



## Recommendation for Action

**File #: 22-3478, Agenda Item #: 17.**

**12/1/2022**

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with K. Friese & Associates, Inc. for design and bid phase engineering services for the South Area and Northwest Area Lift Station Improvements project in the amount of \$550,395, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,197,395.

[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 16.72% MBE and 67.80% WBE].

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Managing Department**

Austin Water.

### **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:**

November 1, 2018 - Council approved a professional services agreement with CDM Smith, Inc. and K. Friese & Associates, Inc. for the South Area and Northwest Area Lift Station Improvements, respectively

July 29, 2021 - Council approved a professional services agreement amendment with K. Friese & Associates, Inc. for the South Area and Northwest Area Lift Station Improvements.

### **For More Information:**

Direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Rick Wilson, 512-974-7261, or the Project Manager, Cara Lynk at 512- 974-5653.

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

October 10, 2018 - Reviewed by Water and Wastewater Commission on a vote of 4-0 with Commissioners Penn and Michel recused. Vice Chair Lee and Commissioners Castleberry, Turrieta, Bell, and Schmitt were absent

July 14, 2021 - Recommended by Water and Wastewater Commission on a vote of 8-0 with Commissioner Williams absent and two vacancies.

November 9, 2022 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 6-0 vote with one recusing, two absences, and two vacancies.

**Additional Backup Information:**

The Four Points Center Lift Station is part of the Austin Water wastewater collection system consisting of more than 130 lift stations, 78 miles of force mains, and 2,900 miles of gravity lines. Lift stations convey wastewater from lower to higher elevation when the use of gravity conveyance will result in excessive excavation depths and high gravity line construction costs.

The Four Points Center Lift Station is one of several Northwest Area Lift Stations that require engineering services for improvements. The lift station requires several upgrades to accommodate an increase in wastewater flows to the station due to population growth in the area. The upgrades will also increase the lift station's capability to receive and pump solids from the Handcox Water Treatment Plant when needed, which improves system operational resiliency. Additional improvements include new pumping controls, structural repairs, a permanently installed generator for back-up power, and site access improvements.

The original Council authorization was granted November 1, 2018. The \$3.5 million authorization was based on the best estimate of the cost for professional engineering services to plan, design and bid the necessary infrastructure improvements at nine lift stations located throughout Northwest Austin.

In the four years since the original authorization, professional engineering labor costs have increased considerably, resulting from the market volatility associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, imbalance in labor supply and demand, rising gas and energy prices, as well as the annual inflation rate (currently more than 8%). This request for authorization is also necessary to accommodate a larger lift station site of the infrastructure improvements needed at the Four Points Center Lift Station, including additional easement.

An amendment to the professional services agreement is required to move the project forward into design and bid phases. This amendment will authorize design and bid phase services to be provided by the engineering consultant.

Delay or deferral of this contract will place an undue burden on City operations crews, will have a negative effect on infrastructure stability, and increase maintenance work.

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 Financial Services Department-Capital Contracting. The Change Control Committee is comprised of management-level subject matter experts.

This project is located within zip code 78726 (District 10).

K. Friese & Associates, Inc. is located in Austin, Texas.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Health and Environment.