



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** July 14, 2009

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Purchase Order For Powdered Activated Carbon For The William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council waive the formal bidding process, as authorized by Municipal Code Section 4.52.080(k), and authorize the City General Services Manager to issue a Blanket Purchase Order to Mead West Vaco Corporation in the amount of \$57,420 for the purchase of up to 66,000 pounds (two loads) of Mead West Vaco's Aqua Nuchar Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) for use at the William B. Cater Water Treatment Plant (Cater).

### **DISCUSSION:**

Cater provides regional water treatment to the communities of Santa Barbara, Summerland, Montecito, and Carpinteria. Changes to the water chemistry after the Zaca Fire have necessitated the use of PAC for water treatment. When added to water, PAC binds with organic material, specifically Total Organic Carbons (TOC). The resulting compound is filtered out during the treatment process. The TOC would otherwise bind with chlorine to form disinfection by-products, which are compounds regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency. Without using PAC, the water produced at Cater would not meet federal drinking water standards.

Each PAC manufacturer uses different carbon, and each carbon varies in its ability to remove TOC. Cater has bench-scale tested many different manufacturers' PAC. Mead West Vaco's PAC has proven to be worthy of full-scale testing to completely evaluate its performance. The requested 66,000 pounds of PAC is enough material to conduct up to two weeks of full-scale testing; ample time to sufficiently evaluate the performance of the PAC and compare it to the PAC currently used at Cater. If Mead West Vaco's PAC performs as well or better than the current PAC, Mead West Vaco will be added to the list of approved PAC vendors for future bidding opportunities.

Cater staff has an ongoing process of aggressively testing all treatment chemicals in an effort to improve the treatment process, and to increase competition among approved bidders. Performing a full-scale test of Mead West Vaco's PAC supports these efforts.

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**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

Sufficient funding in the 2010 Water Operating Budget has been approved to cover the cost of this material. This item will be reported to the Board of Water Commissioners at its regularly scheduled meeting of July 13, 2009.

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine F. Andersen, Public Works Director

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