

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: COLIN CLOSE, SR WATER RESOURCES PLANNER
WATER DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: PROJECT WORK ORDER APPROVAL – FREEWAY WELL
PLANNING PROJECT
AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water Department, that the Board, by motion, approve a Project Work Order (PWO) under the Master Professional Services Agreement with West Yost & Associates, Inc. of Pleasanton, California, to provide services for the grant funded Freeway Well Planning Project, with a total amount, including a 5% contingency, of \$557,731.00.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City constructed Freeway Well in 1957 and operated it sustainably until regular testing in the 1980s detected volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from offsite contamination. In 1994 the Freeway Well was physically separated from the City's distribution system.

The City wants to evaluate water quality risks in the vicinity of Freeway Well and study the feasibility of alternatives for treating the groundwater or replacing Freeway Well, and the State Water Resources Control Board (State) expressed interest in aiding these efforts. The State invited the City to submit an application for Proposition 1 grant funding, which staff did on August 31, 2017. The State approved the City's grant application and agreed to fund 50 percent of the Freeway Well Planning Project.

The proposed Project Work Order provides for the majority of the work outlined in the grant agreement for the Freeway Well Planning Project

BACKGROUND

In 2003, the City Council directed Utilities staff to ask the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to evaluate the role of local supply in meeting current and future water supply needs. The BPU subsequently adopted Resolution No. 776, which directed Utilities staff to pursue development of water resources to provide reliable water supply through the

General Plan Building Horizon, including development of local groundwater, additional recycled water use, additional supplies from the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and other sources as they become available, and evaluating water sources based on supply reliability, timing and environmental impact.

In September 2013, the BPU adopted the City's Groundwater Master Plan (GWMP). The GWMP provides a strategic road map for the Water Department staff regarding how available groundwater resources could be most effectively used in a sustainable manner to meet the needs of the City's current and future customers.

On July 24, 2014, the BPU awarded Master Professional Service Agreement No. A010099 (MPSA) to West Yost Associates for Emergency Groundwater Supply investigation, Well Siting, Design and Construction Management (CM) Services for an amount not to exceed \$3.5 million. On December 16, 2014, the BPU authorized the City Manager to sign any Project Work Order (PWO) less than \$500,00 under this MPSA. To date, twelve PWOs have been issued for a total of \$2.7 million. This PWO is over the \$500,000 amount, which requires BPU action.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

On August 17, 2017, staff provided a briefing on the Freeway Well Planning Grant application to the Board of Public Utilities.

On March 1, 2018, the Board of Public Utilities approved, by Resolution No. 1156, a recommendation to the Council to: 1) authorize the Director of Santa Rosa Water or designee to negotiate and execute a grant funding agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board for the Freeway Well Planning Project (Project); 2) authorize and designate the Director of Santa Rosa Water or designee as a City representative for the Project; 3) authorize use of existing non-General Funds to match the State funds being awarded; and 4) authorize the Chief Financial Officer to increase appropriations in the amount of the grant award.

On April 4, 2018, City Council approved these recommendations by Resolution No. RES-2018-047.

ANALYSIS

The proposed PWO is for the purpose of examining Freeway Well and the area around it to more fully characterize the groundwater contamination problem, better understand the lithology and deep aquifer hydrology, and provide additional groundwater sampling and data analysis to develop alternatives for groundwater cleanup and/or groundwater protection.

Freeway Well was constructed at 1304 Cleveland Avenue in Santa Rosa in 1957. The City operated this well sustainably until regular testing in the 1980s detected volatile

organic compounds (VOCs) from offsite contamination. In 1994 the Freeway Well was physically separated from the City's distribution system.

This well is important because approximately 90 to 95 percent of Santa Rosa's annual potable water supply is purchased from the Sonoma County Water Agency. Should the Water Agency's supplies become restricted or shut down due to an emergency, Santa Rosa would need an additional 7.1 million gallons per day (MGD) of emergency groundwater supply to meet current health and safety needs. To meet health and safety demands at buildout, the City would need an additional 4.9 MGD (a total of 12 MGD) of emergency groundwater supply. To that end, the City Groundwater Master Plan discusses a recommendation to potentially treat/remove volatile organic compounds currently in Freeway Well or replace the well in kind to ensure adequate emergency water supply, particularly for the northeast area of Santa Rosa.

The City has wanted to evaluate water quality risks in the vicinity and study the feasibility of alternatives for treating the groundwater or replacing Freeway Well but has not had the resources to do so. The State Water Resources Control Board (State) expressed interest in aiding these efforts and invited the City to submit a grant application. Staff submitted the application on August 31, 2017, which the State subsequently approved.

The proposed Project Work Order addresses the bulk of the work outlined in the grant agreement for the Freeway Well Planning Project, including:

- Conducting a records review to gather and compile information about the well, its geologic setting, and nearby threats and impacts to the aquifer that it draws from
- Completing a test boring and three nested monitoring wells to understand the geohydrology at the site and explore possible vertical distribution of VOCs
- Conducting aquifer tests to evaluate vertical and horizontal effects of pumping on groundwater movement and contaminant migration in the surrounding aquifer
- Conducting an evaluation of groundwater protection and remediation options

In its grant application, the City estimated the total Project cost at \$977,866 and requested the maximum grant share from the State (50 percent). The State agreed to provide \$488,836, and the City agreed to match this local funding from existing Water Department appropriations and in-kind services by Water Department staff.

The total amount for the proposed PWO, including a 5% contingency, is \$557,731.00. The sources of funds will be the grant (\$488,836) and City matching funds (\$68,895).

The balance of the City's required match (\$420,135) will be met by providing in-kind services for project and grant management (Water staff time), paying for a contractor to install a boring and three monitoring wells, and reimbursing Transportation & Public Works for civil engineering services, technical assistance, and administrative support.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this grant project was included in the FY2018-19 Water Budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), City Council adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) on September 19, 2013, for the Ground Water Master Plan, which included ground water testing as a component of the project. Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines identifies the threshold for requiring an update or addendum to an adopted CEQA document. There are no substantial changes in the project, no substantial changes in circumstances, and no new information of substantial importance. The scope of the originally adopted MND was such that there are no new or more severe adverse impacts associated with the proposal currently under consideration and no additional environmental review is necessary.

Further, this project has been reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and qualifies for a Class 6 categorical exemption in that it involves basic data collection which would not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Project Work Order
- Attachment 2 - Board of Public Utilities Resolution No. 1156
- Attachment 3 - City Council Resolution No. RES-2018-047

CONTACT

Colin Close, cclose@srcity.org, (707) 543-4524