



AGENDA SUMMARY EUREKA CITY COUNCIL

TITLE: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Request for Proposals –
Consultant Services Contract Award

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PREPARED BY: Jesse Willor, City Engineer

PRESENTED FOR: Action Information only Discussion

RECOMMENDATION

1. Declare GHD, Inc. the selected consultant for the Wastewater Improvements Project Request for Proposals; and
2. Award bid No. 2023-6 to GHD, Inc. in the amount of \$995,000, which includes a contingency of approximately 20 percent; and
3. Appropriate \$300,000 in Wastewater Reserve funds to account 512-4700-7010; and
4. Authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with GHD, Inc. for Wastewater Improvements Task 1 in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

FISCAL IMPACT

No Fiscal Impact Included in Budget Additional Appropriation

COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIC VISION

- Financially sound city providing effective services
- Long-term wastewater planning

DISCUSSION

The City of Eureka's Elk River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is regulated by the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) through application of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In 2016, the RWQCB issued Cease and Desist Order No. R1-2016-0012 (CDO) and the WWTP began operating under a new NPDES permit, Order No. R1-2016-0001, which specifically disallowed the historical practice termed 'blending.' Blending is the bypassing of primary-treated wet weather flows in excess of 12 million gallons per day (MGD) around the biological treatment system and directly to disinfection.

In response to the CDO, the City prepared a Wet Weather Improvement Plan (WWIP). The WWIP includes a summary of past, current, and proposed efforts to eliminate secondary treatment bypassing at WWTP. In the WWIP, eliminating bypassing at the WWTP is approached using two strategies: reduce inflow to the WWTP from the sewer collection system by eliminating inflow and infiltration (I/I), and increase hydraulic capacity of the WWTP by optimizing and upgrading unit operations.

The CDO schedule lists a compliance date of July 1, 2028 to eliminate bypassing. While City Staff was tracking this compliance date, negotiations with Regional Board Staff indicated that this deadline would be extended. During those negotiations a citizen lawsuit by Ecological Rights Foundation (ERF) and the following corresponding settlement agreement/consent decree between the City and ERF required the July 1, 2028 deadline be adhered to.

Given this deadline, reducing I/I in the collection system to a level that would substantively decrease bypassing events is not practical. Therefore, the City's approach to eliminating bypass is to make improvements to the WWTP, including increasing secondary treatment capacity and providing primary effluent equalization storage.

Another potential option to eliminate peak wet weather flows to be explored in the initial project phase is to use a municipal wastewater disposal well, or Class I Underground Injection Control Well (UIC). A UIC would inject excess treated wastewater into deep, confined rock formations, hence avoiding discharging through the existing outfall. This option is required by the Consent Decree to be explored, though there are not similar existing UICs on the West Coast.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project will address blending and achieve compliance with the State Water Resource Control Board's Discharge Permit Order.

The selected consultant team will be tasked with conducting necessary studies, completing preliminary and final design, as well as bid phase services and conducting necessary meetings and workshops with City Staff.

As the project schedule was accelerated by the Consent Decree, the project has not been included in the 2022 Capital Improvement Program document. Therefore, an additional appropriation of \$300,000 is requested for the initial phase of work, preliminary design. The budget for the subsequent phases of the project will be included in 2023 Capital Improvement Program document.

The Request for Proposals were solicited from October 21, 2022 to December 8, 2022. Bids closed on December 8 and two (2) bids were received. A staff team rated and ranked the proposals on December 20 and it was determined that GHD is the apparent qualified bidder.

Staff recommends that Council declare GHD, Inc. the selected consultant for the Wastewater Improvements Project Consultant Services Contract, Bid No. 2023-6, and authorize the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

- City Attorney
- City Clerk/Information Services
- Community Services
- Development Services
- Finance
- Fire
- Personnel
- Police
- Public Works