

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: August 11, 2008		Item Number: <u>A-2</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: (1) Waiver of the Formal Competitive Bidding Process as Authorized by § 3.07.065(A) & (D) of the Culver City Municipal Code and (2) Approval of the Purchase of Eight Smart Cover Sewer Monitoring and Alarm System from Plumbers Depot, Inc.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Eric Mirzaian Public Works-Maintenance Operations		Phone Number: (310) 253-6410	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master E-Mail Notification List (08/06/08); Plumbers Depot, Inc. <u>08/04/08.</u> .			
Department Approval: Charles D. Herbertson (08/04/08)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (08/06/08)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by N. Kimball) (08/06/08)		City Manager Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood (08/06/08)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council (1) waive the formal competitive bidding process as authorized by § 3.07.065 (A) & (D) of the Culver City Municipal Code and (2) approve the purchase of eight Smart Covers from Plumbers Depot, Inc., in the amount of \$31,391.12. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Smart Covers are sensor modules which are mounted under sewer manhole covers and sense sewage levels and report alarms. The intention of the Smart Covers is to supplement the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System currently utilized by the Public Works Department to monitor many components of the City's seven sewer pump stations including pump operations, wet and dry well levels, and electrical components. Should any of these components fail or reach a pre-determined warning threshold, the SCADA System will notify Public Works Staff via pagers and cell phones. Staff determined it would be effective to install Smart Covers as a separate independent back-up system that would notify Staff in the event of a SCADA System communications failure. In December of 2007, the Public Works Department purchased two (2) Smart Covers from Plumbers Depot, Inc. on a trial basis to determine their effectiveness.			

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One Smart Cover was placed under the sewer manhole cover adjacent to the Overland Pump Station and the other under the manhole cover adjacent to the Braddock Pump Station. Subsequently, at its March 24, 2008 meeting, the City Council authorized the waiver of the formal competitive bidding process and the purchase of seven additional Smart Covers from Plumbers Depot, Inc. These seven Smart Covers were installed under sewer manhole covers adjacent to the City's remaining pump stations and other high sewage flow areas.

The Smart Covers have proven to be effective. Elevated sewage levels were detected by the Smart Covers at the Braddock Pump Station and at the intersection of Culver Blvd. and Madison Ave. on various occasions since installation. This early detection allowed Public Works Staff to rectify the problems before a sewer overflow occurred. The Smart Covers have proven to be an inexpensive and dependable alert system and are an effective back-up and enhancement to our existing SCADA System.

DISCUSSION:

Staff recommends that the formal competitive bidding be waived per Culver City Municipal Code § 3.07.065(A) & (D) since these additional Smart Covers will be components for equipment previously acquired by the City and due to the fact Smart Covers can currently be purchased only through Plumbers Depot, Inc. (a sole source vendor).

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Sufficient funding is available in the Capital Improvement Project P-521, Pump Station Improvements (20400521), to cover the requested purchase of eight Smart Covers at a cost of \$31,391.12. The price includes equipment, installation and annual monitoring for the first year. Subsequently, there will be recurring costs of \$300 per Smart Cover for annual monitoring. The ongoing monitoring costs are included in the Sewer Fund's annual operating budget.

These additional eight Smart Covers will be utilized at immediate high risk and high sewage flow areas throughout the City.

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Quote from Plumbers Depot, Inc.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Waive the formal competitive bidding procedure as authorized by § 3.07.065 (A) & (D) of the Municipal Code; and,
2. Approve the purchase of eight Smart Covers from Plumbers Depot, Inc. in the amount of \$31,391.12; and,
3. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents and
4. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.