravity sludge thickener and associated equipment to be taken offline for rehabilitation. An additional unit is required to meet increased sludge flows at the plant, which will consume the majority of the project's contingency funds.

The original Council authorization allowed for a 10% contingency to cover unknown risks associated with the project. It is anticipated that the 10% contingency limit will not be sufficient for the project based on change orders currently under consideration relating to the required temporary thickening units. Therefore, a 5% additional contingency is requested to ensure timely and efficient change order processing for a successful project completion. Approval of this request will increase the total project contingency to 15%. By authorizing the additional contingency funding, Council is authorizing any change orders within the contingency amount.

Prompt action is requested on this item to ensure an effective treatment process is maintained and project delays do not occur. Failure to complete this project in a timely manner may result in process failures or delay of other planned projects at the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant that may negatively affect the facility's ability to meet the City's stringent wastewater effluent requirements.

This additional contingency has been approved by the City's Change Control Committee. The Change Control Committee was established to comply with Council Resolution No. 20120126-048, which required the establishment of consistent criteria and process to evaluate contractual changes for all contracts administered by the Capital Contracting Office. The Change Control Committee is comprised of management-level subject matter experts.

The contract allows 500 calendar days for completion of this project. This project is located within zip code 78724 (District 1).

PLW Waterworks, LLC is located in Houston, Texas

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety; Health and Environment t.