



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** November 22, 2016

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Purchase Order For Water Treatment Chemicals At The William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council find it to be in the City's best interest to authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$350,000 to Norit Americas, Inc. for the purchase of powdered activated carbon for use at the William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant, in accordance with Section 4.52.070(L) of the Municipal Code.

### 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. Chemicals are used in the treatment process, including Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC), which assists with removing the naturally occurring organic material from the raw water. As a result of using PAC, there is less organic material in the water to react with the chlorine and create disinfection bi-products, which are federally regulated contaminants.

In selecting treatment chemicals at Cater, rigorous performance testing with a third party is conducted to identify which chemical performs best in treating Cater's water. The best performing chemical for the overall lowest cost is then selected for use. Staff then brings a request to Council for approval to purchase the chosen chemical. Staff followed this process in 2011 with the selection of Norit Hydrodarco B Powdered Activated Carbon (Norit PAC). On September 20, 2011, Council approved the issuance of Purchase Order No. 31700282 in the amount of \$450,000 to Norit Americas, Inc., for the purchase of up to 600,000 pounds of Norit PAC, with the option to renew the purchase order for an additional four years, subject to Council's adoption of the budget.

Purchase Order No. 31700282 for the Norit PAC was renewed for four years and has recently expired. Staff is currently working to again conduct rigorous performance testing to select a PAC that is best suited for use at Cater. During the performance testing period,

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which is anticipated to take six months, Cater will need to purchase Norit PAC to continue treating water to drinking water standards.

Staff is recommending that Council find it to be in the City's best interest to authorize the General Services Manager to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$350,000 to Norit Americas, Inc. for the purchase of Norit PAC for use at Cater, in accordance with Section 4.52.070(L) of the Municipal Code. Staff is confident that the recommended purchase order will ensure Cater has sufficient PAC supplies for the duration of the performance testing period.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

All Norit PAC expenditures will be made with approved budget limits. There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Water Fund to cover the proposed costs.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACTS:**

Using PAC in the water treatment process helps ensure that Cater continues producing safe and consistent drinking water that meets all state and federal regulations.

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

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

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