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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 1, 2022

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Report Of Emergency Purchase Order To Replace The El Estero Water Resource Center Substation B Transformer

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive a report regarding an Emergency Purchase Order issued to VISTAM, Inc., totaling \$403,975 for an emergency replacement of the El Estero Water Resource Center Substation B Transformer

DISCUSSION:

During an electrical system preventative maintenance inspection at El Estero Water Resource Center (EEWRC) on April 21, 2021, it was discovered that the transformer in Substation B was no longer safe to operate due to deteriorated electrical insulation, and had to be de-energized immediately. Substation B powers critical and essential electrical circuits at the EEWRC, which include the Influent Pump Station, Administration Building, Water Resources Laboratory, and Tertiary Filtration Facility.

Upon discovery of the safety issue City policy was followed with securing the site and ensuring the safety of staff and protection of facilities, making the findings of an emergency, and getting the approval of the Public Works Director. An emergency purchase order to rent and install a temporary transformer was issued. The temporary transformer was installed on April 23, 2021. Once a temporary repair could be made a VISTAM, Inc. (Vistam) was directed to procure and install the permanent replacement transformer due to their qualifications and familiarity with EEWRC's electrical system. The permanent transformer was put into service on October 29, 2021, the rental unit was removed from the EEWRC on November 3, 2021, and all other construction was completed on November 22, 2021. Since the the El Estero Water Resource Center is the only facility capable of treating the City's wastewater the transformer needed to be replaced under emergency provisions in order to protect public health and the environment.

The standard procurement process would have required extended time to solicit proposals and execute a contract. The time to solicit multiple proposals would have

DRAFT

significantly delayed the replacement, increasing rental costs and the probability and risks associated with relying solely on the temporary transformer and emergency generator.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost of the emergency purchase order was \$403,975. There are sufficient appropriated funds in the Facilities Maintenance and Equipment Repair accounts of the Wastewater Treatment Operating Fund to cover the cost of this Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The nature of the work was an emergency that threatened public service facilities necessary to maintain services essential to public health, safety and welfare. Such work is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Public Resources Code § 21080 (b)(2) and CEQA Guidelines § 15269(b).

WATER COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

This item was presented to the Water Commission at its meeting on February 17, 2022, and the Commission voted **X-X** in support of staff's recommendation.

PREPARED BY: Amanda Flesse, Wastewater System Manager/TW/rb

SUBMITTED BY: Clifford Maurer, P.E., Public Works Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office