



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 23, 2013

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For Vic Trace Reservoir Geotechnical Investigation

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve, and authorize the Public Works Director to execute, a professional services contract with Earth Systems Southern California in the amount of \$50,100 to provide services for the Vic Trace Reservoir Geotechnical Investigation, and authorize the Public Works Director to approve expenditures of up to \$5,010 for extra services of Earth Systems Southern California that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work, for a total amount not to exceed \$55,110.

DISCUSSION:

Vic Trace Reservoir was constructed in 1956. It is located at 740 Dolores Drive in Santa Barbara, and is the City's largest reservoir, with a capacity of 10-million gallons. The reservoir is 380 feet long, 248 feet wide and 20 feet deep and has a two-acre metal roof. City staff inspects the reservoir annually and prepares an inspection report.

Over the past 10 years, a sinkhole has developed near the reservoir's southern exterior perimeter fence corner. Staff has repaired the area at least three times, only to have the sinkhole redevelop. It is unclear exactly what is causing the sinkhole. In 2012, staff performed tests to determine if there was a subsurface reservoir leak that was causing the sinkhole. The results were inconclusive, as the reservoir levels appeared to remain steady when the reservoir was isolated at various elevations, and there was no increased moisture associated with the sink hole.

This past year, Brown and Caldwell (B&C) assisted the City with the reservoir inspections under the Asset Management Program contract that Council authorized on June 19, 2012. B&C performed an asset risk analysis and condition assessment of the Water Distribution Section's many mechanical processes and facilities, including Vic Trace Reservoir. B&C noted in their report that the Vic Trace sinkhole is something that needs to be addressed.

Considering the history of the reappearing sinkhole at the reservoir, and B&C's comments in their risk and condition assessment report, staff is recommending a geotechnical investigation for the sink hole and surrounding area. The geotechnical investigation will include onsite field exploration and analysis and recommendations that will be submitted in a report for repairing the sinkhole.

Earth Systems Southern California (Earth Systems) was selected for this subject work through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Six geotechnical firms responded to the City's RFP. Earth Systems was selected based on their understanding of the problem, experience on similar projects, and proposed approach to the work.

Following Earth System's report with recommendations, staff anticipates the need for design services, which will be covered under a separate contract. Construction related to the repair of the sinkhole will be done under a maintenance and repair contract.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

This project was anticipated and there are adequate appropriated funds in the Water Fund for this \$55,110 contract.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Taylor, Water System Manager/JW/mj

SUBMITTED BY: Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office