

Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee meeting date: June 10, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: June 25, 2025

Business Item: 2025-131

Purchase of Bulk Bleach Chemical, Contract 24P292

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P292 with Hawkins, Inc. to provide bulk bleach at MCES Water Resource Recovery Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$7,588,012.

Summary of Environment Committee discussion/questions

- CM Carter asked: Once you add the bleach what process is used to separate it?
- Staff responded: Bleach is consumed in the process and to neutralize any excess bleach we inject sodium bisulfite so the aquatic life is not harmed.
- CM Carter: Your presentation mentioned RAS, what does that abbreviation stand for?
- Staff responded: It stands for return activated sludge.
- CM Cederberg: Is the bleach purchased as one product, one concentration?
- Staff responded: We purchase it in a variety of strengths.

Motion by CM Morales, seconded by CM Carter. Motion carried.



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| 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: | Joseph Ward, Assistant Manager Process Engineering, R&D, and Air Quality, 651-602-8302 |
| Division/department: | MCES, Operational Support Services |

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 24P292 with Hawkins, Inc. to provide bulk bleach at MCES Water Resource Recovery Facilities in an amount not to exceed \$7,588,012.

Background

Bleach (sodium hypochlorite) is an important chemical used at the Metropolitan Council Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs). The chemical is primarily used for effluent disinfection, returned activated sludge bleaching, and membrane clean in place.

An Invitation for Bids was advertised on February 24, 2025. Council staff facilitated a public pre-bid meeting that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. There were seven plan holders which included four suppliers, and three plan holders that identified as woman, minority, small, veteran or disadvantaged business enterprises.

Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on April 3, 2025, and received one bid. Staff did not find any indication that the Council's specifications were restrictive and determined there was adequate competition for this project. The bid received, from Hawkins, for a single year of purchasing the estimated amounts of bleach is \$1,329,703.50 and has been determined to be the low, responsive, responsible bidder and is being recommended for the award.

This contract will be for an initial one-year period with an option to extend for four additional one-year periods. The total cost for this service during the term of the contract is dependent on bleach usage in the wastewater treatment processes, which is estimated at approximately 730,000 gallons annually. The total for 5 years is not to exceed \$7,588,012.49, which includes the estimated cost for the Council to exercise all additional contract extension options and estimated inflation.

Rationale

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

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this action advances the 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 each facility's 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.

