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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2020

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Consulting Services For America's Water Infrastructure Act Compliance

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a professional services agreement with Brown and Caldwell in the amount of \$165,000 for consulting services for America's Water Infrastructure Act Compliance, and approve additional expenditures of up to \$16,500 to cover any additional costs that may result from necessary changes to the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

Background

On October 23, 2018, Congress signed into law the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA). The AWIA requires drinking water utilities to conduct a Risk and Resilience Assessment of their community water systems and develop a corresponding Emergency Response Plan. Upon completion of these documents, the drinking water utility is required to submit self-certification to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) indicating compliance with the AWIA requirements.

The City's water distribution system began with the establishment of the Mission, and has been growing and evolving to meet the City's needs ever since. The City's water distribution system includes 18 pump stations and 17 reservoirs in service, which serve a population of approximately 94,000 citizens (based on 2018 census data). The required AWIA assessments will evaluate potential risks to the City's drinking water system, and identify strategies and procedures to improve the system's resilience to such risks.

Project Description

The Project will start with a comprehensive assessment of the City's existing documents, policies, and standard operating procedures to evaluate the drinking water system's current compliance with AWIA requirements. Following this assessment, a confidential Risk and Resilience Assessment and an Emergency Response Plan will be prepared.

DRAFT

These reports will evaluate the drinking water system's vulnerability to potential risks, and document response strategies to improve the system's resilience. Both final reports will be self-certified and submitted to the USEPA to satisfy AWIA requirements. Training will be provided to City staff to maintain and update these documents on a five-year basis.

Consultant Services

Staff recommends that Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with Brown and Caldwell in the amount of \$165,000 for AWIA compliance consulting services and \$16,500 for potential extra services, for a total contract amount of \$181,500. Brown and Caldwell is experienced in this type of work and was selected as part of a Request For Proposals process that was sent out to six consulting firms. The City received two proposals, and Brown and Caldwell was selected based on its qualifications and understanding of the City's water distribution system.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Water Fund to cover the costs of this consultant contract.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

This study does not require California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, as it does not involve any physical changes to the water distribution system.

WATER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

This item was presented to the Water Commission at its meeting on February 20, 2020, and the Commission voted X-X in support of staff's recommendations.

A copy of the contract/agreement is available for public review in the City Clerk's Office.

PREPARED BY: Matthew Ward, Acting Water System Manager/CSW/rb

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office