

Agenda Report



MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

TO: City Council

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG
WASTEWATER DIVISION MANAGER SMITH

THROUGH: CITY MANAGER MENDEZ

SUBJECT: BULK CHEMICAL CONTRACT FOR POLYMERS USED IN
WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND WATER RECYCLING FOR
FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Adopt a resolution that authorizes the sole source¹ contract with Polydyne, Inc. dba SNF Polydyne, Inc., for the purchase of flocculant polymer chemicals used by the Wastewater Treatment and Water Recycling Facilities, in the amount of \$572,000 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and directing the City Manager to execute the contract. The contract will not be competitively bid for the reasons set forth in this Report.

BACKGROUND:

Various chemicals in bulk quantities are used in wastewater treatment processes, and flocculant polymers are one such chemical. The current contract with SNF Polydyne, Inc. ("Polydyne") will expire at the end of the current fiscal year and a new contract must be established to ensure uninterrupted supply of this chemical used for biosolids dewatering and recycled water production.

DISCUSSION:

The Wastewater Treatment Division uses flocculant and coagulant chemicals to aid in the filtering out of pollutants to:

- Maintain regulatory compliance for secondary effluent discharges to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary; and
- Maintain regulatory compliance for dewatered biosolids used for land application and composting; and

¹ Subdivision (c) of § 3-5.210 of the Municipal Code exempts from competitive bidding "Equipment, supplies or nonprofessional services (that) are unique, available only from one (1) source, or sought to match existing equipment or supplies already in use (also known as a sole source purchase)."

- Comply with California Title 22 regulations for food safety and water reuse for tertiary-treated recycled wastewater used for direct food crop irrigation.

The polymer flocculants supplied by Polydyne are highly specialized as to their propriety chemical properties to work effectively with the advanced treatment processes performed at the facility. The existing equipment used to store and deliver these chemicals has also been standardized to use this chemical.

Bidding of polymer-based flocculants requires an investment of the potential bidder to prove, at their expense, that the product they propose to bid on would work under a wide range of operational conditions. Considerable expertise in laboratory protocol is required to test these chemicals to select a biddable product. Polydyne is the only supplier with the special analytical qualifications and willingness to exert that level of expertise to meet our facility's treatment operations.

In addition, disruption to the delivery of recycled water due to less-than-effective coagulants and flocculants would have a direct negative impact on our local economy and the reputation of the City.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This purchasing agreement is consistent with Strategic Plan Priority:

2 – Infrastructure & Environment

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds for this contract will be available in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Wastewater Enterprise Fund budget account number 0710-530-7551 (\$187,000) and 0710-532-7551 (\$385,000) respectively for Wastewater Treatment and Water Recycling. The Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) reimburses expenses for Water Recycling on a quarterly basis.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

None currently due to the specialized nature of these chemicals.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

1. Polydyne Price Quotation