

Environment Committee

Meeting date: September 10, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 25, 2013

Subject: Authorization to Award and Execute Contracts for Assessment of Reliability and Sustainability of Water Supply in Metropolitan Region

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-3 Expenditure, Minnesota Statue 473.1565, Minnesota Statue 114D.50

Staff Prepared/Presented: Keith Buttleman 651- 602-1015, Ali Elhassan 651- 602-1066

Division/Department: MCES c/o Leisa Thompson 651- 602 - 8101

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes its Regional Administrator to award and execute contracts, totaling \$2,000,000 with SEH, Barr Engineering, HDR and CDM Smith for assessment of reliability and sustainability of water supply in Metropolitan Region.

Background

The Minnesota Legislature in 2013 approved \$2,000,000 for the Metropolitan Council from the Legacy – Clean Water Fund to evaluate the reliability and sustainability of water supply in metropolitan region including the northeast metro. These contracts are for water supply engineering, technical analysis & outreach to support efforts to explore regional opportunities in water supply reliability and sustainability. The work will be performed on a task by task, work order basis as requested by the Council and is expected to be awarded using four master contracts. The approximate value of each master contract will be \$500,000 over three years.

SEH	\$500,000
Barr Engineering	\$500,000
HDR	\$500,000
CDM Smith	\$500,000

Rationale

Reliable sources of clean water have been critical to development of the Twin Cities region and that need continues today. With a growing population, more business and industry, and a rapidly changing environment, the long-range outlook for clean water is not what it used to be. Today, due to increased groundwater pumping to accommodate development, aquifers are being depleted. Lakes, streams, and wetlands are being affected. Given projected growth, we anticipate the problem to be exacerbated if we continue mostly relying on groundwater “business as usual.” A change of course would require exploring the engineering and financial feasibility of alternatives, design analyses, and inter-jurisdictional collaboration.

Funding

Currently Authorized: \$ 0
Unencumbered Funds: \$ 2,000,000
Requested Amount: \$ 2,000,000

Known Support / Opposition

None