



**Water & Wastewater Commission  
Review and Recommendation**

<b>Commission Meeting Date:</b>	August 21, 2020	<b>COA Strategic Direction:</b>	Safety, Health & Environment
<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	August 27, 2020		
<b>Department:</b>	Capital Contracting Office		
<b>Client:</b>	Helen Gerlach, Kevin Critendon		
<b>Agenda Item</b>			
Recommend approval to negotiate and execute a professional services agreement with HDR Engineering, Inc., (staff recommendation) or one of the other qualified responders for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP293 to provide Engineering Services for Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project and Program Management in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000.			
<b>Amount and Source of Funding</b>			
Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget of Austin Water.			
<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	Staff recommendation is the most qualified firm out of three firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.		
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	N/A		
<b>Boards and Commission Action:</b>	August 21, 2020 – To be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission.		
<b>MBE/WBE:</b>	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 20.00% MBE and 16.00% WBE participation		

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is a key component of the Water Forward Plan. The Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan is Austin's 100-year roadmap for a sustainable water future. The plan was developed using a holistic planning approach that balances multiple objectives including water reliability, social, environmental, and economic benefits. The Austin City Council adoption of the Water Forward Plan in November 2018 was the culmination of extensive work with the Austin community, a citizen Task Force, across multiple City departments, Boards and Commissions, and regional entities.

The Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project, as currently envisioned, will store treated drinking water from Austin's surface water treatment plants. ASR is a storage water supply strategy that is similar in concept to a savings account, where money can be saved and withdrawn when needed. In an ASR project, water is saved underground when available during wet times, and withdrawn for use during drought or emergency situations when other supplies are needed. Since the water in an ASR is stored underground in a naturally occurring aquifer, there are no losses due to evaporation. Storage strategies like ASR will help stretch Austin's existing surface water supplies through a locally controlled source of water, thereby improving our community's resiliency in droughts and other emergency situations such as floods and water quality upsets. The ASR Pilot and Program Management project is the first in a series of steps to develop an ASR project to help meet Austin's water needs.

Development of this ASR project is largely driven by drought needs identified in the Water Forward Plan. Water Forward projections show that when considering the effects of climate change and extreme drought, there may be significant needs above supplies currently available to Austin. Some of these needs can be met through the conservation, demand management, and reuse strategies included in Water Forward, but there is still a need for additional supply during drought or other emergency situations that ASR will help meet. To ensure that there is adequate time to complete an ASR project and store water by 2040, as included in the Water Forward Plan, study and piloting should begin now.

The recommended consultant will work with Austin Water to complete the following three phases:

- **Phase 1:** Develop an ASR program and perform desktop modeling and field testing to evaluate potential sites for piloting. A Carrizo-Wilcox ASR strategy was included in the Water Forward Plan, but through this phase other aquifers that may be closer to Austin will also be evaluated.
- **Phase 2:** Design, construct, and test an ASR pilot project.
- **Phase 3:** Act as owner's representative through any potential full-scale ASR project.

Throughout all phases, the consultant will work with Austin Water to engage the community and incorporate public feedback into the project.

Approval of this RCA will only include contracting authority and contingencies for Phase 1 services and will be the first in a series of Council actions needed to develop an ASR facility. Pending successful completion of Phase 1, Austin Water will ask Council to approve additional authorization with the same consultant for further phases of the project.

For Phase 1 of the project, there should be little impact to the public. Much of the work will be desktop modeling or bench tests performed in a laboratory. Field investigation in Phase 1 will likely be low-impact, and the consultant will acquire right-of-access agreements for any field location to be tested.

If Council does not approve this item, another selection process to bring a consultant on board will need to be conducted. Since an ASR project takes substantial time to complete, this could delay the implementation of the project and negatively affect the ability to store sufficient water in the ASR to meet identified drought needs in 2040. A delay in implementation of an ASR project could also impede Austin Water's ability to respond to other emergency situations, such as floods and water quality upsets.

This authorization provides for funding of the above listed services. This request allows for the development of an agreement with the qualified responder that Council selects. 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 Council may select another qualified responder and authorize contract negotiations with that provider.

**TOP RANKED FIRM:** HDR Engineering, Inc. is in Austin, TX

**SECOND RANKED FIRM:** INTERA, Inc. is in Austin, TX

Information on this solicitation is available through the City's Austin Finance Online website. Link: [Solicitation Documents](#).

**M/WBE Summary**

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

Public notice was given for this Request for Qualifications CLMP293 to provide professional services to assist with development of an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program, including development of a pilot-scale ASR project and owner’s representation during development of a full-scale ASR project, through the City’s Vendor Connection web portal. Three firms submitted qualifications statements and responses were opened on January 29, 2020. Of the three submittals received none of the firms submitting were certified MBE/WBE.

