



Recommendation for Action

File #: 22-2395, **Agenda Item #:** 37.

7/28/2022

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., for engineering services for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion to 100 million gallons per day project in the amount of \$45,000,000 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$60,000,000.

[Note: This amendment will be awarded in compliance with City Code 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). Current participation to date is 15.62% MBE and 15.83% WBE.]

Lead Department

Financial Services Department

Managing Department

Public Works Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Water.

Purchasing Language:

Original contract was awarded through a qualifications-based selection process.

Prior Council Action:

July 29, 2020 - Council approved a professional services agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion to 100 million gallons per day in an amount not to exceed \$15,000,000.

For More Information:

Inquiries regarding project specifics should be directed to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Rick Wilson, 512-974-7261, or the Project Manager, Erik Kunkel 512-974-7027.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

To be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission on July 20, 2022.

July 15, 2020 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Penn and Ho recusing and Commissioner Parton absent.

Additional Backup Information:

The Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is permitted to treat and discharge an average daily flow of 75 million gallons per day (MGD) and a two-hour peak flow of 165 MGD. The treated plant effluent discharges into Segment No. 1428 of the Colorado River Basin. A portion of the plant's effluent is used for non-potable water on the plant site and supplies much of the City's growing Reclaimed Water Program. The Texas Commission

on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulates the quality of effluent discharged into the Colorado River and the quality of reclaimed water.

This project will expand the plant to treat and discharge an annual average daily flow of 100 MGD and a two-hour peak flow of 300 MGD. The expansion is needed based on projected future flows of wastewater into the plant, in accordance with TCEQ regulations and the requirements of the Texas Administrative Code. The project will implement additional treatment processes in the existing facilities to meet more stringent effluent quality limits issued by TCEQ. It is imperative that this project is designed and constructed before treatment demand flows exceed the current plant capacity.

The Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant provides high-quality wastewater treatment for a large portion of Austin and is a critical element of the city's basic utility infrastructure. The plant is located within the East Austin community and Austin Water is dedicated to continuing to address potential community impacts as we work to improve this facility, meet stringent environmental standards, and serve the growing needs of our city.

During the preliminary engineering phase, Austin Water engaged neighbors and interested residents to make them aware of the project and to seek their input on possible concerns and community enhancements that could result from the project. Staff used a variety of community outreach strategies, including outreach to community groups, social media, online resources, and neighborhood meetings. During the design phase, Austin Water will provide timely updates throughout the design process to continue community engagement.

Although this construction project will take place within the existing boundary of the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, anticipated public impacts may include:

- Increase of construction traffic on FM 969 (starting in or after 2024).
- Possible traffic detours on FM 969 near Johnny Morris Rd. (starting in or after 2024).

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Improved quality of treated effluent to the Colorado River, upon completion of the project (starting around 2028).
- Increased available wastewater treatment capacity for Austin residents (starting around 2028) meeting growth needs in our community for the planning horizon.
- Increased availability of reclaimed water (starting around 2028) to serve existing and future reclaimed water customers.
- Implementation of additional measures to address aesthetics, such as odor and noise control.

This request is for additional authority for the continuation of the project through the design phase. It is important for this project to move forward because of projected future capacity needs and TCEQ requirements to initiate the expansion. If the project is not approved or is delayed, the plant may not be able to reliably accept and treat the increased wastewater flows. Austin Water intends to return to City Council to request additional authorization for bidding phase and construction and warranty phase services.

This amendment has been approved by the City's Change Control Committee. The Change Control Committee was established to comply with Council Resolution No. 20120126-048, which required the establishment of consistent criteria and process to evaluate contractual changes for all contracts administered by the Capital Contracting Office. The Change Control Committee is comprised of management-level subject matter experts.

AECOM Technical Services, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.