



Agenda Report

February 5, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Water and Power Department

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH G&E ENGINEERING SYSTEMS, INC. TO PROVIDE AN ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT OF THE AZUSA CONDUIT FOR THE PASADENA WATER AND POWER DEPARTMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the proposed contract is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Existing Facilities; and
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract, as the result of a competitive selection process, as specified by Section 4.08.047 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, with G&E Engineering Systems, Inc. ("G&E") for Azusa Conduit Assessment in an amount not to exceed \$136,585 which includes the base contract amount of \$118,771 and a contingency of \$17,814 to provide for any necessary change orders, subject to approval of General Manager of the Pasadena Water and Power Department.

BACKGROUND:

Pasadena Water and Power ("PWP") owns and operates the Azusa Hydro Electric Plant ("Plant") as well as the Azusa Conduit ("Conduit") that conveys water from the San Gabriel and Morris Dams to the Plant to generate renewable electricity. The Conduit consists of approximately 5.5 miles of tunnels and pipelines in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, north of the City of Azusa. During normal operation, the water used by the Plant to generate electricity is discharged to an open canal which is then delivered to various owners of water rights collectively known as the San Gabriel River Water Committee ("SGRWC"). PWP does not hold the title to the water other than the rights to convey water for the purpose of generating electricity.

On March 14, 2017, PWP staff was informed that water with debris originating from Tunnels 23 and 24 was running down the mountainside onto the Old San Gabriel Canyon Road, a dirt road. At the time, water flow through the conduit was being gradually increased after an extended dry period and it is believed that this additional water caused a failure between Tunnels 23 and 24. PWP staff made a quick visual reconnaissance of the area and suspected that a failure of the conduit floor had occurred. The floor was built in the 1890's with unreinforced masonry.

In order to properly repair the conduit, it is necessary to conduct an engineering assessment of the condition of the conduit and failure. It is also necessary to assess the surrounding area to determine if the failure was possibly caused by either the conduit being undermined or instability of the hillside on which the conduit is situated. An assessment would also help PWP understand the possible repair options as well as the permitting requirements for each solution.

A Request for Proposals ("RFP") to conduct an engineering assessment was posted on PlanetBids on October 25, 2017. Six companies attended the pre-proposal conference and two responded to the City's RFP. PWP staff independently evaluated the two proposals based on the criteria stated in the RFP. The evaluation summary can be found in attachment A.

G&E Engineering Systems Inc. received the highest score and is recommended for the contract award.

G&E performed work PWP in 2012 for engineering services with a contract value of \$350,000.

The requested amount of \$136,585 is based on the proposal price \$118,771 plus approximately 15% contingency for any necessary change orders.

The provisions of SBX7 are not applicable to this contract award.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

The proposed contract supports the City Council strategic goal to maintain a diverse portfolio of resources to ensure adequate, economical and reliable water and power supply.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1: Existing Facilities). The Class 1 categorical exemption covers the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures or facilities, involving negligible or no expansion of use. Section 15301 specifically applies to existing publically owned facilities including conduit used to transport water for the

purposes of generating electric power (among other types of projects). The proposed contract is to provide assessment and engineering services with no expansion of use or capacity and is, therefore categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The maximum cost of this will be \$136,585. Funding for this action will be addressed by the utilization of existing budgeted appropriations in Capital Improvement Program ("CIP") Budget No. 3179, Azusa Hydro Upgrades and Replacements. It is anticipated that the \$136,585 will be spent during the current fiscal year. There is no anticipated impact to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Water & Power Department

Prepared by:



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Approved by:



STEVE MERMELL
City Manager

Attachment A Evaluation Summary