

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action (CMD)**

Austin City Council	Item ID:	37373	Agenda Number	13.
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Meeting Date:	November 6, 2014
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Department:	Contract Management
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., or one of the other qualified responders to RFQ Solicitation No. CLMP160, to provide engineering services for Austin Energy's Domain District Cooling Plant Cooling Tower Improvements Project, in an amount not to exceed \$700,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	Most qualified firm out of seven firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	John Routh, 512-505-7820; Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749; Elizabeth Godfrey-Weidig, 512-974-7141
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Boards and Commission Action:	October 20, 2014 – Approved by the Electric Utility Commission on a 6-0 Vote
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Related Items:	
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MBE / WBE:	This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 15.80% MBE and 15.80% WBE sub-consultant participation.
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Additional Backup Information

Austin Energy's On-Site Energy Services Division operates four district cooling plants in Downtown Austin, the Domain, and at Mueller, delivering chilled water through a system of underground pipes to 60 customers. The chilled water is used to cool and dehumidify customers' buildings, mainly large hotels, office buildings, condominiums, apartments, and in the case of Mueller, the Dell Children's Medical Center. The plants include: the Paul Robbins Plant and District Cooling Plant # 2 which serve the Downtown area; the Domain District Cooling Plant; and the Mueller Energy Center. A valuable feature of these district cooling plants includes thermal storage which allows Austin Energy to produce chilled water and ice during off electric peak hours, and then discharge it during peak hours when it is needed most.

The Domain District Cooling Plant is located at 3120 Kramer Lane, on the east side of the Domain development in an area populated with businesses, retail and housing. The plant operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was built in the 1980s as an integral part of the IBM campus. The City of Austin acquired the plant in 2001.

The objective of this project is the decommissioning of the existing 30-year old cooling towers, associated infrastructure and appurtenances, and the replacement of the old equipment with newer, more reliable and efficient cooling towers.

The selected firm will meet the project objective by:

- Providing engineering services for the decommissioning of existing cooling towers and associated infrastructure, and replacement with more efficient equipment.
- Developing options and making recommendations as to specific replacements, modifications and/or improvements to existing facilities to achieve desired objectives for constructing new cooling towers.
- Developing plans to ensure uninterrupted chilled water operations during the replacement of the towers and ensure that plant operations are not negatively impacted during any phase of the project.
- Developing renderings and other visual aids to communicate the project to Domain property owners and stakeholders.

This authorization provides funding for preliminary design, project design, bid/award, and construction and warranty phases of the cooling tower replacement project.

This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder selected by City Council. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the selected responder, negotiations will cease with that provider. Staff will return to Council so that another qualified responder may be selected, authorizing contract negotiations with a new provider.

Participation subgoals stated in the solicitation were 1.90% African American; 9.00% Hispanic; 4.90% Native/Asian; 15.80% WBE. The recommended firm provided a MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department. The alternate firm provided a MBE/WBE Compliance Plan that met the goals of the solicitation and was approved by the Small and Minority Business Resources Department.

Notification of issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the subject services was sent to 348 firms on July 16, 2014. The RFQ was obtained by 100 firms and nine submitted qualification statements. Two of the firms were certified MBE/WBE firms.

**RECOMMENDED FIRM:** JACOBS ENGINEERING GROUP, INC

**ALTERNATE FIRM:** BURNS & MCDONNELL ENGINEERING

Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. is located in Austin, TX.  
Burns & McDonnell Engineering is located in Fort Worth, TX.