

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL DATE: November 6, 2000
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: Rejection of bids for the construction of New Fire Station 34

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council reject all bids received in response to specifications for the construction of new Fire Station 34.

BACKGROUND:

"Old" Fire Station #34, at 541 South Oak Knoll, was built in 1917 of unreinforced masonry. A structural engineering firm hired by the City in 1983 to evaluate the condition of all City facilities determined that the cost of strengthening the structure to Division 68 standards, the prevailing standards of that time, would have been prohibitive. Standards are more restrictive today. "Old" Fire Station #34 was a three-bay station, but was functionally obsolete due to its narrow doorways, construction and location off a major thoroughfare.

The Whittier Narrows earthquake on October 1, 1987, and the resulting strong aftershocks and continuing tremors weakened the structure further. By mid-1988, the City and Caltech had met several times to discuss the feasibility of relocating Fire Station #34 to land owned by Caltech. A proposed site was designated on their Master Plan and approved by the City. Subsequently, a ground lease for project development at the designated site was executed between the City and Caltech in 1998, per contract no. 16,343.

In August 2000, specifications for the construction of the new Fire Station #34 were issued. On September 25, eleven bids were received in response. Although the specifications requested pricing for certain project alternates, the document was designed in such a way that the contract award would be based solely on the base bid. The base bid scope of work is essentially the project approved by Caltech and Design Commission. Based on a tight construction budget, awarding on base bid appeared the most appropriate way to proceed.


Upon review of bids and available funding, staff determined that funding is sufficient to cover not only the base bid but also to purchase several of the alternates. However, the bidding documents preclude the City from awarding a construction contract on the basis of base bid plus certain alternates.

By rejecting all bids and rebidding the project, the City would essentially be able to buy more project scope that will extend the lifecycle of material and equipment for this facility. Staff anticipates concluding the rebidding process and returning to City Council by early December. Consequently, the revised target construction start date will be January 2001 with a target completion date of January 2002.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is a negligible cost associated with re-bidding this project. It is expected that by re-bidding the City may receive more competitive bids, as this has been the experience.


Respectfully submitted,


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