



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 12, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works

SUBJECT: Approval Of Emergency Purchase Order For Carbon

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council retroactively approve the issuance of an emergency purchase order in the amount of \$102,400 to Norit as the low bidder for the purchase of powdered activated carbon to be used for treatment of water at the Cater Water Treatment Plant.

DISCUSSION:

Last summer's Zaca Fire burned a significant portion of the watershed that drains via Gibraltar Reservoir to Cachuma Lake. This winter's runoff from the burn areas to Lake Cachuma contains elevated concentrations of suspended and dissolved plant based organic materials. In order to treat the water in a manner that will remove the dissolved organic material and meet federal drinking water standards, it is necessary to use powdered activated carbon.

Staff has been tracking water quality carefully to assess its treatability and evaluate if powdered activated carbon might be needed. The rains of January 26, 2008 accelerated the deterioration of water quality by causing increased rates of flow from the burned watershed into Cachuma. Consequently, working with the purchasing agent, staff obtained quotes from two firms last week and issued a purchase order for the carbon to Norit, the low bidder.

Issuance of the emergency purchase order was necessary to get the carbon delivered in a timely manner, to be available if and when needed. The lead time required for carbon delivery prevented staff from following the normal purchasing process. Issuance of emergency purchase orders with after-the-fact approval by Council is allowed under the City's purchasing policy.

REVIEWED BY: _____Finance _____Attorney

Agenda Item No. _____

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There are adequate funds in the water treatment budget to cover this expense.

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager/RB/spm

SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office