

Business Item

Environment Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 23, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: May 8, 2024

Business Item: 2024-106

Blue Lake Polymer, Contract 23P355A

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Trevor Prater, Senior Engineer, 615-602-8297
Division/Department:	Environmental Services/Process Engineering, R&D, and Air Quality

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 23P355A with Polydyne, Inc., to provide polymer to the Blue Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant in an amount not to exceed \$4,480,000.

Background

Polymer is a conditioning chemical, which aids in the removal of water while processing sludge solids on mechanical equipment such as centrifuges and belt presses.

This procurement followed a two-step process. An Invitation for Prequalification was issued on October 5, 2023. The purpose of this solicitation is to identify the most effective polymer through a full-scale evaluation of their performance and prequalify those vendors. Only vendors that were prequalified were allowed to participate in the Invitation for Bids which was the second step in the procurement process. Two vendors performed full-scale performance tests with a total of five polymer products. After the full-scale testing, two vendors and four polymer products prequalified to participate in the Invitation for Bids.

The Invitation for Bids was issued on February 27, 2024. There were ten registered planholders, eight suppliers/prime bidders, two plan rooms, and three planholders identified as minority, woman, veteran, small, or disadvantaged business enterprises. On March 21, 2024, a public bid opening was facilitated, and two bids were received.

Bids ranged from \$1.21 to \$1.29 per pound. Polydyne Inc. was determined to be the low, responsive, responsible bidder and is being recommended for award.

Polymer unit costs ranged from \$30.05 to \$32.47 per dry ton of sludge processed. This contract will provide polymer at a unit price of \$1.21 per pound for a period of two years with an option to extend for three additional one-year periods. Estimated expenditures are \$750,000 annually and up to \$4,480,000 over a five-year period with price adjustments based on the Producer Price Index for Plastic Material and Resins Manufacturing.

Rationale

The execution of a professional service, goods 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 treatment plant operating budget.

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.

