



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-2627, **Agenda Item #:** 9.

9/19/2019

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### **Posting Language**

Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with PLW Waterworks, LLC, for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Process Improvements - Rebid project in the amount of \$22,668,000 plus a \$2,266,800 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$24,934,800. Related to item #8.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9A (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 19.19% MBE and 1.39% WBE participation.]

### **Lead Department**

Capital Contracting Office

### **Managing Department(s)**

Public Works Department

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Capital Budget of Austin Water.

### **Purchasing Language:**

The only responsive bid received through a competitive Invitation for Bid solicitation.

### **For More Information:**

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or [AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov](mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov).

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, or the Project Manager, Erik Kunkel, P.E., 512-974-7027.

### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

August 14, 2019 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on Commissioner Castleberry's motion and Commissioner Michel's second on a 10-0-0-1 vote with Commissioner Parton absent.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (Walnut Creek WWTP) is permitted to treat and discharge an average daily flow of 75 million gallons per day (MGD) with a peak flow of 165 MGD. The plant currently averages between approximately 60 MGD with peaking flows in excess of 165 MGD during large rain events. The plant effluent is used for non-potable water on the plant site and supplies much of the City's growing Water Reclamation Initiative (WRI) program. The remainder is discharged into the Colorado River. The Walnut Creek WWTP has faced increased difficulty in maintaining a stable, reliable process in all secondary treatment trains due to aging equipment.

The work consists of process improvements including aeration basin and flocculation basin diffused air system

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improvements, junction box improvements, buried air piping leak repair, storm drains, as well as improvements identified by condition assessments including numerous valve and gate replacements, scum and sludge pumps, clarifier mechanisms, electrical and control components, basin crack and joint repairs, and other miscellaneous items.

This project was previously bid in June 2018 and only one bid was received. Staff agreed that some scope modifications could make the project more appealing to a wider group of prospective bidders. Staff decided to modify the documents and rebid the project. Some scope was removed entirely and some became alternate bid items, thus allowing bidders to provide a fixed cost for these specific pieces of work. During the rebid advertisement period staff received comments from bidders and, again, modified the documents by extending the contract duration, moving the sludge removal scope to an allowance, and extending the bid due date by one month. Ultimately, one bid was received. Staff reached out to contractors who attended the mandatory pre-bid to determine their reasons for ultimately choosing not to submit a bid. The Contractors responded stating that it was a matter of work capacity. All stated they were busy with other projects and did not have the resources to commit to this project without over extending themselves.

This contract will include award of two alternate bid items to provide for aeration rehabilitation and replacement of additional valves and gate operators in all treatment trains. An alternate bid is a specified item of the construction work that is priced separately and may be awarded as part of the contract if the bids come within the specified budget.

This item includes three allowances. The allowance of \$300,000 will be used to address aeration grid repairs in all basins. The allowance of \$405,000 will be used to address repairs of buried air piping within the site. The allowance of \$600,000 will be used to address sludge removal. An allowance is an amount that is specified and included in the construction contract or specifications for a certain item(s) of work whose details are not yet determined at the time of bidding.

The work will occur entirely within a non-public area of the Plant, therefore construction activities will not affect the traveling public.

Due to the potential for unknown conditions when working in an operating wastewater treatment facility, a 10% contingency in funding has been included to allow for the expeditious processing of any change orders. A contingency is an additional amount of money added to the construction budget to cover any unforeseen construction costs associated with the project.

The contract allows 730 calendar days for completion of this project. This project is located within zip code 78724 (District 1).

PLW Waterworks, LLC is located in Houston, Texas.

Information on this solicitation is available through the City's Austin Finance Online website. Link: [Solicitation Documents. <https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account\\_services/solicitation/solicitation\\_details.cfm?sid=126711>](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=126711)