



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 21-3547, **Agenda Item #:** 30.

12/9/2021

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc. for additional engineering services for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Process Improvements project in the amount of \$548,758.37 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,279,460.87.

[Note: This amendment will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) Current participation to date is 9.08% MBE and 21.74% WBE participation.]

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Managing Department**

Public Works Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Budget of Austin Water.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Original contract was awarded through a qualifications-based selection process.

### **Prior Council Action:**

September 19, 2019 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of amendment for construction phase services in the amount of \$2,071,616.30.

May 18, 2017 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of amendment for additional design services in the amount of \$104,086.20.

September 27, 2012 - Council approved a professional services agreement with CH2M Hill, Inc. for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Treatment Process Improvements Project.

### **For More Information:**

Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Rick Wilson, 512-974-7261, or the Project Manager, Erik Kunkel, 512-974-7027.

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

December 1, 2021 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 6-0 vote with Commissioners Castleberry, Atallah, Turrieta, and Moriarty absent.

August 14, 2019 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on Commissioner Moriarty's motion and Commissioner Michel's second on a 10-0-0-1 vote with Commissioner Parton absent.

May 10, 2017 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a vote of 9-0 with Commissioners Kellough and Michel absent.

September 12, 2012 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a vote of 6-0-1 with Commissioner Fishbeck recusing.

**Additional Backup Information:**

Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant 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. Treated plant effluent is discharged into the Colorado River. A portion of the treated effluent is used for non-potable water on the plant site and supplies much of the City's growing Reclaimed Water Program.

The Secondary Process Improvements project consists of process improvements including aeration basin and flocculation basin diffused air system improvements, junction box improvements, buried air piping leak repair, storm drains, and improvements identified by condition assessments. Additional improvements identified include numerous valve and gate replacements, scum and sludge pumps, clarifier mechanisms, electrical and control components, basin crack and joint repairs, and other miscellaneous improvements.

An amendment to the professional services agreement is required to provide for the additional construction phase services necessary to complete the construction phase. Additional construction phase services required of the engineering team were identified and are generally listed and discussed here. 1) Additional coordination between the contractor, engineering team, and plant staff required to manage the project. 2) Additional construction cost related to unknown conditions encountered on site, including areas below the water surface that could not be visually inspected prior to construction. Several areas required specialty inspections to develop repairs or solutions. 3) The number of Request for Information and shop drawings requiring review has been substantially greater than anticipated in the original scope of work. These items are initiated by the contractor and could not be anticipated or controlled prior to the bidding or construction phases. 4) Additionally, more submittals than anticipated had to be revised and re-submitted, due to the unforeseen conditions that were encountered, including unanticipated conflicts with buried utilities, existing secondary clarifier floors, structural repairs in the clarifiers, and aeration basins.

Due to the complexity of the project and numerous challenges, the number of meetings and discussions required was greater than anticipated. Teams met daily during shutdown periods at critical times in the project. Additional process modeling and recommendations were required including leading multiple workshops to recommend improvements to the operations of the existing secondary process. This successfully reduced the quantity of supplemental alkalinity required for effective nitrification, resulting in reduced operational cost. This was a changed condition related to the plant's discharge permit revision that necessarily issued after having issued the notice to proceed to construction, and thus it was not included in the original scope of work. The City also requested the addition of scope to update the plant's electronic operations and maintenance manuals.

Lastly, this project required execution of several complex shutdowns as well as the installation of critical process equipment. As a result, a higher level of coordination and review than anticipated was required throughout the construction phase. It is important for this amendment to move forward so that the completion of the project is not delayed.

No public impact is anticipated as all improvements will be within the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant site.

This amendment is pending review by the City's Change Control Committee. The Change Control Committee

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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.

This project is located within zip code 78724 (District 1).

CH2M Hill Engineers, Inc., is located in Austin, Texas.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment, Safety.