



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 19-3831, **Agenda Item #:** 14.

1/23/2020

### **Posting Language**

Authorize award and execution of a construction contract with Matous Construction, Ltd., for the Ullrich Water Treatment Plant Lime Feed Loop project in the amount of \$11,474,000 plus a \$1,147,400 contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$12,621,400.

[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 24.16% MBE and 5.68% WBE participation.]

### **Lead Department**

Capital Contracting Office

### **Managing Department**

Public Works Department

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget of the Austin Water.

### **Purchasing Language:**

Only 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, Garrett Cox, 512-974-9423, or the Project Manager, Nick Sybille, 512-974-3566.

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

January 8, 2020 - Recommended by the Water and Waste Water Commission on a 7-0-1-3 vote with Commissioner Penn recusing and Commissioner Parton off the dais. Commissioners Schmitt and Lee were absent.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

The Ullrich Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Lime Feed Loop system softens and helps coagulate the source water taken from Lake Austin. The treatment process cannot occur without it. The lime system at the Ullrich WTP consists of five lime feed systems which include powdered lime storage silos, lime slurry slakers, grit removal systems, slurry aging tanks, and lime slurry feed pumps. The Ullrich Lime Feed System processes lime powder that contains 10% to 15% volume of abrasive minerals called "grit", which wear on lime system components and equipment. Grit classifiers, placed directly after the slakers, remove significant quantities of the grit from the slurry suspension, which helps protect the downstream equipment. The current grit classifier system is outdated and needs to be upgraded to allow for more efficient grit removal to protect equipment and

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pipings. The new Lime Feed Loop system will limit scaling in plant piping, remove more grit, and further automate the lime feed process.

The improvements being proposed include changing the lime slurry distribution system from pumping one way into a single up-flow clarifier (UFC) to using a constantly circulating lime slurry feed loop, which feeds all four UFCs at once. By keeping the lime slurry in constant motion, it doesn't settle out of suspension, scale, and require frequent cleaning. In addition, the loop system will carry lime slurry repeatedly through the grit classifier units, so that additional grit is removed on every pass. The Handcox Water Treatment Plant has been using a similar lime grit removal system to the one that is proposed for the Ullrich Water Treatment Plant with excellent results and minimal downtime. This improvement will allow for a safer, better controlled water treatment process, and will also increase the life expectancy of the equipment used to treat the raw water.

This item includes one allowance. The allowance of \$1,792,000 will be used to procure a proprietary lime grit removal system similar to the one used at the Handcox WTP. 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.

This project will occur in a continuously operating water plant. While there may be intermittent production interruptions during construction, the contract is written to minimize any impact to customer service. We currently do not expect any significant plant shutdowns that would impact customer service.

The city received only one bid on this project. A second prime contractor attended the mandatory pre-bid meeting. This second prime shared that they intended to submit a bid as a prime contractor; however, since they were the low bidder on another large City project at the time, they chose not to bid this project.

This project is critical for the reliability of the water treatment process for City of Austin residents. If this project is not approved, Ullrich operations personnel will be forced to continue to operate a water softening system that is outdated, inefficient, more labor intensive, and poses a significant health hazard due to the requirement to utilize chlorine solution to clean the lime slurry feed system.

Due to the potential for unknown conditions when working in an operating water 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 400 working days for completion of this project. This project is located within zip code 78746 (District 8).

Matous Construction, Ltd. is located in Belton, TX.

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=127851>](https://www.austintexas.gov/financeonline/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=127851).