



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

# DRAFT

**AGENDA DATE:** November 23, 2010

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Purchase Order Contract And Vendor Support For Handheld Meter Reader Devices

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Authorize the General Services Manager to award a purchase order contract in the amount of \$45,018 to Inland Water Works Supply Company (Inland), for the purchase and support of Itron computerized handheld meter reader devices, plus 10% or \$4,500 in change order authority, for a total amount not to exceed \$49,518;
- B. Authorize the General Services Manager to award a purchase order contract in the amount of \$ 1,287 to Itron Incorporated (Itron) for the first year of software support;
- C. Subject to the appropriation of funds approved by City Council, authorize the City's General Services Manager to issue Purchase Orders and Change Orders to Inland for four subsequent fiscal years for purchasing, maintaining, repairing, and configuring Itron handheld meter reader devices and related hardware, and software, in amounts not to exceed the annual appropriated budget for the program for the next fiscal years 2012 through 2015 (Is this going to be on a fiscal year cycle?) ; and
- D. Subject to the appropriation of funds approved by City Council, authorize the City's General Services Manager to issue Purchase Orders and Change Orders to Itron for Fiscal Years 2012 through 2015 for software support, in amounts not to exceed the annual appropriated budget for the program. .

**DISCUSSION:**

City meter reader staff use handheld devices to record ratepayers' water meters on a monthly basis for billing purposes. The current handheld devices have been in use for 19 years, have outlived their useful life, and are no longer supported by the manufacturer (I believe this is true).

Over the past two decades, many changes in meter reading technology and methodology have been made that offer a great opportunity for increased efficiency in meter reading, water conservation, and worker safety.

Staff sent a Request For Proposals (RFP) to vendors specializing in meter-reading equipment and received proposals from five interested firms. Water Resources and Information Systems staff interviewed three vendors whose proposals best fit the needs of the City. Staff's selection criteria included cost; vendor responsiveness; and equipment design, availability, ease of use; and adaptability for future automated meter reading capabilities.

Staff has determined that Inland, who is a distributor for Itron computerized handheld meter reading devices, best meets the City's current needs for handheld meter reading devices. Inland is a California-based company and provides similar meter reader support and services to water agencies throughout Southern California. Itron is an industry leader for meter reading devices throughout the water, gas, and electric industry, and is used by Southern California Edison, as well as our neighboring Southcoast water agencies.

Of the meter reading systems investigated by staff, the Itron proved to have the best flexibility, robustness and ease of use. The Itron system can be easily adapted for automatic meter reading, whether it be via a walk-by, drive-by, or via a fixed network to meet the City's future needs. The devices have GPS and mapping capabilities.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

There are sufficient funds in the Water Fund to cover these expenses.

**PREPARED BY:** Catherine Taylor/CT

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office