



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 01, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

PREPARER: Emily Sinkhorn, Director of Environmental Services

DATE: February 21, 2023

TITLE: **Award a Contract in the Amount of \$245,161 to GHD, Inc., for Environmental Compliance and Monitoring for the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase I Improvement Project; Authorize the City Manager to Increase the Contract Amount by up to \$47,315 (20 Percent, for a Total of \$292,476); and Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Award a Contract in the Amount of \$245,161 to GHD, Inc., for Environmental Compliance and Monitoring for the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase I Improvement Project.
- 2) Authorize the City Manager to Increase the Contract Amount by up to \$47,315 (20 Percent, for a Total of \$292,476) to Allow for Any Unforeseen Contingencies and Additional Work as Necessary; and
- 3) Authorize the City Manager to Execute All Applicable Documents.

INTRODUCTION:

The City of Arcata released a request for proposals from qualified firms to provide environmental compliance monitoring and biological survey services to ensure compliance with environmental permit requirements for Phase I of the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facilities (AWTF) Improvement Project (AWTF Phase 1). The City has received all environmental permits and approvals for the Phase I project. Construction within the core area of the AWTF began in December 2022 and is anticipated for a duration of 30 to 36 months.

The awarded Environmental Compliance and Monitoring Consulting firm will be responsible for serving as the City's agent throughout the duration of construction to ensure all permit requirements relating to protection of biological resources and cultural resources are adhered to during the construction of the AWTF Phase 1 project. GHD's proposal demonstrated expertise in a wide variety of biological resources and techniques including fish exclusion and relocation, amphibian and reptile identification, avian surveys, and salt marsh and other sensitive vegetation identification. The awarded firm will also provide on-call cultural resource expertise in case of any unanticipated discoveries during construction.

The City is financing the AWTF Phase 1 Project and related work in part through the State of California's Clean Water Revolving Fund Program (SRF). The Consultant and any subcontractors will therefore be required to comply with all applicable state and federal requirements associated with this funding source.

BACKGROUND:

On December 9, 2022, the City solicited a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking an experienced consulting firm to provide environmental permit compliance monitoring and biological survey services for Phase 1 of the AWTF Upgrade. The City has received all environmental permits and approvals for the Phase I upgrade project. The environmental compliance consultant's task will be to ensure all environmental permit requirements are adhered to during the construction. The consultant will also coordinate with and provide biological resources awareness and protocol training for the key project staff, including the City's project manager, the Construction Manager, and the Contractor's project management and foreman staff.

DISCUSSION:

The City received four responsive proposals from qualified firms that were rated and scored by a four-member evaluation panel from the City. All proposals were deemed technically sound. GHD, Inc.'s proposal was rated higher than the other proposals based upon a detailed project understanding, demonstrated technical ability and thorough proposed scope of work.

The Environmental Compliance and Monitoring contract deliverables will include:

1. Project Management and Coordination
2. Performance of pre-construction biological surveys, fish relocation and on-site biological monitoring
3. Development of reports of survey results for regulatory agencies
4. Biological resources and protocols training for contractor and construction management staff
5. On-call cultural resource consultation
6. Tidewater goby monitoring

Attachment A includes the detailed scope of for the environmental compliance and monitoring tasks as well as a budget prepared by year. Tasks 1-5 will occur over the three construction seasons of the AWTF Phase 1 project, and Task 6 tidewater goby monitoring will continue for year 5 to meet permit requirements. The outcomes from the environmental compliance and monitoring work for the Phase 1 Project will be protection of biological and cultural resources within the construction footprint of the Phase I project and adherence with the City's approved permits. The environmental compliance and monitoring firm will actively work to ensure permit compliance while Phase I construction occurs within the Enhancement Marshes and the Brackish Marsh during the summer months of the three construction seasons, starting in summer 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

Environmental review for the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility Phase I Upgrade project has been completed, and the project is currently under construction.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The contract amount is within the budget allocation for the 2022/23 Fiscal Year. The contract is budgeted under the GL for the AWTF Phase I Improvement Project Account 662-60-67-57601.

ATTACHMENTS:

GHD AWTF Compliance Scope_Budget (PDF)