



Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

11091

Agenda Number

<ITEM_OUTLINE>

Meeting Date:

December 8, 2011

Department:

Contract & Land Management Department (CLMD)

Subject

Authorize execution of a construction contract with TEXAS SOLAR POWER COMPANY, Austin, Texas, for the restoration of a solar array at Austin Energy's Decker Creek Power Station in an amount not to exceed \$947,497.80.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:

Lowest responsive bid of four bids received.

Prior Council Action:



For More Information:

Craig Russell 974 7157; Fred Yebra 482-5305; Susan Garnett 974-7064; April Shaw 974-7141

Boards and Commission Action:

To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on November 14, 2011 and the Resource Management Commission on November 15, 2011.

MBE / WBE:

This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9A of the City code (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 95.87 % MBE prime contractor and 4.13% WBE subcontractor participation.

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

In 1985, Austin Energy constructed a 300 kW photovoltaic (PV) solar array at its Decker Creek Power Station which was the largest PV system in the nation at the time. The solar modules and tracking system are no longer functional and need to be replaced. This contract will include replacement of solar modules, a new mechanized tracking system on the existing pedestals, and necessary electrical infrastructure upgrades. This project will reuse much of the existing infrastructure, resulting in a relatively low-cost tracking solar power array. This project will provide 300 kW of solar PV which will contribute to the 200 MW goal of solar power generation by 2020.

The solar equipment to be installed at the Decker Creek Power Station meets Austin Energy program requirements. The modules, which are being purchased under a separate contract, are rated at 240 watts each for a total of 300 kW at Standard Test Conditions. Associated inverters that convert Direct Current power to Alternating Current are rated

at 96% efficiency. This energy improvement will save an estimated 515,800 kWh per year, enough to provide electricity to 52 average Austin homes for a year and produce an estimated 516 Renewable Energy Credits per year. These savings are equivalent to the planting of 11,254 trees or 563 acres of forest in Austin's parks or the removal of 576,265 vehicle miles or 72 cars from Austin roadways. This project will save 298 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO2), 126 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide (SO2), 634 pounds of Nitrogen Oxide (NOX), and 827 pounds of Carbon Monoxide (CO) from being emitted into the atmosphere.

The contract allows 180 calendar days for completion of this project. This project is located within zip code 78724 and is managed by the Public Works Department.

M/WBE Summary:

Bid documents were distributed to 10 general contractors. Bids were opened on September 29, 2011. Texas Solar Power Company submitted the lowest of 4 bids received:

Texas Solar Power Company, Austin, TX	\$947,497.80
Hill Country Ecopower, Austin, TX	\$996,999.00
Gridpoint Services, LLC Austin, TX	\$1,110,500.00

The contractor's choice of work methodology provides for 2 areas of subcontracting opportunities which are listed below. Project specific subgoals stated in the solicitation were 4.17 % MBE and 2.41 % WBE. Total participation estimated on base bid amount of \$947,497.80:

MBE TOTAL – PRIME	\$908,397.80	95.87 %
Texas Solar Power Company, Austin, TX	\$908,397.80	95.87 %
WBE TOTAL – SUBCONTRACTORS	\$39,100.00	4.13 %
(FW) Terra Ecoservices, LLC, Austin, TX (permit services)	\$5,500.00	0.58 %
(FW) Capitol Concrete Contractors, Inc. (concrete)	\$33,600.00	3.55 %

The Contractor submitted a MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and was approved by the Small & Minority Business Resources Department. Second and third low bidder information is provided.

SECOND BIDDER – NON M/WBE Hill Country Ecopower, Austin, TX \$996,999.00
NON M/WBE prime participation; 81.66; 4.21% MBE; 0.63% WBE; 13.50% Non M/WBE subcontractor participation.

THIRD BIDDER – GridPoint Services, LLC, Austin, TX \$1,110,500.00
58.00% NON M/WBE prime participation; 42.00% WBE