



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-2186, **Agenda Item #:** 36.

6/10/2021

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a multi-term contract with SePRO Corporation, to provide sediment and water quality testing and management and treatment of toxic algae, for up to five years for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,484,000.

(Note: This procurement was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program. For the goods and services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established).

Lead Department

Purchasing Office.

Client Department(s)

Watershed Protection Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$296,800 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

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>> or to Al Drayton, at 512-974-2298 or alfonso.drayton@austintexas.gov <<mailto:Name@austintexas.gov>>.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide for services including deployment, testing and analysis of chemical treatments as components of a long-term strategy for the prevention of harmful algal blooms. The contract would establish a new collaboration for conducting additional studies and research into the efficacy of globally applied methods within the Austin reservoirs to mitigate and potentially prevent toxic algal proliferations.

In 2019, there were several dog illnesses and deaths in Lady Bird Lake as a result of exposure to toxic

cyanobacteria. Monitoring and outreach efforts were developed during winter 2019 and initiated in 2020 and are believed to have prevented any additional canine or human illness, despite the prolonged presence of toxic cyanobacterial mats. Given the continued proliferation of toxic blooms, it has now become imperative to test and determine effective treatment and mitigation options to ensure the reservoir remains useable to the community. From the data gathered during the 2020 monitoring period, an experimental management approach has been developed for field implementation in 2021 to determine efficacy in reducing the extent and toxicity of cyanobacterial mats around Red Bud Isle in Lady Bird Lake. Results from this project will guide mitigation strategies to further reduce risks associated with toxic cyanobacteria.

Without this contract, the recreationally important reservoir, Lady Bird Lake, will likely continue to suffer unchecked toxic blooms of algae, putting the beneficial uses of the reservoir at risk as the threat to human and animal health persists and possibly expands.

Implementation and a successful outcome from this pilot project would allow for wider application and adoption of the management approach toward making Lady Bird Lake a lower risk for human and pet toxin exposure.

Contract Detail:

<u>Contract Term</u>	<u>Length of Term</u>	<u>Contract Authorization</u>
Initial Term	1 yr.	\$ 296,800
Optional Extension 1	1 yr.	\$ 296,800
Optional Extension 2	1 yr.	\$ 296,800
Optional Extension 3	1 yr.	\$ 296,800
Optional Extension 4	1 yr.	\$ 296,800
TOTAL	5 yrs.	\$1,484,000

Note: Contract Authorization amounts are based on the City's estimated annual usage.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment; Safety.