



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2844, Agenda Item #: 7.

10/5/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for water management strategy assessment and vulnerability evaluation consultant services with The RAND Corporation, for a term of two years in an amount not to exceed \$271,000.

[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 services required for this procurement, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established].

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Client Department(s)

Austin Water.

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of Austin Water.

Purchasing Language:

Professional Service.

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](mailto:FSDCentralProcurementRCAs@austintexas.gov).

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

September 13, 2023 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 6-0 vote with one absence and four vacancies.

Additional Backup Information:

The contract will provide consultant services to conduct a water management strategy assessment and vulnerability evaluation for the 2024 update to the Water Forward Plan, using a new approach. The Water Forward Plan requires analysis of water management strategies to evaluate high-performing combinations of supply, reuse, and conservation strategies against scenarios of future climate change, water demand, and water supply availability, incorporating conditions of deep uncertainty. The vulnerability evaluation will identify water supply system stressors and will direct development of the Water Forward adaptive management plan to provide a roadmap to help guide Austin Water's implementation of strategies to adapt to changing conditions in an uncertain climate future. This process is a novel, data-driven approach to water resources planning that requires expert guidance and unique experience in incorporating uncertainty into long-range water resources

planning.

The RAND Corporation (RAND) has extensive knowledge of water resource planning under deep uncertainty. They are the industry leader in developing analysis tools and processes to assist water resource planners in incorporating deep uncertainty. RAND has a documented and proven approach for incorporating risks from uncertainty into water resources planning and years of experience with multiple projects for utilities and municipalities.

This is a new contract. Failure to secure this contract could result in significant delays to the Water Forward timeline and could potentially affect coordination with the Texas Water Development Board regional water planning process and impact the utility's ability to potentially secure State funding for implementation of water strategies, as appropriate.