

# Agenda Report

December 8, 2003

**To:** City Council

**From:** City Manager

**Subject:** Authorization for the City Manager to Increase the Purchase Order with GeoSyntec Consultants for an Additional \$300,000 for Engineering Consulting Services Related to Perchlorate Groundwater Contamination

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to increase the purchase order with GeoSyntec Consultants (GeoSyntec) for an additional \$300,000 for engineering consulting services related to perchlorate groundwater contamination. Competitive Bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F), Contracts for professional or unique services

It is recommended that the City Council grant the proposed amendment an exemption from the competitive selection process, pursuant to Section 4.08.049(B), Contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

## **BACKGROUND**

Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) owns four groundwater extraction wells in the Monk Hill Basin, which is one of three sub-aquifers of the Raymond Groundwater Basin. The northwest region of the City lies over the Monk Hill Basin.

In early 1997, perchlorate was detected in groundwater in the Monk Hill Basin. Staff has been working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the party designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as the lead federal agency with the responsibility of mitigating groundwater and soil affected by previous activities at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

In October 2002, NASA submitted to PWP staff an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis report for review and comments. The report contained over 400 pages of scientific and engineering data, graphs, analyses, groundwater modeling and hydrogeology results, water quality data, and other numerous tables and graphs.

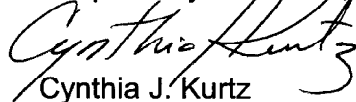
GeoSyntec was hired to assist staff in evaluating the situation, to discuss NASA's findings and recommendations, to strategize and provide support, to review and negotiate agreements, and to present and make recommendations. GeoSyntec has also attended state and federal agency meetings and continued to monitor and review NASA's repository of material held at Pasadena's Main Library. GeoSyntec is a water engineering, environmental, and hydrogeology consulting firm specializing in groundwater contamination concerns. Staff is satisfied with the professional level of services provided by GeoSyntec.

Staff will continue under the proposed work scope to require the expertise of GeoSyntec in resolving the City's perchlorate groundwater contamination problems. The level of future involvement by GeoSyntec will be significant because of the complexities in this remediation project, which includes uncertainties relating to state and federal regulatory issues, funding, treatment technology alternatives, a known time frame for closure, and NASA's cleanup involvement on an ongoing basis. Therefore, PWP staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to increase the existing purchase order with GeoSyntec by an additional \$300,000, for a total not to exceed \$374,999.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Sufficient funds are available in the FY 2004 Operating Budget for GeoSyntec's services through the end of this fiscal year (estimated at \$100,000) in budget account 8114-402-881000-0756-03-02348. The remaining contract expenses of \$200,000 will be requested during the FY 2005 Recommended Operating Budget process.

Respectfully submitted,



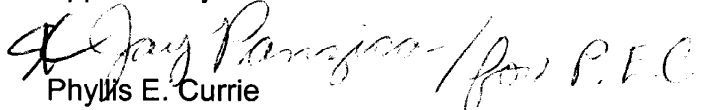
Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

Prepared by:



Gary Takara  
Civil Engineer  
Water and Power Department

Approved by:



Phyllis E. Currie  
General Manager  
Water and Power Department