



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** November 8, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Approval Of Auma Electronic Valve Actuators For Use At The Cater Water Treatment Plant

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council find it to be in the City's best interest to waive the formal bid process as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.070(L) – Best Interest Waiver; and authorize the purchase of Auma Electronic Valve Actuators as a single source product for the Cater Water Treatment Plant.

### DISCUSSION:

The City's William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater) provides regional water treatment to the City of Santa Barbara, as well as the Montecito and Carpinteria Valley Water Districts. Cater is operated primarily through sophisticated computer technology, which automates the water treatment processes. The automation process includes remotely controlling the associated electronic valve actuators (actuators), which remotely operate the valves, controlling water flow within the plant. Cater has an estimated 55 actuators that need to be replaced. On October 25, 2016, Council approved a design contract for the Cater Plant Valve and Actuator Replacement Project (Project). The Auma actuators would be included as a single source product for the project, and would continue to be a single source product at Cater for the life span of the Auma actuators.

Staff worked with the consultant firm, Pacific Rim Automation, to evaluate actuators manufactured by EIM, Auma, and Rotork, using the following criteria:

1. Cost
2. Performance
3. Integration – interface and implementation
4. Software – open architecture and standardization
5. Data – organization, compatibility, and throughput
6. Network Compatibility – electrical, addressing, protocol, speed, and data
7. Communication – redundancy and flexibility
8. Vendor Support and Warranty – availability, response, and documentation

After a thorough analysis, it was concluded that Auma actuators were the best suited for use at Cater. The Auma actuators are cost competitive, and were found to be the easiest to integrate into Cater's network. Auma actuators use a standard open software architecture and have a data structure that is compatible with Cater's existing system. Auma actuators offer superior redundancy and flexibility with communications. Auma provides superior customer support, offers thorough product documentation, and has a warranty that is on par with the other vendors. Additionally, Auma actuators have a proven track record at facilities similar to Cater.

Considering the in-depth vetting process exercised by staff and Pacific Rim Automation, staff recommends that Council find it to be in the City's best interest to waive the formal bid process as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.070(L), and authorize the purchase of Auma actuators as a single source product for use at Cater. This action will allow staff to specify this type of actuator in the design documents for valve actuator replacement. The design contract for the Project was approved by Council on October 25, 2016. Selection of the actuator is a preliminary step towards the completion of the design work.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

All purchases of Auma actuators will be made within the approved budget limits.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS:**

Electronic valve actuators are important to the operation of Cater for the continued treatment of safe and consistent drinking water for South Coast water customers.

**PREPARED BY:** Catherine Taylor, P.E., Water System Manager/sk

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

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