

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL **DATE:** JANUARY 12, 1998
FROM: CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: REJECT ALL BIDS IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFICATIONS PSB-97-3
- RENTAL OF CITY UNIFORMS

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council reject all bids in response to Specifications PSB-97-03 for the rental of City uniforms.

BACKGROUND

The City of Pasadena provides uniforms to a number of its employees. The subject specifications covered the requirements to outfit personnel in the Public Works and Water and Power Departments, including employees in the Power Division who are exposed to electrical hazards. It is necessary that these employees be outfitted with uniforms which provide adequate protection from such hazards.

Standards for flame retardant clothing are established by both the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Fed OSHA) and the California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal OSHA). These two standards are not the same. The federal guidelines require a rather heavy garment which has been specially treated, whereas Cal OSHA requires only that the uniforms be 100% cotton.

By law the City of Pasadena is subject to the Cal OSHA standard and has historically ordered 100% cotton uniforms for those employees exposed to electrical hazards. Due to a misunderstanding of differences between the federal and state standards, the subject specifications incorrectly cited the federal standard.

Three bids were received on September 4, 1997. Despite the fact that the federal standard was called for in the specifications, only one bidder met this requirement. The other two bidders bid uniforms meeting the Cal OSHA standard. It should be noted that the cost of uniforms meeting the federal standard is nearly triple the cost of those meeting the less stringent state standard.

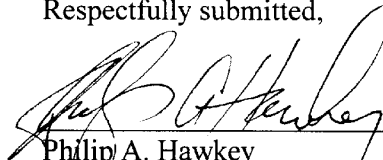
In order to verify which flame retardant standard best serves the needs of City employees, the Purchasing Division held a meeting with the Safety Officer and several representatives from the Power Distribution section of the Water and Power Department. Based on the discussion, it was determined that the City should continue to adhere to the Cal OSHA standard rather than adopt that of Fed OSHA. Some of the reasons cited included: The fact that 100% cotton provides adequate safety from electrical hazards. All cotton uniforms are considerably more comfortable than those meeting the federal standard. And, the concern that heavier uniforms which meet the federal standard would promote heat exhaustion during the summer months.

Although two of the bids submitted meet the desired Cal OSHA standard, the City does not have the option to award a contract to either bidder since the specifications called for uniforms meeting the Fed OSHA standard. In addition, such action would be unfair to the bidder which met the specifications and bid Fed OSHA compliant uniforms. Therefore, for these reasons, staff requests that City Council reject all bids for Specifications PSB-97-03.

FISCAL IMPACT

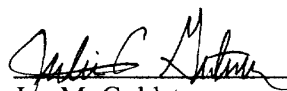
Minimal costs are associated with revising and reissuing the Specifications. Sufficient funds to cover the cost of uniform rental are provided for in the budgets of the Public Works and Water and Power Departments.

Respectfully submitted,

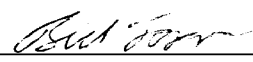


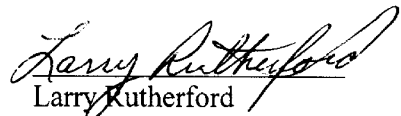
Philip A. Hawkey
City Manager

Approved by:

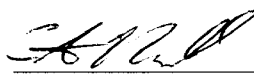

Fin Jay M. Goldstone
Director of Finance

Reviewed by:


Bill Taylor
Safety Officer


Larry Rutherford
Power Distribution Superintendent

Prepared by:


Steve Mermell
Purchasing Administrator