



Watsonville
CALIFORNIA

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, June 24, 2025
TO: CITY COUNCIL
WRITTEN BY: WASTEWATER DIVISION MANAGER TELLEZ
RECOMMENDED BY: PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES DIRECTOR LINDBERG
APPROVED BY: TAMARA VIDES, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: BULK CHEMICAL CONTRACT FOR SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE USED IN
WATER RECYCLING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution approving a contract with Univar Solutions USA LLC for the purchase of sodium hypochlorite used in wastewater treatment processes, in the amount of \$225,000 for Fiscal Year 2025-2026; and direct the City Manager to execute the contract.

BACKGROUND:

Various chemicals in bulk quantities are used in wastewater treatment processes, and sodium hypochlorite ("hypochlorite") is one such chemical used to make recycled water. The contract with the current vendor supplying hypochlorite expires at the end of the current fiscal year and a new contract must be established to ensure uninterrupted supply of this chemical.

DISCUSSION:

Proper wastewater treatment practices protect Watsonville's public health and environment and ensure the City's obligations under its many environmental permits. Various chemicals in bulk quantities are used in wastewater treatment processes, and hypochlorite is one such chemical. Hypochlorite is used to clean the disc filters at the Recycled Water Facility, and to maintain a slight chlorine residual in the treated water delivered to the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA). The current contract with Univar Solutions, USA LLC, expires at the end of this fiscal year. A new contract must be approved to ensure an uninterrupted supply of this chemical.

Section 3-5.400 of the Municipal Code requires purchases of supplies estimated to cost over \$100,000.00 be made pursuant to Article 3 commencing with § 3-5.400 through a formal bidding process. Section 3-5.210 exempts certain purchases from competitive bidding. Subdivision (e) exempts purchases made cooperatively with one (1) or more other units of government through cooperative purchasing programs substantially same as the City of Watsonville. Subdivision (f) exempts purchases when in the opinion of the Purchasing Officer the supplies are available from a vendor who has been selected as the lowest bidder within the prior twelve months by another public entity using competitive bidding procedures substantially the same as those used by the City for the acquisition of such equipment or supplies (sometimes called “piggybacking”).

Watsonville is a member of the Bay Area Chemical Consortium (“BACC”). BACC is an informal cooperative of over sixty public agencies that advertises and opens sealed competitive bids and then prepares bid recommendations. Once bids are opened, participating public agencies enter their own contracts with the lowest responsive bidder. The purpose of BACC is to obtain the best possible price for chemicals through joint (bulk) purchasing.

Bids were issued by BACC on January 24, 2025 on PlanetBids.com. A regional bid was received on or before the February 20 due date for supply and delivery of SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE 12.5% in the Central Valley, East Bay, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, North Bay, Peninsula, South Bay, and Tri Valley regions.

1. Univar Solutions USA LLC. 3.2900 gal (South Bay pricing)

After review of the bids, it is recommended to award a contract to Univar Solutions USA LLC because it was determined to be the lowest responsive bid for the supply and delivery.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This contract is consistent with Strategic Plan Priority:

2 – Infrastructure & Environment

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Funds for this contract will be available in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Wastewater Utility Enterprise, Water Recycling Operations and Maintenance budget, account code 0710-532-7551. These expenses are reimbursed by the PVWMA on a quarterly basis.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The City Council could elect to issue its own request for proposals (RFP) for the procurement of sodium hypochlorite. However, the alternative would likely not result in a lower bid.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (IF ANY):

None.