

Agenda Report

May 16, 2011

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Water and Power Department
SUBJECT: Purchase of Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the action proposed herein is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the "Environmental Guidelines and Procedures for the City of Pasadena" as a Class 1 exemption (Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines), an action by a regulatory agency to upgrade operations at existing facilities with no expansion of the use;
2. Authorize the City Manager to issue a purchase order to Quantum Analytics in an amount not to exceed \$105,000 for the purchase of a Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) system;
3. Grant an exemption from competitive bidding pursuant to City Charter Section (H), contracts with other governmental entities or their contractors for labor, material, supplies or services; and
4. Find the proposed contract an exemption from the competitive selection process of the Competitive Bidding and Purchasing Ordinance pursuant to Pasadena Municipal Code Section 4.08.049 (B), contracts for which the City's best interest are served.

BACKGROUND:

Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) has four water wells in the north-western portion of the City called Monk Hill. The water from these wells is contaminated with several volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) at concentrations which exceed the permissible levels under State and Federal drinking water regulations. PWP recently completed construction of a treatment system for the Monk Hill wells (The Monk Hill Treatment Plant (MHTP)). The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) granted PWP a permit to operate the MHTP on March 17, 2011.

The conditions of the permit require an extensive monitoring program to ensure that the public is not exposed to the VOCs found in these wells. PWP has a state-certified water quality laboratory which can currently analyze water samples for VOCs. However, the number of samples required by the CDPH permit far exceed the current capacity of the laboratory equipment. In order to comply with the permit requirements, PWP must expand its ability to analyze samples for VOCs.

PWP has the option, to perform these tests in its own laboratory or have them analyzed by a contract laboratory. The permit will require an additional 50-60 VOC samples to be collected weekly, which will more than triple the amount of VOC samples analyzed by PWP. VOCs are analyzed on an instrument called a Gas-Chromatograph – Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) and PWP's laboratory currently has one which is over 10 years old. A new GC/MS will cost \$105,000 while having a contract laboratory analyze the samples will cost \$125 per sample. At 50 samples per week, the weekly cost for a contract laboratory would be \$6,250. It would thus only take 17 weeks for PWP to recover the costs of this unit.

On July 26, 2007, the State of California, in compliance with California's Multiple Award Schedule Program (CMAS), which is comparable to the City of Pasadena's Competitive Bid Process, awarded contract #3-07-66-0008A to Quantum Analytics for the purchase of analytical instruments which include the GC/MS. The contract term runs through August 30, 2011. This contract is available for use by State of California agencies and any city, county, district or other local governmental body or corporation empowered to expend public funds. Purchasing the GC/MS under this contract will result in \$12,995 savings based on information obtained by staff.

COUNCIL POLICY

The proposed purchase is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Plan to ensure public safety by providing safe and high quality water.

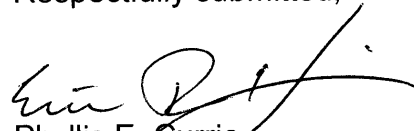
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

This purchase is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the "Environmental Guidelines and Procedures for the City of Pasadena" as a Class 1 exemption (Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines), an action by a regulatory agency to upgrade operations at existing facilities with no expansion of the use.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds in the amount of \$105,000 are available in this fiscal year for Capital Improvement Project 1041 Water Quality Treatment Plant, Project Number 02999.

Respectfully submitted,



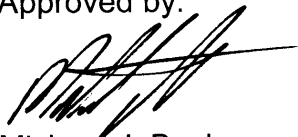
Phyllis E. Currie
General Manager
Water and Power Department

Prepared by:



for Diana Ayson-Fitzsimmons
Principal Chemist

Approved by:



Michael J. Beck
City Manager

**Disclosure Pursuant to the
City of Pasadena Taxpayer Protection Amendment
Pasadena City Charter, Article XVII**

Contractor/Organization hereby discloses its trustees, directors, partners, officers, and those with more than 10% equity, participation, or revenue interest in Contractor/Organization, as follows:

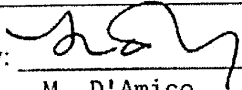
(If printing, please print legibly. Use additional sheets as necessary.)

1. Contractor/Organization Name: Q A GROUP LLC dba Quantum Analytics
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2. Type of Entity: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-government <input type="checkbox"/> nonprofit 501(c)(3), (4), or (6)

3. Name(s) of trustees, directors, partners, officers of Contractor/Organization:
Gerard Farren / CEO
Neil Kranz / CFO
Michael D'Amico / VP

4. Names of those with more than a 10% equity, participation or revenue interest in Contractor/Organization:
Gerard Farren / President

Prepared by: 
 M. D'Amico
Title: Vice President
Phone: 650-312-0350
Date: March 31, 2011