



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 23-1771, **Agenda Item #:** 19.

5/18/2023

### **Posting Language**

Authorize negotiation and execution of two contracts for engineering services for the Southwest Parkway Transmission Main and Elevated Reservoir and the South I-35 Elevated Reservoir projects with Freese and Nichols, Inc. and Tetra Tech, Inc., or other qualified respondents, in an amount not to exceed \$14,000,000, divided between the contractors.

[Note: These contracts 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 16.00% MBE and 4.00% WBE participation].

### **Lead Department**

Financial Services Department.

### **Managing Department**

Transportation and Public Works Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Water.

### **Purchasing Language:**

The Financial Services Department issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQS) 6100 CLMP343 for these services. The solicitation was issued on December 5, 2022, and closed on January 17, 2023. Of the five firms evaluated, Staff recommended the most qualified firm and the second most qualified firm evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process. A complete solicitation package, including a tabulation of the bids received, is available for viewing on the City's Financial Services website, Austin Finance Online. Link:

[Solicitation Documents](#)

[<https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account\\_services/solicitation/solicitation\\_details.cfm?sid=138122>](https://financeonline.austintexas.gov/afo/account_services/solicitation/solicitation_details.cfm?sid=138122).

### **For More Information:**

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: [FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov)

[<mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov>](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2500. Respondents to the solicitation and their Agents should direct all questions to the Authorized Contact Person identified in the solicitation.

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

May 10, 2023 - To be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

### **Additional Backup Information:**

Southwest Parkway Transmission Main and Elevated Reservoir

The Southwest B Pressure Zone has one reservoir serving approximately 7,000 customers. An additional reservoir and associated transmission main will provide storage redundancy and resiliency in the pressure zone. The proposed transmission main will also provide redundancy in the event of maintenance or

emergencies that require another segment to be taken offline.

This project will increase Austin's water-supply resiliency. The reservoir and transmission main will provide safe and reliable service to customers in the northern section of the Southwest B Pressure Zone which is currently only served by a single elevated reservoir. Both the reservoir and the transmission main are part of the Strategic Long-Range Water System Plan.

The Southwest Parkway Transmission Main and Elevated Reservoir are located in District 8.

#### South I-35 Elevated Reservoir

The South Pressure Zone currently has limited storage to serve increased growth in south and southeast Austin. An elevated storage tank is needed to improve levels of service and reliability for existing and future customers. The additional storage capacity will improve pumping efficiency and surge protection for the Pilot Knob Pump Station, maintain the typical South Pressure Zone pressure plane, and provide additional storage capacity for population growth in south and southeast Austin.

The proposed reservoir and foundational piping for a future pump station will be located in the South Zone at one of two tracts owned by the City. An assessment is required to determine which site is more feasible for development and future expansion of pumping capacity. This project will increase Austin's water-supply resiliency. The reservoir will support existing and future development in this high-growth area.

The South I-35 Elevated Reservoir is located in District 5.

Construction of the elevated reservoirs should have limited public impact because they will be constructed on City properties. Construction of the transmission main may require lane closures or traffic detours depending on construction methods, but these can be mitigated by design. Water service outages may be necessary for all projects but will be planned to minimize the outage and give customers notice and time to prepare.

Delay or deferral of these contracts will impact Austin Water's ability to provide water distribution to new development in the service area, will have a negative effect on infrastructure resilience and stability, and increase operational risk.

This authorization provides for funding of the above-listed services. This request allows for the development of an agreement with the two most-qualified responders that Council awards. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with the awarded respondents, negotiations will cease with those providers. Staff will then return to Council so that Council may award other qualified responders and authorize contract negotiations with those providers.