

Posting Language

Recommend approval to execute a contract for underwater diving inspections with Specialty Offshore, Inc., for a term of five years in an amount not to exceed \$740,000.

MBE/WBE

This solicitation was reviewed for subcontracting opportunities in accordance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). For the services required for this solicitation, there were no subcontracting opportunities; therefore, no subcontracting goals were established.

Lead Department

Austin Water

Client Department

Austin Water Assistant Interim Director of Operations, Mercedes Garcia-Lopez

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$111,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Operating Budget of Austin Water. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language

The Financial Services Department issued an Invitation for Bids (IFB) 2200 AMA1090 for these services. The solicitation was issued on March 27, 2023, and closed on April 20, 2023. Of the six offers received, the recommended contractor submitted the lowest responsive offer. 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 Document](#).

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action

January 17, 2024 - To be reviewed by the Water & Wastewater Commission.

Additional Backup Information

The contract will provide the City with underwater diving services inspections at water treatment facilities and the Longhorn Dam. The diving services are to inspect each facility to determine the general condition of the structures and assess the level of zebra mussel infestation, remove zebra mussels as needed, open and close intake structures, and complete minor repairs. The ability to open and close intake structures is important to respond to changes in water quality and to control the water level. The zebra mussels can reduce or eliminate a plant's ability to treat water and cause significant equipment damage if they are not removed.

The contract will replace a contract which expired December 31, 2023. The requested authorization amounts for the contract were determined using historical spending and departmental estimates, including extending underwater diving service inspections to multiple sites due to the recent infestation of zebra mussels in Lake Travis, Lake Austin, and the Longhorn Dam.

If a contract is not secured, the City would be forced to procure these services on an as-needed basis which could potentially result in higher prices and lead to equipment failures due to an infestation of zebra mussels.

PRICE ANALYSIS

- a) Solicitations: 24 notices were sent, including 5 MBE and 0 WBE firms with no M/WBE firms responding.
- b) Cost Analysis: The proposed contract pricing is 30.71% less than the previous contract with one BLS metric showing a 4.78% increase in the market.