

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF NO BIDS FOR EVAPORATIVE CONDENSER PROJECT
AT THE AMES/ISU ICE ARENA**

BACKGROUND:

This project is to replace the Evaporative Condenser at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena. The current condenser, installed in 2000, is operating at 50% capacity due to a leak discovered in 2014. At that time, work was done on the condenser to isolate the leak thus making one half of it non-operational. Staff researched options which included repairing or replacing the current equipment. Cost estimates indicated it is cheaper to replace the condenser than to repair it. In addition, the possibility of losing ice is much less with replacing the equipment than repairing it. The condenser needs to be replaced for the ice making system to operate at maximum efficiency.

Bids were solicited for the following items which includes the engineer's cost estimate for this project:

Base Bid (Replace the Evaporative Condenser)

Materials, equipment, and installation	\$ 94,728
Consultant and Design Fees	\$ 11,500
Total Base Bid Cost	\$106,228

Alternate Bid (Add Shut Off Valves)

Materials, equipment, and installation	\$ 8,936
Total Alternate Bid Cost	\$ 8,936

The bid was let on September 8, 2015 and due on October 6, 2015. During that time, fourteen requests were made for a set of plans and specifications. However, no bids were submitted for this project. The engineer had conversations prior to bid letting with several companies capable of performing the work and each company indicated interest in the project. The engineer has tried to contact these companies to understand why they did not submit a bid. As of this writing, one company has indicated they ran out of time and are still interested in the project. No other company has responded with a reason as to why they did not submit a bid.

Continued effort will be made to understand why companies did not bid. Once this information is compiled, changes may be made to plans and specifications and resubmitted for Council approval before letting the bids a second time.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Accept the report of no bids for the Evaporative Condenser Replacement Project at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena.
2. Do not accept the report of no bids for the Evaporative Condenser Replacement Project at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The proposed project will replace a key component in the ice making system at the Ice Arena which will restore the efficient operation of making ice. This project needs to be completed and staff will work to understand why companies did not bid. Adjustments to the plans and specifications will be made if necessary with the goal of getting bids the second time around.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby accepting the report of no bids for the Evaporative Condenser Replacement Project at the Ames/ISU Ice Arena.