**TOP RANKED FIRM:** HDR Engineering, Inc. – Total Participation:

NON M/WBE TOTAL – PRIME		48.00%
HDR Engineering, Inc., Austin, TX		48.00%
MBE TOTAL – SUBCONSULTANTS		20.00%
African American Subtotal		2.00%
(FB) Adisa Public Relations, Austin, TX	(Communications – Public Relations Consulting)	2.00%
Hispanic Subtotal		9.00%
(MH) Garza EMC, LLC dba Garza EMC, Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering)	5.00%
(MH) Zamora, LLC, Buda, TX	(Surveying Services- not aerial or research)	4.00%
Native/Asian Subtotal		9.00%
(MA) CAS Consulting & Services Inc. dba CAS Consulting & Services, Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering; Water Supply; Treatment & Distribution/Engineer; Project Management Services; Permitting Services, Environmental)	9.00%
WBE TOTAL – SUBCONSULTANTS		16.00%
(FW) Amatererra Environmental, Inc., Austin, TX	(Permitting Services, Environmental)	2.00%
(FW) Holt Engineering, Inc., Austin, TX	(Geological Engineering)	0.50%
(FW) K Friese & Associates, Inc., Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering; Water Supply; Treatment & Distribution/Engineer; Project Management Services)	12.00%
(FW) Rifeline, LLC dba Rifeline, Austin, TX	(Communications – Public Relations Consulting)	15.00%
NON M/WBE TOTAL - SUBCONSULTANTS		16.00%
ASRus, LLC, Tampa, FL	(Geological Consulting and Study)	0.50%
Blair Wildlife Consulting, Kyle, TX	(Permitting Services, Environmental)	1.00%
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. dba Jacobs Engineering Group, Austin, TX	(Geological Engineering; Project Management Services)	14.00%
Sledgelaw Group, PLLC, Austin, TX	(Legal Services, Including Research Time, Travel Time)	0.50%

**SECOND RANKED FIRM:** INTERA Incorporated – Total Participation:

NON M/WBE TOTAL – PRIME		38.50%
INTERA Incorporated, Austin, TX		38.50%
MBE TOTAL – SUBCONSULTANTS		11.50%
African American Subtotal		2.00%
(FB) Adisa Public Relations, Austin, TX	(Communications – Public Relations Consulting)	2.00%
Hispanic Subtotal		9.00%
(MH) Crespo Consulting Services, Inc., Austin, TX	(Environmental Engineering; Drainage Engineering)	5.00%
(MH) Jose I. Guerra, Inc., Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering)	4.00%
Native/Asian Subtotal		2.50%
(MA) DHL Analytical, Inc., dba DHL Analytical, Round Rock, TX	(Laboratory and Field Testing Services)	0.50%
(MA) Encotech Engineering Consultants, Inc., Austin, TX	(Water Supply, Treatment, & Distribution Engineering)	2.00%
WBE TOTAL – SUBCONSULTANTS		21.20%
(FB) Adisa Public Relations, Austin, TX	(Communications – Public Relations Consulting)	3.00%
(FW) Baer Engineering & Environmental Consulting, Inc., Austin, TX	(Environmental Engineering; Geological Engineering)	5.80%
(FW) Balcones Geotechnical, LLC, Austin, TX	(Geotechnical – Soils)	1.00%
(FW) Hicks & Co Environmental/Archeological Consultants dba Hicks & Co, Austin, TX	(Environmental Engineering; Analytical Studies and Surveys)	1.00%
(FW) MWM DesignGroup, Inc., dba MWM DesignGroup Or Martinez, Wright And Mendez, Inc., Austin, TX	(Real Estate/Land Consulting; Survey; Civil Engineering)	4.00%
(FW) Smith Turrieta, PLLC dba Smith Turrieta Engineering, Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering)	1.00%
(FA) Unintech Consulting Engineers, Inc., Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering)	2.40%
(FW) Vickrey & Associates, Inc., Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering)	3.00%
NON M/WBE TOTAL - SUBCONSULTANTS		28.80%
Arcadis US, Inc., Austin, TX	(Civil Engineering; Water Supply, Treatment & Distribution Engineering; Communications: PR)	15.00%
ASR Systems, LLC, Gainesville, FL	(Civil Engineering; Water Supply, Treatment & Distribution Engineering; Geological Engineering)	11.80%
Core Laboratories, LP, Houston, TX	(Laboratory and Field Testing Services)	1.00%
F.M. Blumberg Consulting, LLC, Seguin, TX	(Water Supply, Treatment & Distribution Engineering)	1.00%

Capital Contracting Office  
Evaluation of Consultant Qualifications

**COMPOSITE  
EVALUATION MATRIX**

**Received: 29-Jan-20**

**Project: CLMP293 Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project and ASR Program Management**

**Project Manager: Helen Gerlach**

Firm (or Joint Venture)	Item 1	Item 2	Item 3a	Item 3b	Item 4		Item 5	Item 6	Item 7	Item 8	TOTAL POINTS	INTERVIEW POINTS	TOTAL POINTS WITH INTERVIEWS	RANK	
	[Yes or No]	[Yes or No]	[10]	[20]	[20]		[15]	[15]	[10]	[10]					
	MBE/WBE Procurement Program	Turned in all Required Documents	Team's Structure	Team's Approach	Project Manager and Project Principal Experience	PMgr [15]	PPrinc. [5]	Prime Firm's Comparable Project Experience	Major Scopes of Work Comparable Project Experience	Team's Experience with Austin Issues	COA Experience with Prime				
HDR Engineering, Inc.	Y	Y	7.80	16.30	12.10	4.26	12.80	13.94	9.18	8.97	85.35	12.45	97.80	1	
INTERA, Inc.	Y	Y	8.70	16.70	12.50	4.06	12.50	13.05	8.40	8.33	84.24	13.05	97.29	2	
Black & Veatch Corporation	Y	Y	7.70	16.40	11.04	4.32	10.80	13.42	8.28	8.33	80.29	0.00	80.29	3	