

Committee Report

Environment Committee



Committee meeting date: August 26, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: September 10, 2025

Business Item: 2025-210

Master Contracts for Sustainability Services, Contract Project No.24P275

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts 24P275A-D for technical consultant services that will support Environmental Services Water Sustainability program in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 as follows:

Contractor	Contract Number	Contract Amount
Barr Engineering	24P275A	\$1,100,000
Kimley-Horn & Associates	24P275B	\$1,100,000
HDR Engineering	24P275C	\$1,100,000
Carollo Engineers	24P275D	\$700,000

Summary of Environment Committee discussion/questions

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



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District(s), member(s): All

Policy/legal reference: FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy

Staff prepared/presented: Judy Sventek, Manager Water Resources, 651-602-1156

Division/department: Environmental Services/Water Resources

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Background

The Council's Water Resources Section seeks to update and maintain a base of technical information needed for sound water supply and water sustainability decisions in the Twin Cities, which is a role supported by both Council policy and MN Statutes 476.1565. The proposed master contracts are for technical assistance to support the implementation of projects that address emerging threats to drinking water supply and overall sustainability; provide cost-effective regional solutions; leverage interjurisdictional coordination; support local implementation of wellhead protection plans and prevent degradation of groundwater and surface water resources.

Potential project deliverables will include but are not limited to feasibility studies, reports, short videos, fact sheets, signage, modeling tools, social media campaigns, community training workshops, and web-based tools and guidance needed to promote water sustainability for the region.

A Request for Proposal was issued on March 17, 2025. A pre-proposal meeting was hosted by Council staff to outline the solicitation requirements, discuss project specifications, and respond to plan holder inquiries. There were thirty-three registered plan holders, twenty-eight prime proposers, two subcontractors, and two plan rooms. Seven plan holders identified as minority, woman, small, veteran, or disadvantaged business enterprises.

On April 24, 2025, the Council received six proposals to evaluate for the consideration of award and used the quality of the proposal, qualifications and experience of the proposer, and price as criteria for evaluation. The evaluation panel reached consensus that HDR Engineering, Barr Engineering, Kimley-Horn & Associates, and Carollo Engineering Inc. are the most advantageous to the Council and recommend for award.

Rationale

Council Policy requires amendments exceeding 10% of the original authorized contract value be approved by the Council if the cumulative value exceeds \$500,000. Amendments to contracts that exceed 10% of the original value constitute sole source procurements requiring Council approval.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040 and includes the new Water Policy Plan and the Metro Area Water Supply Plan. Under the Thrive lens, this action advances the Thrive 2040 outcomes of Stewardship and Sustainability and the water sustainability goal of the Water Resources Policy Plan.

Funding

Funds are available through Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds passed through the Minnesota Legislature and awarded in fiscal years 24/25 and 26/27.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal of 16% for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firms being recommended for award have met the MCUB requirements of this contract.

