

Agenda Report

December 11, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH GEO-ADVANTEC, INC.; EARTH SYSTEMS PACIFIC; GEOPENTECH, INC.; AND GEOCON WEST, INC. FOR ON-CALL GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$750,000 FOR EACH CONSULTANT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find the contracts proposed herein to be categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15061(b)(3), the "Common Sense" exemption that CEQA only applies to projects that may have an effect on the environment;
2. Authorize the City Manager to enter into individual contracts, as the result of a competitive selection process specified by Section 4.08.047 of the Pasadena Municipal Code, with Geo-Advantec, Inc.; Earth Systems Pacific; GeoPentech, Inc.; and Geocon West, Inc. for On-Call Geotechnical Engineering Services for a total amount not-to-exceed \$750,000 for each consultant over a four-year term. Competitive bidding is not required pursuant to City Charter Section 1002(F) (contracts for professional or unique services); and
3. Authorize the City Manager to extend the term of the contracts as necessary without increasing the not-to-exceed amount.

BACKGROUND:

The Department of Public Works is seeking qualified on-call geotechnical engineering consultants to provide professional services on an as-needed basis for the City of Pasadena's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) over the next four years. The Department previously held four on-call geotechnical engineering contracts for a not-to-exceed amount of \$500,000 each over a five-year term which expire in December 2023.

The scope of work may include, but is not limited to site investigations, slope stability evaluations, development of geotechnical reports, recommendations for foundation design, soils sampling and testing, 24-hour on-call emergency response services, peer review of environmental site assessments, hydro-geologic consulting services, and construction support and inspection.

A large number of facility, street improvement and stormwater quality projects utilize geotechnical engineering services. The selected consultants will provide services when City staff is not readily available, or when services exceed the expertise and/or qualifications of City staff. When individual projects are identified, contracted consultants will be solicited for project-specific proposals. Consultant selection for individual projects will be based on qualifications, expertise, time availability, and cost specific to each project scope. When a consultant is selected for a project, a purchase order will be issued against the consultant's master contract, and their services will be funded by the respective project budget.

The Department of Public Works issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for On-Call Geotechnical Engineering Services on August 17, 2023. The City received 18 responsive proposals on September 14, 2023 in response to the RFP.

Below is a list of the 18 responsive proposers (organized by rank):

FIRM	CITY
Geo-Advantec, Inc.	San Dimas
Earth Systems Pacific	Pasadena
GeoPentech	Irvine
Geocon West, Inc.	Burbank
Leighton Consulting, Inc.	Irvine
Twining, Inc.	Long Beach
MTGL, Inc.	Anaheim
Ninyo & Moore	Irvine
Tetra Tech BAS	Pasadena
Group Delta Consultants, Inc.	Torrance
RMA Group	Rancho Cucamonga
Fenagh LLC	Rancho Cucamonga
Willdan Engineering	Anaheim
The Converse Professional Group, dba Converse Consultants	Monrovia
MB Professional Service, Inc	Ontario
GeoTek, Inc	Corona
Smith-Emery Laboratories	Los Angeles
UES	Irvine

Based on the evaluation procedures and criteria specified in the RFP, proposals were scored and ranked by a selection committee comprised of staff from the Public Works Department. Consistent with City's Municipal Code, local Pasadena-based firms were

granted five additional points in the scoring of their proposals. Attachment A summarizes the selection committee's scoring for all proposing firms based on established evaluation criteria.

The top four ranked firms are recommended to provide on-call geotechnical engineering services. Each selected firm demonstrated distinct strengths and resources such as environmental and hydro-geologic consulting services, development and implementation of remediation plans, peer review of assessment reports, and the capacity to coordinate significant emergency response services within their firms to support the City.

Geo-Advantec, Inc. (Geo-Advantec) is located in San Dimas. Since 2012, the firm has provided geotechnical engineering, materials testing, and inspection services for a wide range of projects, including municipal buildings, pavement rehabilitation, underground utilities, park facilities, and traffic signals. The firm employs 24 registered civil and geotechnical engineers, geologists, field and laboratory technicians, and in-house special soil/asphalt inspectors providing professional services for design and construction phase of a project. The firm's lab is accredited by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Army Corps of Engineers, and City of Los Angeles. Geo-Advantec has provided \$231,517 of services to the City via an on-call geotechnical engineering services contract which expired on December 9, 2023. Geo-Advantec has provided geotechnical services to numerous cities such as South Pasadena, Downey, Pomona, Rosemead, Commerce, San Dimas, and Anaheim.

Earth Systems Pacific (Earth Systems) is located in Pasadena. The firm is a subsidiary of Earth Systems, Inc. and was established in 1999. The company employs approximately 135 registered geotechnical engineers, geologies, technicians, and inspectors across eleven offices and six laboratories. Earth Systems brings detailed knowledge of soil, groundwater, and geologic conditions of projects planned within Pasadena and the region. The firm brings extensive experience with pavement construction and rehabilitation, new construction, and subsurface exploration. Earth Systems has previously provided \$251,931 of geotechnical engineering services to the City. Earth Systems has also provided geotechnical services to several municipalities and other agencies such as the cities of Baldwin Park, Manhattan Beach, Oxnard, Los Angeles, and the California Department of General Services.

GeoPentech, Inc. (GeoPentech) is located in Irvine with a staff comprised of 15 engineers, geologists, seismologists, and hydrogeologists. The firm is a certified Small Business Enterprise (SBE) founded in June 2000. GeoPentech has a high-level of technical capabilities that meet a wide range of needs ranging from geotechnical and geohazard services to seismic hazard evaluation, hydrogeology, and foundation engineering. The firm has extensive third-party review experience for large projects in Southern California. GeoPentech is currently providing geotechnical services to the City for the Central Library Seismic Retrofit and Renovation project.

Geocon West, Inc. (Geocon) is located in Burbank and is a multi-disciplined consulting firm. Since 1971, the firm has provided a full range of geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, materials testing, special inspection, and environmental engineering and consulting services. The firm has nine offices across California and employs approximately 40 engineers, geologists, technicians, and special inspectors at their Burbank office. Geocon is equipped with an in-house full-service soils and material testing laboratory that is accredited by various regulatory agencies such as AASHTO and Caltrans. Geocon has provided over \$490,000 of services to the City via previous contracts, including an on-call geotechnical engineering services contract which expired on December 9, 2023. The firm has current on-call contracts with other public agencies such as Pasadena Unified School District, County of Los Angeles, and the cities of Irvine, Newport Beach, and Garden Grove.

It is recommended that the City enter into contracts with Geo-Advantec, Inc.; Earth Systems Pacific; GeoPentech, Inc.; and Geocon West, Inc. for an amount not-to-exceed \$750,000 each over a four-year term commencing on the date that each contract is fully executed.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This contract is consistent with the City Council's goal to improve, maintain and enhance public facilities and infrastructure in order to promote quality of life and local economy; ensure continued operation; and support institutions that serve the needs of Pasadena's diverse residents and families.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Title 14, Chapter 3, Article 19, Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense" exemption that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The combined cost of these contracts is a maximum not-to-exceed amount of \$3,000,000 over four years. Funding for this action exists within various budgeted capital project appropriations in the CIP. Funding availability for each project will be evaluated on an as-needed basis. It is anticipated that all the costs for these four-year contracts will be spent between Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2028.


There is no anticipated fiscal impact on the General Fund. Capital projects using on-call geotechnical engineering services are typically funded with other various local/state/federal taxes and/or grants.

Respectfully submitted,



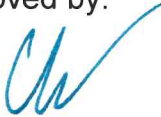
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Attachment A – Consultant Scoring and Ranking Sheet