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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 25, 2017

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Authorization To Purchase Water Treatment Chemicals For The Cater Water Treatment Plant

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council find it in the City's best interest to waive the formal bidding process, as authorized by Municipal Code 4.52.070(k); and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Blanket Purchase Order to Nalco Company in the amount of \$50,000 for the purchase of CatFloc 8108 Plus, a cationic polymer, and 8170 PULV, a nonionic polymer, with the option to renew the purchase order for an additional four years, expiring June 28, 2022, subject to appropriation of funds for such purpose in Council's adopted budget.

DISCUSSION:

The William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater) provides regional water treatment to the communities of Santa Barbara, Summerland, Montecito, and Carpinteria. A major part of the water treatment process involves removal of suspended particles from the untreated water. These particles can provide places for bacteria to hide and avoid disinfection. The addition of coagulant chemicals makes the suspended particles adhere to each other, making them larger and more easily filtered out during the water treatment process. Polymers are widely used throughout the water industry as a coagulant chemical to enhance the clumping or "floc formation" and settling of suspended material. Polymers are also used in the treatment process to assist with the filtering process.

Nalco CatFloc 8108 is a heavy, cationic (positively charged) polymer that assists with forming large stable floc. As the particles floc, or clump together, they become larger and heavier, and then quickly settle to the bottom of the sedimentation basin, where they are removed and properly disposed.

Nalco 8170 PULV is a nonionic (neutrally charged) polymer that is used as a filtering aid during periods when seasonal changes in raw water quality create challenges with Cater's filter performance. The addition of this polymer, prior to the filtration process, helps to lower turbidity levels, which is important to the overall water treatment process.

Each manufacturer of water treatment polymers uses its own proprietary blend of chemicals. Cater staff has tested the performance of many different manufacturers' cationic and nonionic polymers throughout the years, and has found the two Nalco polymers to successfully perform at Cater. As a result, Cater staff has been purchasing the Nalco polymers through an annual Blanket Purchase Order since 2009. These products have proven themselves to be competitively priced and reliable additions to the treatment process to help Cater stay in compliance with federal and state drinking water regulations.

The process of pre-qualifying alternative polymer options for the competitive bidding process is complicated and time consuming. The qualification process takes several months and poses a risk of compromising water quality. The effort includes bench testing the polymer in Cater's laboratory. Any polymer that performs well in the laboratory is then tested on a full scale by using it in Cater's water treatment process. Additionally, the testing process does not guarantee the selected polymer will work well with the raw water quality changes that Cater sees throughout the year, as each full scale trial run might only last for a week or two.

Considering the two Nalco polymers continue to successfully perform in Cater's water treatment process, staff recommends that Council find it in the City's best interest to waive the formal bidding process, as authorized by Municipal Code 4.52.070(k); and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Blanket Purchase Order to Nalco Company in the amount of \$50,000 for the purchase of CatFloc 8108 Plus cationic polymer and 8170 PULV nonionic polymer, with the option to renew the purchase order for an additional four years, expiring June 28, 2022, subject to Council's adoption of the Water Fund budget.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The combined Nalco polymer costs are estimated to be \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2018. There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Water Fund to cover these costs. Future purchase orders would be made within approved budget levels.

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SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office