



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1768, **Agenda Item #:** 18.

6/1/2023

Posting Language

Authorize amendments to contracts for engineering services for the 2020 Stormwater Mapping and Modeling Rotation List with Halff Associates, Inc., Austin Modeling and Mapping Partners, HDR Engineering, Inc., AECOM Technical Services, Inc., and Scheibe Consulting, LLC, to increase the amount by \$3,500,000 for a revised total authorized amount not to exceed \$17,500,000, divided among the firms.

[Note: These proposed amendments will be awarded in compliance with City Code 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). Current participation to date is 0.00% MBE and 19.67% WBE].

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Managing Department

Financial Services Department.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

Purchasing Language:

Contract Amendments.

Prior Council Action:

March 26, 2020 - Council approved initial contract, item 11, on an 11-0 vote.

For More Information:

Direct questions regarding this Recommendation for Council Action to the Financial Services Department - Central Procurement at: FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2500.

Additional Backup Information:

As a standard business practice, the City routinely engages the services of professional engineering firms to perform analysis, design, and support services associated with construction or improvement of City capital assets. Rotation List contracting allows the City to have a group of qualified consultants available to perform a specific type of recurring work in a timely manner to meet the project and operational needs of the City.

The publication of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Atlas 14, Volume 11 in September 2018 has significantly changed the understanding of flood risk in the Austin area. The City's one percent annual chance, 24-hour rainfall has increased from 10.2 to almost 13 inches in some areas. In response to this revised understanding of rainfall, the City, in cooperation with Travis County and in coordination with other communities, initiated three related processes to incorporate this new data into its floodplain regulations. In

support of the updates for the City's floodplain regulations and drainage criteria associated with Atlas 14, this rotation list is being used to perform a citywide update of the regulatory floodplain models and maps. Similar studies are also being done by Williamson County, Hays County, and portions of Travis County outside of City jurisdiction.

The engineering services needed for the Watershed Protection Department's (WPD) Floodplain Modeling and Mapping mission are highly specialized. The firms that were selected and approved by Council on March 26, 2020, have the personnel, technical knowledge, and experience to provide the surveying, modeling, floodplain mapping, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordination required for the update of the City's floodplains.

Floodplain study project assignments have been made to all five firms on the rotation list, and studies are under way. These assignments encompassed all the areas to be restudied as part of the Atlas 14 update outside of the Onion Creek watershed, which is being studied under the 2015 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping rotation list. Unfortunately, the costs for these studies exceeded the estimates used to establish the initial 2020 rotation list contract authorization amounts. This resulted in the need to split the projects and use the original authorization to complete the floodplain modeling tasks for the assigned studies and request additional authorization to cover the remaining floodplain mapping tasks. The increased costs resulted from a combination of factors included the onset of the pandemic, recent inflation, the continued rapid pace of development in the Austin area, and the labor issues associated with these factors.

Approval of the additional authorization request will provide WPD with the resources needed to complete the updated modeling and mapping, accurately reflecting the new understanding of flood risk based on the Atlas 14 data. If the additional authorization is not approved, WPD will not have the resources needed to complete the update of the City's floodplains in a timely fashion and could place the burden of floodplain updates on the development community. It would also jeopardize the approximately \$5,600,000 in grant funding from FEMA and Texas Water Development Board that has been received for the projects.

These proposed amendments were 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.