



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 8

Section Name: {{section.name}}

File ID: {{item.tracking_number}}

TO: City Council

FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Public Works Department

MEETING DATE: August 17, 2020

SUBJECT:

Marina Lagoon Vegetation and Water Quality Management Professional Services Agreement – Amendment

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Amendment No. 2 to the agreement with Waterworks Industries, Inc. to provide additional professional services for Marina Lagoon Vegetation and Water Quality Management in an amount of \$44,770; and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the amendment in substantially the form presented.

BACKGROUND:

Waterworks Industries, Inc. (Waterworks) was awarded a contract at the February 3, 2020 City Council meeting for vegetation control and water quality management of the Marina Lagoon. Waterworks' scope includes weekly inspections, algaecide and herbicide applications, vegetation harvesting, beach cleanups, trash removal, water quality monitoring, reporting, and regulatory support. Due to recent warm weather, water clarity, and other environmental factors, the lagoon had an abundance of nuisance aquatic plant and algae this year, which required more chemical treatments and mechanical harvesting than normal to manage effectively.

The Public Works Director authorized Amendment No. 1 in June 2020, adding the \$93,000 contingency necessary to cover additional costs to manage the lagoon to maintain an adequate water quality level. Staff estimates additional funds in the amount of \$19,700 are required to continue effective management of the lagoon through first year of the contract period, which ends December 31, 2020. Staff desires to add additional scope to the agreement for development of a Marina Lagoon Water Quality Management Plan at a cost of \$25,000. The plan will provide documentation for best practices to enhance and document data collection, decision criteria, and management processes for managing lagoon water quality. The total amendment for these services is \$44,700, and these funds are currently within Marina Lagoon – Management operating budget and are available for the additional scope for the Waterworks' agreement.

Historically, contractors have used the application of copper algaecides as a very cost-effective method of managing nuisance algae in the lagoon. The use of copper algaecides is allowed through various regulatory mechanisms such as the statewide General Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications, issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. However, during the 2020 calendar year, the use of copper algaecides was not effective at controlling nuisance algae without also exceeding water quality limits, resulting in non-compliance with General Permit conditions. As a result, a significant amount of additional mechanical harvesting was required to maintain Marina Lagoon water quality.

Since copper algaecides were unable to control algae this year, staff evaluated other algae control options. One option is to seek an exception from the General Permit requirements to allow application of copper at greater, more-effective rates, which would also result in short-term exceedances of water quality limits for copper. However, the San Francisco Bay is considered impaired for copper and it is unlikely that an exception would be granted to the City. Based on Waterworks'

experience in managing other lakes, including the lagoon at Redwood Shores, staff is evaluating the use of alternative, less-toxic algaecides. While these alternatives are known to be effective, they are also significantly more costly than copper-based algaecides.

Given that an exception from the General Permit requirements is not considered feasible, staff will also work with Waterworks to develop a Marina Lagoon Water Quality Management Plan, which will evaluate and recommend alternate, less-toxic methods to manage vegetation and maintain water quality and regulatory compliance. The plan is needed to document management goals, describe relevant integrated pest management-based approaches for aquatic weed and algae control and their associated costs, document schedules for annual management activities, develop data-driven decision-making processes, and establish metrics for evaluating lagoon management actions. Additionally, the plan will address on-going water quality monitoring, education, outreach, and future topics of study. The plan will provide guidance for City staff and contractors working on the lagoon and will be drafted as a living document that will be reviewed and updated annually, or as new information becomes available.

Staff anticipates presenting the plan to Council before spring 2021. Depending on the findings and recommendations of the plan, staff may recommend changing to more expensive algae control methods and will also present estimated costs for management of lagoon water quality.

BUDGET IMPACT:

The original three-year agreement with Waterworks Industries, Inc., was authorized in the amount of \$539,730 with an additional \$93,000 of approved contingency. City staff expected the first year of services to cost \$176,235. Amendment No. 1 added the full contingency amount of \$93,000 to the agreement. Amendment No. 2 increases the contract amount by \$44,770, bringing the total three-year agreement amount to \$677,500. The first year of the agreement is now expected to cost \$314,005. Sufficient funds are budgeted in the Marina Lagoon Management Program (General Fund) to fund this agreement amendment.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

Under sections 15301 and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Vegetation Management and Water Quality Management Agreement is categorically exempt from CEQA review because it consists of the operation and maintenance of existing public facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use, and is an action taken by a regulatory agency to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment.

NOTICE PROVIDED

All meeting noticing requirements were met.

ATTACHMENTS

Att 1 – Amendment

STAFF CONTACT

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