

Agenda Report

April 22, 2002

To: City Council

From: City Manager

SUBJECT: Purchase of Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer for the Pasadena Water and Power Water Quality Laboratory

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council authorize the Purchasing Administrator to issue a purchase order to Varian Inc., in an amount not-to-exceed \$90,000 for the purchase of a Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) system. The proposed purchase is exempt from competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(H), contracts with other governmental entities or their contractors for labor, material, supplies or services.

It is also recommended that the City Council grant this contract a partial exemption (vendor outreach only) from the Affirmative Action in Contracting Ordinance pursuant to P.M.C. 4.09.060(C) contracts for which the City's best interests are served.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the Pasadena Water and Power Water Quality Laboratory has the equipment to perform analyses on lead, copper, total chrome, nitrate, fluoride, sulfate, chloride and perchlorates. Additionally, water samples are collected on a regular basis from all sources of supply, reservoirs and fifty locations throughout the distribution system. General mineral, physical analyses and bacteriological testing for the presence and absence of the coliform group of bacteria are also performed in the Department's State-Approved Water Quality Laboratory.

With the purchase of a GC/MS, the Water Quality Laboratory will have the capability to test for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs), Trihalomethanes (THMs) and several organic chemicals soon to be regulated by the State and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The number of VOC samples tested is approximately 832 per year including samples from the VOC Groundwater Treatment Plant and the VOC blending program. The number of THM samples tested per year is approximately 128. Presently, the VOC and THM analyses are sent to a State approved contract laboratory with an annual cost of about \$60,000.

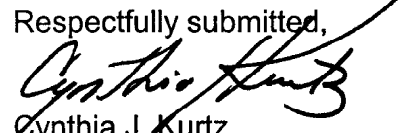
There will be no additional staff required to operate this equipment. The approximate total annual cost to operate and maintain this instrument is \$2,000 for parts and consumables. The following will also be accomplished with the purchase of this instrument:

1. Recover the City's investment on purchase price of the instrument within the first two years of operation;
2. Enhance the ability of PWP to provide a safe and high quality drinking water; and
3. Reduce the turnaround time of analytical results to one to two days as compared to seven working days from a contract laboratory. This will provide early detection of contamination problems and allow analyses to be performed as soon as samples are collected.

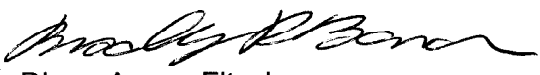
The State of California, Department of General Services, has established the California Multiple Awards Schedule (CMAS). Essentially, the CMAS are contracts which the state has awarded for its own needs, but which include provisions enabling local jurisdictions to order materials or services at the same cost. Varian Inc. was awarded such a contract for the provision of a GC/MS. By taking advantage of the CMAS pricing, the City will save approximately \$12,000 based on information obtained by staff.

FISCAL IMPACT

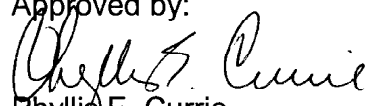
Funds for this instrument are available in the Water Division's Amended Operating Budget Account Number 8504-402-881000-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:


Diana Ayson Fitzsimmons
Water Quality Laboratory Chemist
Water and Power Department

Approved by:


Phyllis E. Currie
General Manager
Water and Power Department

