

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 02/07/2011		Item Number: C-2	
AGENDA ITEM: Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with NorthSouth GIS (Los Angeles, CA) to Obtain Professional Services for Enterprise GIS Installation, Migration, and Application Development.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Johnnie Griffing		Phone Number: 310-253-5976	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☐ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Meetings and Agendas – City Council (02/02/11); NorthSouth GIS, Daniel Elroi (02/03/11)			
Department Approval: John Richo (01/26/11)		City Attorney Approval: Carol Schwab (by H. Baker) (02/01/11)	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: Jeff Muir (by M. Noller) (02/02/11)		City Manager Approval: John M. Nachbar (02/02/11)	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the City Council approve a professional services agreement in an amount not to exceed \$34,750 with NorthSouth GIS LLC (Los Angeles, CA) for Enterprise Geographic Information System installation, migration, and application development services. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Geographical Information Systems (GIS) is a computer-based technology that combines spatial data and relevant information about specific locations. This technology provides a way to systematically collect and manage location-based information that is crucial to local government. Approximately 90% of the information generated and used by a City is location-based (addresses, parcels, streets, etc). GIS is also commonly used as an analytical tool to enhance the municipal decision-making process. The uses of GIS data and GIS web applications have grown greatly both for internal staff use and public access to information collected and maintained by the City. Enhancements have resulted in improved flow of information, reduced amount of time to access that information, and delivery of tools that empower users to do for themselves what once required a GIS/IT professional (such as map creation and analysis).			

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The City has a robust GIS program that supports a wide variety of public needs and departmental operations including:

- **Public Safety E-911/Dispatch System**

The Police and Fire Departments recently implemented a new computer aided dispatch system where GIS mapping components are required for dispatching calls for service. GIS data is also used to further enhance reporting and data analysis.

- **Transportation Bus Routing and Bus Stop Infrastructure**

The Transportation Department depends on data that is developed by the City's GIS Program. Bus stop locations are surveyed using GPS equipment which is processed and delivered for integration with SmartBus (the City's fleet dispatch and information system).

- **City's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system**

The City's CRM provides an interactive mapping option where Culver City residents can enter a location by identifying it on a map service. This provides an optional method for identifying an issue when the physical address is not readily known (such as reports of graffiti and abandoned vehicles).

- **Online Property Information Search (public and internal web applications)**

Culver City's new Property Information Search tool replaces the original PropInfo Search and General City online mapping utilities. The new mapping tool is an interactive application which displays parcel data, aerial photography, points of interests and various city infrastructure map layers. Users can create custom maps, generate public information parcel reports and search citywide geographical information databases.

- **Engineering Division Sewer Management System**

The Engineering Division of the Public Works Department has implemented GIS technology to facilitate managing the City's sewer infrastructure. End users can search the sewer system online to obtain sewer line and manhole information with associated scanned engineering drawings.

- **Department Specific Map Development**

On a daily basis, the IT Department receives requests from other City departments to develop maps which are required for City Council/Redevelopment Agency staff reports, presentations, and City projects.

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DISCUSSION:

Since its inception, the City's GIS Program has utilized industry standard software provided by Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). This is the foundational software used to store and maintain GIS databases. Our current infrastructure has several deficiencies in that the ESRI software is out of date and in need of upgrade. Updating the GIS infrastructure would result in the following:

- Technological advancements made in database storage will transition from a file-based decentralized storage to a centralized Microsoft SQL Server-based repository using ArcSDE (Spatial Database Engine)
- Multiple users being able to edit data simultaneously
- Enhanced interface for staff power users who have the skills to edit data and generate maps and analysis
- Streamlined user interaction with GIS data
- Integration with existing City systems (such as the permitting system and business tax/license system)
- Improved performance
- Integration with GIS web applications by directly streaming data to end users providing the most current information available
- Improved flexibility for developing in-house applications

Updating the City's GIS infrastructure is a major undertaking as it will provide the GIS foundation which will be used for at least the next 10 years. The underlying databases and mapping layers will all need to be migrated to an enterprise architecture. Given the complexity and large scale of this effort, there are not sufficient staff resources currently available.

Staff recommends engaging professional services to assist with upgrading the ESRI foundation software, migrating the current databases/map layers, and application development to make current applications compliant with the updated architecture.

NorthSouth GIS (NSG) LLC is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA. NSG specializes in developing solutions based upon technology produced by ESRI. NSG is a certified ESRI Business Partner and certified ESRI Authorized Developer. This vendor has extensive expertise with implementing GIS solutions. Their municipal client list includes the following:

- City of Los Angeles, CA (Planning, Police, Fire, and Harbor)
- City of Torrance, CA (GIS / Engineering)
- City of Denver, CO (Wastewater)

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The City also has a favorable past experience with this vendor. They were the subcontractor for the development effort that produced the City's current online GIS web applications. They have a demonstrated track record of being knowledgeable and highly skilled in the area of ESRI software and development tools. It would be impractical for the City to engage another vendor to assist with updating the GIS data environment and retrofitting the web applications as NorthSouth has intimate knowledge related to our GIS development environment.

Per Culver City Municipal Code Section 3.07.085, professional services are exempt from competitive bidding provided the contract is based on competitive quotations whenever practical, as determined by the City Manager. In this case, as discussed above, it is not practical to solicit competitive quotes, as NSG is a certified ESRI Business Partner and Authorized Developer and specializes in working with the City's current GIS development environment.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Sufficient funding is available in the Information Technology Department operating budget - Other Contractual Services (account 10124100.619800) to cover these services. The expenditure from this account will total \$29,750.

Additionally, this contract will include retrofitting the Sewer Management System with the upgraded architecture. This would result in an expenditure from the Sewer Fund (account 20466100.619800) in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Authorization to contract with NorthSouth GIS would result in total expenditure not to exceed \$34,750.

ATTACHMENTS:

- NorthSouth GIS LLC Proposal

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Approve a professional services agreement with NorthSouth GIS to implement an Enterprise GIS and GIS web application upgrades in an amount not to exceed \$34,750.00; and,

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2. Authorize the City Attorney to review/prepare the necessary documents; and,
3. Authorize the City Manager to execute such documents on behalf of the City.