



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** January 15, 2013

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

**FROM:** Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

**SUBJECT:** Approval Of Emergency Purchase Order For Cater Water Treatment Plant Replacement Flocculation Variable Frequency Drives

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approve an emergency purchase order to Steven Engineering in the amount of \$26,266 to replace two Flocculation Variable Frequency Drives at the Cater Water Treatment Plant.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The Water Resources Division is requesting retroactive approval of an emergency purchase order to Steven Engineering in the amount of \$26,266. The General Services Manager issued emergency Purchase Order Number 77,965 on December 20, 2012, for staff to replace two failed flocculation Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) at the Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater).

Cater treats the drinking water for the City of Santa Barbara, and the Montecito and Carpinteria Valley Water Districts. An essential part of the treatment process is flocculation, which entails adding a coagulant to the water which is then mechanically stirred to cause fine suspended particles to flock together, creating larger particles that are easily removed during the filtration process. The flocculation process requires VFDs to mechanically stir the water.

Cater has two flocculation basins. Each has a primary and secondary chamber equipped with two VFDs, for a total of four flocculation VFDs for each flocculation basin. One of the flocculation VFDs had failed and, because VFD replacement parts are obsolete, staff was in the process of seeking approval for a sole source contract with Steven Engineering for the procurement of a replacement VFD. However, on December 20, 2012, a flocculation VFD in the other basin also failed. Considering that flocculation is an essential part of the treatment process, and the long lead time for replacement VFDs, staff worked with the General Purchasing Manager on the issuance of an emergency Purchase Order to Steven Engineering for \$26,266 for the replacement of the two failed flocculation VFDs.

Steven Engineering's quoted amount of \$26,266 includes the control panel housing, VFDs and the associated wiring to match the current VFD configuration, flocculation controls, and SCADA communications. The estimated delivery date of the equipment is February 5, 2013. The specified VFDs and enclosures are Schneider Electric/Square D, which are included on the Water Resources Standard Equipment List that was approved by Council on March 8, 2011.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

There are sufficient funds in the Water Fund to cover the cost of this Emergency Purchase Order.

**PREPARED BY:** Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager/JW/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office