



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** October 11, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Approval Of A Professional Services Contract For A Distribution System Water Quality Assessment

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a professional services contract with Water Quality Treatment Solutions, Inc., in the amount of \$79,900 for a distribution system water quality assessment, and approve \$10,000 for extra services, for a total contract amount of \$89,900.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### Background

In normal water years, the City of Santa Barbara's drinking water system has been supported by a healthy and diverse water portfolio, with most of its water supplies coming from Lake Cachuma and Gibraltar Reservoir. However, Santa Barbara is currently in the sixth consecutive year of drought, which has resulted in dwindling water supplies. The City is having to rely more on state water and groundwater, and early next year, desalinated water will become a new water supply for the City's drinking water system.

#### Proposed Work

As the drought persists, the City will continue to use various water supply sources, with each source having its own unique water chemistry. Water Resources staff believes it is prudent to perform a water quality assessment of the various water supply sources to determine the effects each water supply might have on the water distribution system. Depending on the assessment results, an action plan would then be created for managing the water quality changes in the distribution system.

Staff proposed contracting with Water Quality Treatment Solutions, Inc. (WQTS) for this work effort, because their vast experience of analyzing the City's various water supplies greatly exceeds that of any other contractor. This uniquely qualifies WQTS to perform the proposed services.

WQTS was on the consultant team chosen through a competitive Request for Proposals process for the Cater Advanced Treatment Solutions Project which ensured that the Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater) could comply with the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct Rule. Below is a list of water quality services WQTS has performed for the City:

- Water analysis for the Cater Ozone Project and recommendations for using ozone as a pre-treatment process to help Cater meet changing state and federal water quality regulations.
- A post Zaca fire raw water quality assessment to propose a treatment plan at Cater for removing the resulting high levels of organic carbon from the Lake Cachuma and Gibraltar Reservoir water supplies.
- A treatment plan for the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant which treats water for the City's four downtown wells.

In addition, WQTS is currently working on a water quality plan to assist with reactivating the City's Charles E. Meyer Desalination Facility.

WQTS has submitted an acceptable proposal to perform the proposed distribution system water quality assessment. Given WQTS's successful completion of similar projects for the City, staff recommends that Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with WQTS to provide a distribution system water quality assessment in the contract amount of \$79,900, and approve \$10,000 for extra services, for a total contract amount of \$89,900.

Under the proposed contract, WQTS will assess the impacts of the City's various water supplies on the water distribution system. If necessary, WQTS will recommend an action plan to assist staff with managing the City's changing water quality. The assessment, conclusions, and recommendations will be submitted in the form of a technical report.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Water Drought Fund for the proposed contract.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS:**

Delivering safe drinking water that meets state and federal regulations is the primary goal for the City's drinking water system. The proposed distribution system water quality assessment will help staff to better understand the City's changing water quality. This will enable the City to continue delivering safe drinking water to its water customers.

**PREPARED BY:** Catherine Taylor, Water System Manager/mh

**SUBMITTED BY:** Rebecca J. Bjork, Public Works Director

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