



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 5, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works

SUBJECT: Approval Of Purchase Orders For Dewatering Equipment At The William B. Cater Treatment Plant

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council retroactively approve \$277,745 for a purchase order to Gold Coast Stabilization for the rental of a dewatering belt press and \$30,488 for a purchase order to Rain for Rent for a dewatering mixer tank to be used at the William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater).

DISCUSSION:

The City's primary water supplies come from Gibraltar Reservoir and Cachuma Lake, both of which have been inundated with organic materials from the Zaca Fire. The changed water quality has caused Cater staff to add significant amounts of powdered-activated carbon and coagulants during the water treatment process to meet federal drinking water regulations.

Sludge is a byproduct of Cater's water treatment process. Historically, Cater's sludge has been passively dried in onsite drying beds and then hauled to an appropriate facility. The addition of carbon and coagulants has increased sludge production. Unfortunately, Cater has limited drying bed space and cannot accommodate the excess sludge. The proposed solution is to install a mechanical dewatering system to minimize sludge drying time on site.

Staff has been working on a mechanical dewatering solution with Carollo Engineers (Carollo), who are under contract to assist with addressing Zaca Fire impacts to the City's water system. The proposed dewatering solution is a belt press, coupled with a sludge mixer tank. Renting the equipment on a monthly basis is recommended over entering into a long-term lease agreement or purchasing the equipment since, at this time, it is unknown how long the equipment will be needed.

BIDDING PROCESS:

An appropriate rental belt press for Cater is difficult to secure, as most dewatering equipment is targeted for the oil industry. Equipment that has been in contact with petroleum products cannot be used in potable water systems. Staff conducted an informal bid process looking for available equipment. They solicited bids for the annual cost, based on a monthly rental rate, for an available belt press and mixer tank.

Staff submitted bid requests to the following companies: Synagro, Gold Coast Stabilization, Karl Needham Enterprises, and Parker Resource Management for the belt press equipment, and Baker Corporation and Rain for Rent for the mixing tanks. Synagro submitted a quote of \$485,200 for an annual cost to rent both a belt press and mixer tank. Their quote includes the requirement that the equipment is operated by a Synagro technician. Gold Coast Stabilization submitted an acceptable low bid price of \$277,745 per year for rental of a belt press. Their quote includes a week of training for Cater staff to operate the equipment. Baker submitted a quote of \$47,392 per year for a mixer tank. Rain for Rent submitted an acceptable low-bid price of \$30,488 per year for a mixer tank. Karl Needham Enterprises did not respond, and Parker Resource Management submitted a quote of zero dollars, stating that they were unable to supply the dewatering equipment due to the high demand for the equipment in the oil industry.

<i>Company</i>	<i>Belt Press</i>	<i>Mixer Tank</i>		<i>Annual Cost</i>
Synagro	\$ 485,200	Included in belt press quote		\$ 485,200
Gold Coast Stabilization	\$ 277,745	Baker Tanks	\$ 47,392	\$ 325,137
		Rain for Rent	\$ 30,488	\$ 308,233

The Gold Coast Stabilization and Rain for Rent quotes for a belt press and mixer tank combine for an annual low bid amount of \$308,233. Considering the difficulty in securing the equipment, staff worked with the City's General Services Manager to issue emergency purchase orders to secure the low bids from Gold Coast Stabilization for the belt press and Rain for Rent for the mixer tank.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

There are adequate funds in the Water Fund to cover this expense. The Zaca Fire was a State-declared emergency, therefore, staff will seek reimbursement for up to 75% of these and other related costs through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Taylor, Water System Manager/CT/nrs

SUBMITTED BY: Christine Andersen, Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office