

**COUNCIL ACTION FORM**

**SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY APPROVAL OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT FIVE-YEAR LIME SLUDGE DISPOSAL PROJECT**

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Ames Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is a conventional lime-softening facility. The WTP generates approximately 28,000 wet tons of lime sludge each year. The lime sludge, a by-product of the softening process, consists primarily of calcium carbonate and magnesium hydroxide and is discharged from the treatment process into storage lagoons located west of the WTP. To continue to have adequate lime sludge storage, the storage lagoons are cleaned out annually. Once removed from the storage lagoons, the lime sludge is applied to agricultural land as a soil conditioner. For the past 25 years, the WTP has used land application as the primary disposal method.

On May 28, 2013, City Council awarded a 5-year contract to Wulfekuhle Injection and Pumping, Inc. of New Vienna, Iowa for the removal of 28,000 wet tons of lime sludge each year at the unit cost of \$10.99 per wet ton. Also included were mobilization and dust control charges totaling \$8,500 each year. **The current 5-year contract for cleaning out the lime sludge lagoons and disposing of the lime sludge was completed successfully and will end on June 30, 2018. Staff is asking Council to approve preliminary plans and specifications and to issue Notice to Bidders for a new five-year cycle of the lime sludge disposal program.**

The project plans and specifications detail the lime sludge disposal process and timeline to be used for this five-year cycle. The specifications call for a one-year contract with four one-year renewal options. The initial contract will be effective through June 30, 2019. Future-year renewals will be based on satisfactory performance during the prior year and on the City Council appropriating funds.

The FY 2018/19 Water Treatment Plant operating budget for lime sludge disposal includes \$381,806 to remove 28,000 wet tons of lime sludge, based on an estimate of \$11.54 per wet ton plus mobilization, dust control, and a contingency.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Grant preliminary approval of plans and specifications and issue a Notice to Bidders for a five-year lime sludge disposal contract, setting April 26, 2018 as the bid due date and setting May 8, 2018 as the date of public hearing and award.
2. Do not approve plans and specifications at this time.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The current contract to dispose of lime sludge at the WTP will expire on June 30, 2018. It is in the City's best interest to continue lime sludge disposal operations to ensure that adequate lime sludge storage is available. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1 as described above.