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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 16, 2022

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Water Resources Division, Public Works Department

SUBJECT: Contract For The Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant Facilities Evaluation And Exit Test

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with GHD Advisory in the amount of \$286,830 to perform a Facilities Evaluation and Exit Test for the Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant and approve expenditures of up to \$43,000 for extra services of GHD Advisory that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work.

DISCUSSION:

The City's Charles E. Meyer Desalination Plant (Desal Plant) went into service in 2017 as a drought supply for the City. In a new policy included in the Enhanced Urban Water Management Plan that was adopted in June 2021, Council recognized the Desal Plant as one of the City's primary water supplies, as it produces approximately one-third of the City's annual water supplies.

The Desal Plant is currently being operated by IDE Americas under a Design/Build/Operate (DBO) contract that expires on March 4, 2024. Per the DBO contract, in the third year of the five-year contract, the City is to perform a formal Facilities Evaluation and Exit Test to determine if the Desal Plant's condition is that of a plant operated for similar use and of a similar age.

The City conducted a formal Request for Proposal process and selected GHD Advisory (GHD) to provide the services necessary to perform the Facilities Evaluation and Exit Test. The work includes evaluating the condition of the equipment and structures, developing a test plan, conducting and monitoring an exit test, reviewing the computer maintenance management system, and submitting a final report. GHD has successfully performed similar services for the City and other agencies. GHD has submitted an acceptable proposal and cost for the proposed work.

Staff recommends that Council authorize the Public Works Director to execute a contract with GHD in the amount of \$286,830 to perform a Facilities Evaluation and Exit Test for the Desal Plant. Staff also recommends that Council approve change order expenditures

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of up to \$43,000 for extra services performed by GHD that may result from necessary changes in the scope of work. The requested change order expenditures are 15 percent of the contract amount, which is appropriate considering the complexity of the proposed work.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Proposed funding approvals for GHD:	
Contract	\$ 286,830
Change Order Authority	\$ 43,000
Total	\$ 329,830

Sufficient funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2023 Water Fund Budget for the Facilities Evaluation and Exit Test.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The Desal Plant is a drought-proof water supply for the City. The proposed work will help ensure that the Desal Plant remains a robust and viable facility for many years to come.

A copy of the contract may be requested from the Public Works Department for public review by contacting PWInfo@SantaBarbaraCA.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

A facilities evaluation and exit test are both exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review.

PREPARED BY: Catherine Taylor, P.E., Water Supply and Services Manager/lm

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

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office