



Watsonville
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 27, 2025
TO: CITY COUNCIL
WRITTEN BY: ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR GREEN
RECOMMENDED BY: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG
APPROVED BY: TAMARA VIDES, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVE A CONSULTANT AGREEMENT WITH MICHAEL K. NUNLEY & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR COLLABORATIVE DELIVERY ENGINEERING SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM TREATMENT DESIGN PROJECT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$137,505 FUNDED FROM THE WATER ENTERPRISE FUN

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution awarding a contract to Michael K. Nunley & Associates, Inc. (MKN) for engineering support services to assist the City with collaborative delivery on the Hexavalent Chromium Treatment design project, in an amount not to exceed \$137,505 funded from the Water Enterprise Fund

BACKGROUND:

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 micrograms per liter in 2014; the SWRCB invalidated this amount in 2017. In April 2024, the SWRCB again adopted the MCL; this new MCL went into effect in October 2024. The implementation period for compliance with this new MCL for water distribution systems the size of the City is currently two years, or October 2026. The City will require engineering support to develop an implementation plan to bring the City's drinking water system into compliance with the new MCL.

DISCUSSION:

In June 2024, the City selected Carollo Engineers to re-evaluate the Hexavalent Chromium Treatment design work they had begun in 2015, which was put on hold when the MCL was invalidated in 2017. The updated design report is anticipated to be delivered by the end of May. Once received, the City will need to take quick action to review the proposed treatment improvements and develop a compliance plan to

deliver to the State Water Board by October 2025 for implementation to begin as soon as October 2026. In order to meet this aggressive timeline, the City would like to consider collaborative delivery options to bring a contractor on board the project as the treatment designs are finalized. This approach will require engineering support from a firm experienced in water design and collaborative delivery to help develop an implementation plan.

MKN was selected from the City's list of qualified on-call water and wastewater design consultants. The list of qualified consultants was selected from the On-Call Water and Wastewater Design Services Request for Qualifications issued by the City in July 2023. Statements of qualifications were due August 9, 2023.

MKN was selected from the on-call list to provide an engineering peer review of the preliminary Chromium 6 Treatment design prepared by Carollo Engineers, and assist the City in planning the overall Hexavalent Chromium Treatment project phasing including assistance with developing collaborative delivery procurement and implementation options to help with meeting the State Water Board's current aggressive compliance schedule.

Staff therefore recommend that a consultant agreement be executed with MKN, in an amount not to exceed \$137,505 for engineering support services for collaborative delivery planning on the Hexavalent Chromium Treatment design project.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) DETERMINATION:

Approval of the professional services agreement is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it can be seen with certainty based on substantial evidence in the record that the approval constitutes a government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4).) Further, the approval is an administrative activity that would not have the potential to either (1) cause a direct physical change in the environment or (2) cause a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Therefore, any CEQA analysis would be speculative at this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This action is consistent with the strategic plan goal:

Infrastructure & Environment

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The total cost of this agreement is \$137,505. There is sufficient budget available in budget account 913-7855-14346 in the Water Enterprise Fund.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

No reasonable alternatives are known at this time.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (IF ANY):

None.