



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 11, 2015

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Engineering Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Adoption Of Resolution For Sole Source Authorization For The Secondary Process Improvements Project at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the Specification of REXA Actuators as Sole Source Equipment for the Secondary Process Improvement Project at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant, Pursuant to California Public Contracting Code 3400(C).

DISCUSSION:

BACKGROUND

The El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant (El Estero) processes approximately 8 million gallons of wastewater each day. El Estero was originally constructed in 1952; however, a majority of its current infrastructure was constructed in 1978 to meet the 1972 Clean Water Act requirements. Although subsequent capital improvements have been completed, El Estero has longstanding issues with highly variable secondary effluent quality, operational inflexibility, energy inefficiency, and secondary treatment capacity during wet weather events.

Over the past few years, Brown and Caldwell (B&C) has evaluated and developed recommendations to improve the secondary treatment process, prepared preliminary design reports, and on December 16, 2014 has most recently been awarded a contract for final design services for the Secondary Process Improvements Project (Project). A \$20 million State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan has been executed and will be used to finance design and construction of this Project. The Project is currently scheduled to be competitively bid this fall, with construction scheduled to start early 2016.

As part of the final design process, B&C has identified two locations to field test specialized REXA actuators for suitability for future use. These two locations are the secondary effluent recycle gate and secondary effluent well gate. These two gates will be used to regulate flow automatically, according to process conditions, and will require frequent and finely tuned modulation to achieve the process appropriate flow rates.

Electric actuators generally benefit from being space saving, cost saving, and maintenance friendly, relative to hydraulic actuators; whereas hydraulic actuators generally benefit from being highly accurate and highly repeatable, and can be designed to run continuously. The REXA actuator combines the high accuracy and repeatability of traditional hydraulic actuators with the compactness and ease of maintenance of traditional electric actuators.

California Public Contracting Code, Section 3400(c), allows the awarding authority to call for a specific brand or trade name in contract specifications under certain circumstances, one of which is to field test or experiment to determine the product's suitability for future use. Therefore, staff recommends that Council find it in the City's best interest to specify REXA actuators as the sole source equipment for two gate actuators as part of the Project for field test to determine the product's suitability for future use.

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APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office