



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** August 4, 2015

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers

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

**SUBJECT:** Sole Source Authorization To Purchase Acoustic Testing Equipment For The Wastewater Collection System

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- A. Approve and authorize the General Services Manager to issue a Sole Source Purchase Order to 3T Equipment Company for \$51,510.64, for the purchase of sanitary sewer acoustic testing equipment; and
- B. Find it to be in the City's best interest to approve equipment standardization for sanitary sewer acoustic testing equipment for the next five-year period, in accordance with Sections 4.52.070 (k) and (l) of the Municipal Code.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **BACKGROUND**

In 2014, the Water Resources Division launched its Acoustic Testing Pilot Program to test sewer mains using sonic wave technology. Staff purchased a Sewer Line Rapid Assessment Tool (SL-RAT), which is a portable onsite assessment tool that provides sewer line blockage assessment results in a fraction of the time it takes to either clean or to Closed-Circuit-TV (CCTV)-inspect the pipe. This new technology, where active acoustic transmissions are received and measured within a sanitary sewer pipe, was developed within the past five years. Pipes with low-score results indicate that there may be a blockage, and Wastewater staff can perform immediate follow-up actions such as CCTV inspection or cleaning. Pipes with high scores are generally found to be clear and do not require any immediate follow-up action.

In the past year, staff has found benefit in the SL-RAT technology as it provides a reliable assessment of timely sewer maintenance needs in small-diameter sewer mains, which helps prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs). Therefore, an additional SL-RAT device was purchased in May 2015, which provides increased equipment redundancy when the other SL-RAT device is in need of repair.

The Wastewater Section is now expanding its acoustic testing program to include contracted services this year. This contract work will include acoustic testing of approximately 2,000 pipe segments this fall, while Wastewater Section staff will continue their acoustic testing of approximately 250 pipe segments per month. Between contract and staff work, approximately 4,000 pipe segments will be acoustically tested in 2015, with the focus on 6-inch and 8-inch diameter sewer mains with 24-month to 60-month cleaning frequencies. Since the majority of 2014 SSO events occurred in 6-inch diameter pipe with these cleaning frequencies, focused attention on these pipes is designed to reduce SSOs.

In order to complete these additional acoustic testing activities in 2015, additional SL-RAT devices need to be purchased. Staff recommends that Council approve and authorize the General Services Manager to issue a Sole Source Purchase Order to 3T Equipment Company for \$51,510.64, for the purchase of sanitary sewer acoustic testing equipment. Additional devices will provide for increased equipment redundancy when other SL-RAT devices are in need of repair.

3T Equipment Company is the California sales representative for InfoSense, the SL-RAT manufacturer. InfoSense is the only known manufacturer of sanitary sewer acoustic testing equipment. Sections 4.52.070 (k) and (l) of the Municipal Code authorize Council to purchase supplies, equipment, and services without complying with the formal bid procedure when it is found that the goods or services are only available from one source and that purchasing these goods or services is in the best interest of the City. Staff recommends that Council approve the SL-RAT, associated appurtenances, and software as standard for sanitary sewer acoustic testing equipment through June 30, 2020.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Wastewater Fund to cover project expenses.

**PREPARED BY:** Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager/LA/mh

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

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