

# Business Item

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: February 27, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: March 13, 2024

## Business Item: 2024-43

Purchase of Bulk Ferric Chloride, Contract 23P153

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Joseph Ward, Assistant Manager Process Engineering, R&D, and Air Quality, 651-602-8302
<b>Division/Department:</b>	MCES, Operational Support Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P153 with Hawkins, Inc. to provide bulk ferric chloride at MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$6,990,000.

### Background

Ferric chloride (ferric) is an important chemical used at the Blue Lake, Empire, and Rogers Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) for several reasons. The greatest use of ferric is to reduce struvite and hydrogen sulfide formation in anaerobic digestion at Blue Lake and Empire. Use at Empire also provides benefits to primary clarification and gravity thickening performance. Rogers relies on ferric addition for phosphorus removal to meet its effluent discharge limits. Blue Lake and Empire also use ferric for liquid train phosphorus removal periodically.

An Invitation for Bids was advertised on November 7, 2023. Council staff facilitated a public pre-bid meeting that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquires. There were five registered plan holders, three suppliers, one plan room, and one regional wastewater treatment plant.

Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on December 13, 2023, and received two bids. Bids ranged from \$6,231,000 to \$6,603,000. Hawkins, Inc. was determined to be the low, responsive, responsible bidder and is being recommended for award.

This contract will be for a period of two years with an option to extend for three additional one-year periods. The total cost for this service during the term of the contract is dependent on ferric usage in the wastewater treatment processes, which is estimated at approximately 465,000 gallons. The not to exceed amount includes the estimated cost for the Council to exercise all additional contract extension options.

### Rationale

The execution of a service contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

This action advances the Thrive outcome of stewardship. Public financial resources will be invested efficiently and effectively to maintain proper operation of the Metropolitan Disposal System which protects the region's natural resources.

### **Funding**

Funds are available in the Blue Lake, Empire, and Rogers operating budgets.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) thoroughly reviewed this procurement for Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) opportunities in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations as well as contract specifications. Upon conclusion of OEEO's research and analysis, no MCUB goal was set.

