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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 1, 2022

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Sole Source Agreement With Hadronex Inc. For The Purchase And Installation Of SmartCover Level Sensor Units

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Find and determine that SmartCover Level Sensor Units are a sole source product and service and authorize the purchase of SmartCover Level Sensor Units from Hadronex Inc. as the sole source provider pursuant to the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Section 4.52.070(K); and
- B. Authorize the Public Works Director to execute a sole source services contract with Hadronex Inc. doing business as SmartCover, in the amount of \$295,688 for the purchase, installation, and maintenance of 45 SmartCover Level Sensor Units.

DISCUSSION:

Background

The City of Santa Barbara (City) maintains a 256-mile gravity wastewater collection system including seven lift stations and approximately two miles of force main. To analyze the flows received by El Estero Water Resource Center (EEWRC), the City performed an Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) study in 2003-2004. This study captured wastewater flows in 45 locations throughout the City, which led to the development of the sewer basins we use today. Almost 20 years later, the City plans to mimic the original project to serve as a benchmark study that would analyze the effectiveness of its Rehabilitation program and any changes in capacity since the original study. New State laws allowing for the creation of additional dwelling units on parcels are anticipated to result in an increase in wastewater flows to EEWRC. The data gathered from this study will support the City's Master Plan Update and Capital Improvement Programs, including helping to identify any newly arisen capacity issues.

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Discussion

To perform this study, the City finds it in its best interest to seek a sole source agreement for the purchase of SmartCover Level Sensor Units are a proprietary product of Hadronex Inc. (SmartCover). These units collect level data in the wastewater collection system and transmit this data via the Iridium satellite network. The advantage of a satellite-based network over a cellular-based network is reduced communication interruptions due to natural events (storms, wildfires, network availability, etc.) and complete City-wide coverage under one communications carrier. To get the same cellular coverage a propagation study would need to be done and the level sensors would need to be outfitted with different cellular carriers based on performance testing. Given the topography of the City, there is also a good chance some areas might not be reachable by a cellular-based network. Furthermore cellular-based level sensor units require periodic upgrades to keep pace with cellular network upgrades, which can be costly and inconvenient. Operating via a satellite-based network eliminates the need for these periodic upgrades. SmartCover is the only remote sewer level monitor that utilizes the Iridium satellite network for communications in California. SmartCover level sensor configurations are patent protected. SmartCover is a qualified contractor and produces quality equipment.

These units will be used initially for the benchmark I&I study of the wastewater levels throughout the City, ultimately supporting the City's Master Plan Update and the Capital Improvement Program. In the future, these units will be relocated to manholes adjacent to sewer mains on high-frequency cleaning programs to reduce demand on the Wastewater Collections staff. This will allow staff to refocus their time on other preventative maintenance activities, which supports the goal of preventing Sanitary Sewer Overflows.

Gold Coast Environmental is the only approved installation subcontractor for SmartCover in Santa Barbara and Ventura County. This contractor will provide installation labor, traffic control as necessary, and a two-year labor warranty for any necessary site visits. Gold Coast Environmental is a qualified contractor and able to perform level sensor installation efficiently and effectively, which reduces the impact to the public and surrounding businesses. SmartCover will provide a two-year warranty on the level sensor units and two years of active site management, while Gold Coast Environmental, SmartCover's subcontractor, will perform the installation with traffic control and a two-year labor warranty for any site visits necessary.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Wastewater Capital Fund to cover the cost of this sole source agreement in the amount of \$295,688.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

Monitoring wastewater levels in high-frequency cleaning mains via SmartCover level sensor units will allow City staff to perform cleaning on a higher volume of sewer mains

in the system. Cleaning sewer mains is an essential aspect of preventative maintenance of the sanitary sewer system and supports the City's goal of preventing SSOs. SmartCover units will provide real-time data and notifications of high wastewater levels. This allows City staff to respond quickly, therefore reducing the occurrence of SSOs and subsequent cleanups.

WATER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

This item was presented to the Water Commission at its meeting on January 20, 2022, and the Commission voted **X-X** in support of staff's recommendation.

PREPARED BY: Amanda Flesse, Wastewater System Manager/SE/rb

SUBMITTED BY: Clifford M. Maurer, P.E., Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office