



CITY OF SAN MATEO

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Agenda Report

Agenda Number: 7

Section Name: {{section.name}}

File ID: {{item.tracking_number}}

TO: City Council

FROM: Drew Corbett, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Public Works Department

MEETING DATE: May 17, 2021

SUBJECT:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Amendment No. 3 to the agreement with Waterworks Industries, Inc. to provide additional services for Marina Lagoon Vegetation and Water Quality Management in an amount not to exceed \$181,480 for a new total of \$858,980; establish a new contingency of \$86,000; and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the agreement in substantially the form presented and issue change orders within the contingency amount.

BACKGROUND:

Waterworks Industries, Inc. (Waterworks) was awarded an agreement 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. The Public Works Director authorized Amendment No. 1 in June 2020, authorizing \$93,000 in contingency necessary to cover additional costs to effectively manage the lagoon. A second amendment in the amount of \$44,770 was approved in August 2020 for additional work including developing a management plan.

The Marina Lagoon is a dynamic, variable environment, and it is difficult to predict the most effective and efficient treatment methods for any given year. Due to warm weather, water clarity, and other environmental factors, the lagoon had an abundance of nuisance aquatic plant and algae in 2020, which required more chemical treatments and mechanical harvesting than normal to manage effectively. Historically, contractors have used the application of copper algaecides as a cost-effective method of managing nuisance algae in the lagoon.

The use of copper algaecides is subject to regulations contained in the statewide General Permit for Residual Aquatic Pesticide Discharges from Algae and Aquatic Weed Control Applications (General Permit), 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, which is more expensive than chemical control methods.

The proposed plan for algae control in 2021 is to continue using copper algaecides, but at a significantly reduced application rate to reduce the likelihood of exceeding water quality limits and to use the copper algaecides in combination with another product named GreenClean Liquid 5.0 (GCL5). GCL5 is a sustainable, lower-risk chemical suitable for use alone or alongside copper algaecide to control algae. The budget increase is partially the result of the additional cost associated with the use of GCL5, which requires approximately four to eight times more product volume than copper algaecides to be effective.

In addition to copper algaecides to control algae, contractors have historically used a product called Sonar One (fluridone) to control widgeongrass. Sonar One can no longer be applied in saltwater environments such as the Marina Lagoon due to a manufacturer label change. Waterworks and the product vendor applied for approval by the Department of Pesticide Regulation to allow for continued use of fluridone in the lagoon for control of widgeongrass. However, the fluridone product label modification sought is for Sonar Genesis, which is the liquid version of fluridone and is also more expensive than the granular version of Sonar One used in 2020.

Staff estimates additional funds in the amount of \$181,480 are required to continue effective management of the lagoon through the second and third year of the three-year contract period ending December 31, 2022. The increased costs are due to factors such as 1) unpredictable variability in the amount of vegetation requiring removal, 2) compliance with water quality regulations related to applications of chemicals, and 3) product label changes and new chemical use restrictions. Increased costs are also associated with increasing number of weekly inspections needed each year, additional water quality monitoring, and additional consulting hours.

BUDGET IMPACT:

Amendment No. 3 adds an additional \$181,480 to the three-year agreement, bringing the total to \$858,980 and establishes a \$85,980 contingency. Funds are available in the Public Works Department operating budget to cover the cost of 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

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