



Agenda Item No. _____

File Code No.

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Item 6

AGENDA DATE: September 9, 2014

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Approve Severn Trent Services As The Iron Media And Support Gravel Vendor For The Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Find it to be in the City's best interest to approve Severn Trent Services as the iron media and support gravel vendor for the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant, without bids, as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.070 (k); and
- B. Authorize the General Services Manager to award purchase order contracts to Severn Trent Services for iron media within approved budgets for the next five-year period.

DISCUSSION:

The City' Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant (OGTP) treats groundwater produced from the City's downtown wells. The treated groundwater is then put into the City's water distribution system to supplement the City's surface water supplies. The OGTP is an important water facility, especially during times of drought when surface water supplies are dwindling.

The OGTP has two iron media vessels which serve to remove hydrogen sulfide from the groundwater. Hydrogen sulfide can produce off-smelling drinking water, e.g. sulfur or burnt match. During design of the OGTP, extensive bench-scale and full-scale pilot studies were performed to determine how to best treat the City's groundwater. Through those studies, iron media provided by Severn Trent Services proved to be the best performing media with regard to hydrogen sulfide removal and cost.

Based on the exhaustive bench and full-scale studies, staff recommends that Council find it to be in the City's best interest to waive the formal bidding process, as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.070 (k), and approve Severn Trent Services as the iron media and support gravel vendor for the OGTP; and authorized the City General Services Manager to issue purchase order contracts to Severn Trent Services for iron media and support gravel the OGTP, in accordance with Council-approved budgets.

Through the water treatment process at the OGTP, iron media is gradually exhausted and eventually becomes ineffective at removing hydrogen sulfide, at which time it must be replaced. The frequency of iron media replacement depends on the volume of groundwater treated and the concentration of hydrogen sulfide present in the source water. If the drought persists, it is anticipated that the groundwater wells will be pumped at greater than normal rates to supplement surface water supplies. Greater volumes of treated water will require the filter media to be replaced more frequently.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Water treatment chemical costs were anticipated to be \$1.7 M for FY 2015, with iron media costs making up \$500,000 of the total amount. This is based on treating an estimate of one million gallons per day at the OGTP. There are sufficient funds in the Water Fund to cover these costs.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Taylor, P.E., Water System Manager

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office