

Environment Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 23, 2022

Subject: Water Supply Technical Analysis & Outreach for Hydrologic & Hydrogeologic Services, Master Contracts 21P208A & 21P208B

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute master contracts 21P208A for \$500,000 with Barr Engineering, Inc., and 21P208B for \$300,000 with Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc., to provide hydrogeologic research to support water supply planning for a total not to exceed procurement value of \$800,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Committee Member Sterner inquired if the chosen vendors have experience in the work they will be doing. Staff confirmed and stated we have worked with Barr Engineering in the past particularly on our regional groundwater flow modeling. Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. has done a great deal of work across the region with various water supply stakeholders, counties, and cities.

The proposed action was approved and forwarded to the February 23, 2022 Council meeting for approval.

Environment Committee

Meeting date: February 8, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 23, 2022

Subject: Water Supply Technical Analysis & Outreach for Hydrologic & Hydrogeologic Services, Master Contracts 21P208A & 21P208B

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Lanya Ross, 651-602-1803

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

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Background

The Council's Water Supply Planning Unit seeks to update and maintain a base of technical information needed for sound water supply decisions in the Twin Cities, which is a role supported by both Council policy and MN Statutes 476.1565. The proposed master contracts support this work by providing hydrologic, hydrogeologic, ecologic and water planning services. Deliverables will include but are not limited to studies, reports, and analytical and modeling tools. The scope of this work will also include engaging water supply advisory committees and other water supply stakeholders to help inform the work in a way that maximizes the value to both local partners and the Council's policy and planning work – collaborating to reach shared water supply reliability and sustainability goals.

A Request for Proposal was issued on September 7, 2021. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff on September 16, 2021 to outline the solicitation requirements, discuss project specifications and respond to plan holder inquires. There were eighteen registered plan holders, fifteen, consultants, one subcontractor, and two plan rooms, and three of the plan holders identified as minority, woman, small or disadvantaged business enterprises. Proposals were received on October 12, 2021, and the Council received three proposals to be evaluated for the consideration of award.

The following criteria were used in the evaluation of proposals: proposer quality, proposer qualifications and experience, price, and the ability to meet current and future needs (service delivery plan). The evaluation panel utilized the experience and knowledge from a range of water resources staff and included two technical advisors from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. The review panel met on November 30, 2021 and concluded that Barr Engineering and Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. represented the highest ranked and most technically qualified proposers to provide the requested services for the Council.

Rationale

The award and execution of non-construction services in excess of \$500,000 requires Council approval.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action supports the Thrive MSP 2040 stewardship and sustainability outcomes and the water sustainability goals of the Water Resources Policy Plan and Master Water Supply Plan.

Funding

Funds are available through Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds through Minnesota Legislature (Minnesota Legislature, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 8): \$919,000 the first year and \$919,000 the second year are to implement projects that address emerging threats to the drinking water supply, provide cost-effective regional solutions, leverage interjurisdictional coordination, support local implementation of water supply reliability projects, and prevent degradation of groundwater resources in the metropolitan area.

Small Business Inclusion

The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) assigned a MCUB goal of 15% for this project. OEO has determined that the recommended proposers have met the Council's MCUB Contract requirements for this project.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee (MAWSAC) and their Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) support the program.