

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY DISINFECTION STUDY

BACKGROUND:

The 2008/09 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) includes the evaluation of disinfection alternatives for the effluent from the City's Water Pollution Control (WPC) facility and recommendation of a selected alternative. On February 24, 2009, staff presented Council with information on the disinfection regulations and how this could impact the utility and its customers. The WPC facility is not legally required to meet bacteria standards until specific limitations are included in a new NPDES permit for the facility. Staff has been awaiting the issuance of an updated NPDES permit since October 1999 when the current permit expired. Council and the staff believe that moving ahead with disinfection is an important obligation of the City and has started the process to install and operate a disinfection system even without a new permit.

At the February Council meeting staff was authorized to move forward with the project. Staff issued a Request for Proposals for the study phase of the project. A selection team consisting of operations, maintenance, engineering, and management staff reviewed proposals and selected four firms to interview. After the interviews, the team selected Stanley Consultants, headquartered in Muscatine, Iowa. Stanley Consultants demonstrated high technical competency with multiple disinfection technologies and an ability to work cooperatively with City staff supporting our mission and values. The consultant also has a wetlands expert as a sub-consultant to help the department evaluate that specific alternative.

The professional services agreement will be for the evaluation and recommendation of a disinfection alternative. After a draft report has been completed, staff will return to the City Council and present the recommendation before moving forward with design. A separate contract will be issued for design and construction services.

Stanley Consultants has agreed to provide the evaluation and recommendation services to the City for a contract amount of \$61,617.00. The 2008/2009 adjusted CIP includes \$75,000 for this study.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Award a professional services contract for the Water Pollution Control Facility disinfection study to Stanley Consultants of Muscatine, Iowa in the amount of \$61,617.00.

2. Do not award a professional services contract for the Water Pollution Control Facility disinfection study at this time.

MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff has undertaken a complete evaluation of firms interested in performing this work. The selection process placed priority on the values and mission of the City of Ames as well as the technical strength of the firm. The selected firm demonstrates the qualities sought for this project.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby awarding a professional services contract for the Water Pollution Control Facility disinfection study to Stanley Consultants of Muscatine, Iowa for the amount of \$61,617.00.