



WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
17140 S. Avalon Blvd., Suite 210
Carson, CA 90746

AGENDA NO. 17

MAY 14, 2009 – Water Resources
Little (Chair), Gray
MAY 26, 2009 – Board Meeting
Prepared by: Uzi Daniel
Submitted by: Wyatt Won
Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION (CEQA/NEPA) CONTRACT SERVICES

SUMMARY:

West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is pursuing a number of projects on a short timeline to take advantage of federal stimulus package funding for new water projects. These projects will be administered through the State Water Resources Control Board. Projects selected are required to create "new water" sources and must be "shovel-ready." Any shovel-ready project must also comply with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements. Typical CEQA documents often include concise Categorical Exemptions but can also include the necessity for Negative Declarations or even lengthy Environmental Impact Reports (EIR). Staff is equipped to prepare and file any Categorical Exemptions but must obtain outside services for Negative Declarations, Mitigation Monitoring Programs and EIR's. Therefore, in order to expedite the projects proposed under the stimulus package funding, staff must be prepared to initiate environmental documentation immediately and took the following action:

- Issued "Request for Quotations" (RFQ) on March 25 to over 100 consultants from the West Basin database as well as posting on the West Basin website;
- West Basin received over 20 complete proposals on April 20, 2009;
- An evaluation team consisting of three staff members and two separate outside agencies evaluated all the proposals;
- On April 30, the top five consultants scoring 85 or above were asked to participate in an interview; and
- The evaluation team interviewed the following consultants on May 4, 2009:
 - Ultrasystems Environmental
 - Tom Dodson and Associates
 - Bonterra Consulting
 - MWH
 - Bucknam and Associates

After a thorough interview process, the evaluation team is recommending MWH based on experience, qualifications for this project and value to provide rapid response for West Basin as it complies with CEQA requirements for fast paced shovel ready stimulus funded projects. Many of the firms were very competitive, with MWH scoring highest based on knowledge of CEQA and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for government funded projects, experience with recycled water projects at West Basin, as well as suggestions for straightforward approaches to quick and efficient CEQA/NEPA compliance. A detailed evaluation – scoring is included as Exhibit "A".

STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:

Goal 7, Infrastructure – Manage infrastructure to ensure reliability, manage risk, and maximize the useful life of facilities.

COMMITMENT STATEMENT:

Environmental Stewardship– West Basin is committed to sustainable and environmentally friendly business practices.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds are included in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 Capital Improvement Budget and will be included in FY 2009-10 Capital Improvement Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Required for all new projects.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on May 14, 2009 and recommended for approval at the May 26, 2009 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the General Manger to enter into a contract with MWH in the amount of \$200,000 plus 10% for contingencies for on-call CEQA compliance for response to stimulus funding.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit "A" – Scores and Interview List