



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Council Meeting Date: August 26, 2008
Staff Report #: 08-118

Agenda Item #: F2

REGULAR BUSINESS: Authorize the City Manager to Execute an Amendment to the Infrastructure Engineering Corporation Scope of Work to Provide a Preliminary Analysis of Only Utilizing Groundwater Wells and Pumping Systems for Emergency Supply of the Menlo Park Municipal Water District's Eastern Service Area

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute an Amendment to the Infrastructure Engineering Corporation (IEC) scope of work to provide a preliminary analysis of only utilizing groundwater wells and pumping systems for emergency supply of the Menlo Park Municipal Water District's eastern service area.

BACKGROUND

The City has done numerous studies on its water system in evaluating emergency storage needs with a water storage tank serving the eastern section of the MPMWD identified as a need by these various studies.

On November 13, 2005, Council approved Seminary Oaks Park as the preferred site for an underground reservoir and well for the Supplemental Emergency Water Supply project ("Project"). Council approved an agreement with IEC on October 24, 2006, in the amount of \$499,986 for engineering consultant services. Tasks in the agreement included project management; subsurface geotechnical and groundwater investigations; development of a preliminary reservoir, pump station, and wellhead design; system planning and hydraulic modeling/analysis.

The first community meeting was held on May 28, 2008, and was attended by approximately 35 residents of the Seminary Oaks Park area. The overall sentiment expressed by the community was that Seminary Oaks Park was not the appropriate place to locate the proposed reservoir, pump station, and wellhead. Since the May 28th community meeting, staff has had numerous discussions and small group meetings with members of the surrounding community. Approximately 70 community members attended the July 1, 2008 Council meeting where an information item was presented informing the Council that the project had been put on hold.

ANALYSIS

Selecting an alternative to meet emergency water supply needs will involve numerous factors such as construction costs, neighborhood impacts, and long-term operational costs. Due to the sensitivity of the project, staff is recommending that individual sub-tasks be identified which require Council and community input. The process of designing the emergency water supply would then proceed in a linear fashion, with each subsequent sub-task dependent upon direction from the Council. This will also allow IEC and staff to focus efforts towards developing a solution to providing water in the event of an emergency which is a common concern that the City Council, community, and staff agree upon.

Groundwater wells

Based on the input received at the May 28, 2008 community meeting, staff is recommending to revise the IEC's existing scope of work to include a preliminary analysis of only using groundwater and associated pumping systems to provide emergency water and irrigation within the eastern portion of the MPMWD service area. The task would incorporate the evaluation of necessary facilities and infrastructure to support a groundwater only supplied facility versus the construction of a storage tank. IEC would develop a footprint of the wellheads to determine the amount of land required at each wellhead facility, including space for treatment/disinfection, valves, etc. IEC would also determine how many wells, and which approximate areas would be most advantageous for situating the wellhead facilities to optimize emergency supply. A preliminary analysis would be performed to determine what infrastructure would need to be constructed to allow the wellhead facilities to be utilized for irrigation purposes. IEC would also provide wellhead operations information, i.e., how much time it would take to start up the wells and flush before the groundwater could be utilized for emergency supply.

Identification of specific wellhead sites would not be included in this task. Once IEC has finished development of a hydraulic model of the eastern section of the MPMWD, general areas can be identified for optimal well water production. Staff would also conduct research as to how other water districts are addressing the concern of providing emergency water with wells and storage facilities.

Schedule

Staff would bring the IEC report back to the City Council in late 2008 for review and direction on whether to use only groundwater and a pumping system to supply emergency water or to consider additional sites that would be suitable for wells and storage. Based upon the direction from the Council, staff will not develop additional tasks for IEC to evaluate (such as drilling investigation) until there is clear direction from the Council to proceed with a next phase.

At the July 1, 2008 City Council meeting, Mayor Cohen brought up the idea of forming a Council sub-committee to work with staff and the community to provide guidance in decision making in the best interest of all parties. Due to the change in direction and no

specific site being evaluated in the scope of work, a sub-committee for this task is not recommended at this time.

IMPACT ON CITY RESOURCES

The budget for the preliminary design development of the Supplemental Emergency Water Supply project is \$570,000. A breakdown of costs expended to date is shown below.

Tasks	Task Budget	Expenditures	Remaining
IEC contract	\$499,986	\$218,281	\$281,705
Staff administration	\$45,014	\$44,267	\$747
Contingencies	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000

Total remaining project funding: \$307,452

Remaining funds for the total project are approximately \$307,000. The consultant's change in scope and staff time to oversee the project can be accomplished through the existing remaining budget. A contract amendment for the revised scope of work in a not to exceed amount of \$50,000 will be executed by the City Manager.

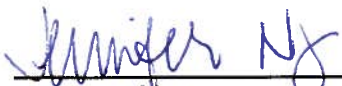
Upon completion of the analysis by IEC, staff will propose a recommendation and a revised budget to the Council to proceed forward.

POLICY ISSUES

The recommendation does not represent any change to existing City policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Once the Council approves the final project scope and location, an evaluation under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines can begin. The consultant will provide the City with a recommendation for the appropriate CEQA compliance path for the project.



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Lisa A. Ekers
Engineering Services Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE: Public Notification was achieved by posting the agenda, with this agenda item being listed, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENTS None