

# Agenda Report

September 20, 2004

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the City Manager or her designee to Amend the Term of Contract Number 14,061 with California Institute of Technology for the Treatment of Contaminated Groundwater in the Arroyo Seco

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager or her designee to amend the term of Contract Number 14,061 for a ninety-day extension.

## BACKGROUND

The City has four water wells (Monk Hill Wells) near the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The water from the Monk Hill Wells is contaminated with several Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) at concentrations exceeding the maximum permissible levels under California state drinking water regulations.

On February 1, 1990, the City of Pasadena (City) and Caltech entered into Contract Number 14,061, whereby it was agreed that Caltech would investigate the contamination problem and in the meantime, pay for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a VOC treatment facility to restore pumping operations in the Monk Hill Basin.

On February 28, 1990, the City contracted with Calgon Carbon Corporation for the construction, leasing, and maintenance of a treatment facility to remove VOCs, the cost of which is paid for by Caltech, under Contract Number 14,061.

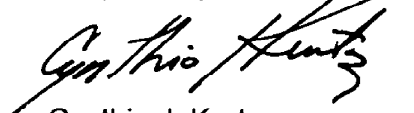
In 1993, the City and Caltech reevaluated the extent of the contamination in the Arroyo Seco. Because Caltech became involved in the Superfund cleanup process, the City and Caltech agreed to extend the term of the contract five more times for a total of eleven years. The current term of Contract Number 14,061 will expire on September 30, 2004.

In 1997, the Monk Hill Wells were also contaminated with perchlorate; however, only one well was shut off. On January 2002, the Action Level was revised downward and the remaining Monk Hill Wells and the VOC treatment plant were shut off. To date, the wells and the treatment plant remain off. Although the treatment plant is not currently in operation, the City is still under contract to pay Calgon Carbon Corporation for the monthly lease of the plant. Staff recommends a ninety-day extension in order for the City to continue to recover from Caltech this monthly lease payment for the treatment plant. The ninety-day extension is necessary while negotiations with NASA and Caltech for a comprehensive agreement associated with the removal of VOCs and perchlorate from contaminated groundwater in City wells in the Arroyo Seco are continuing.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There will be no fiscal impact since there is minimal staff time involved for the ninety-day extension.

Respectfully submitted,



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