



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-4621, **Agenda Item #:** 65.

5/30/2024

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services contract for engineering services for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion to 100 Million Gallons Per Day project with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., to increase the amount by \$71,000,000 for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$131,000,000.

[Note: This contract was awarded in compliance with City Code 2-9A (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). Current participation to date is 14.32% MBE and 19.82% WBE].

Lead Department

Financial Services Department.

Managing Department

Capital Delivery Services.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Capital Budget of Austin Water.

Purchasing Language:

Contract Amendment.

Prior Council Action:

July 28, 2022 - Council approved an amendment to the professional services contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project.

July 29, 2020 - Council approved a professional service contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., for the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion project.

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.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 8, 2024 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Penn, Angoori, Musgrove and Tuñón Sion absent.

July 20, 2022 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission with a vote of 6-0 with Commissioner Penn recusing, and Commissioners Moriarty, Navarro and Turrieta absent and one vacancy.

July 15, 2020 - Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a vote of 7-0 with Commissioners Penn and Ho recusing and Commissioner Parton absent.

Additional Backup Information:

Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is permitted to treat and discharge an average daily flow of 75 million gallons per day (MGD) and a 2-hour peak flow of 165 MGD. A portion of the plant effluent is used for non-potable water at the plant site and to supply much of the City's growing Water Reclamation Initiative program. The remainder plant effluent is discharged into the Colorado River.

This project will expand the plant to treat and discharge an annual average daily flow of 100 MGD and a 2-hour peak flow of 300 MGD. The expansion is needed based on projected future flows of wastewater into the plant, in accordance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulations and the requirements of Texas Administrative Code. Additionally, the project will implement additional treatment processes in the existing facilities to meet more stringent effluent quality limits in the plant's discharge permit issued by TCEQ that go into effect with the expansion. Moving the project to the design phase will allow project completion to occur while flows are still within the capacity of the existing treatment plant.

The WWTP provides high-quality wastewater treatment for a large portion of the City of Austin and is a critical element of the overall community's basic utility infrastructure. The plant is located within the East Austin community and Austin Water is dedicated to continuing to be a good neighbor and address potential community impacts as we work to improve this facility to meet stringent environmental standards and to serve the growing needs of our city.

During the preliminary engineering phase, Austin Water engaged neighbors and interested residents to make them aware of the project and to seek their input on possible concerns and community enhancements that could result from the project. Staff uses a variety of community outreach strategies including outreach to community groups, social media, online resources, and neighborhood meetings. During the design phase, Austin Water will continue to provide timely updates to maintain community engagement.

An amendment to the professional services agreement is required to move the project forward into bid and construction phase. This amendment is for additional funding for AECOM, Inc., to provide professional services for the project. This project will be delivered using the Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMR) method. The amendment to the professional services contract includes additional services to support the CMR delivery method, construction phase services, providing construction oversight, submittal reviews, responding to contractor questions during construction, reviewing modifications, and preparing as-built drawings.

Although this construction project will take place within the existing boundary of the Walnut Creek WWTP, anticipated public impacts may include:

- Increase of construction traffic on FM 969
- Possible traffic detours on FM 969 near Johnny Morris Rd.

Anticipated benefits of the project include:

- Improved quality of treated effluent to the Colorado River, upon completion of the project
- Increased available wastewater treatment capacity for Austin residents meeting growth needs in our community for the planning horizon.
- Increased availability of reclaimed water to serve existing and future reclaimed water customers.
- Implementation of additional measures to address aesthetics, such as odor and noise control.

The project is critical to the improvement of the infrastructure stability of Austin's wastewater treatment system. A delay in approving this amendment could impact the Austin Water's capacity to make needed improvements and upgrades impacting the WWTP's ability to reliably accept and treat the increased wastewater flows and meet TCEQ requirements.