

CITY OF SANTA ROSA  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
FROM: EMMA WALTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR REGIONAL  
OPERATIONS, WATER DEPARTMENT  
BRANDALYN TRAMEL, PURCHASING AGENT  
FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
SUBJECT: APPROVE ISSUANCE OF A PURCHASE ORDER TO VELOCITY  
DYNAMICS LLC, DBA VELODYNE, LOUISVILLE, CO  
AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Water and Finance Departments that the Board of Public Utilities, by resolution, approve issuance of a Purchase Order for the purchase of three (3) polymer blending and feed equipment units, as required by the Laguna Treatment Plant, to Velocity Dynamics LLC, dba Velodyne, Louisville, CO, in the amount of \$149,650.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This purchase is to replace existing polymer blending and feed units, which are approaching the end of their useful life, with three units that can utilize lower cost, competitively-bid polymers.

BACKGROUND

The Laguna Treatment Plant thickens an average of 20,000 pounds of waste activated sludge daily prior to transferring the thickened sludge to anaerobic digesters for further processing. Polymer blending and feed units pump polymer from a storage tank, activate the polymer using mechanical and hydraulic energy, and deliver the activated polymer solution into the waste sludge stream for thickening.

Recognizing that the existing polymer blending equipment was reaching the end of its useful life and desiring the ability to utilize a more competitive market for polymer, City staff commissioned a study to recommend options for blending equipment replacement. Polymer handling equipment is specific to each of the three commonly available polymer types: Mannich and emulsion liquid polymers and solid polymer. Because equipment cost and reliability for each of the three types of systems are essentially equal, the larger determining factor for selecting polymer equipment is the relative cost

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LLC, DBA VELODYNE, LOUISVILLE, CO  
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of the type of polymer used. Mannich-style polymers, which have been used at the Laguna Treatment Plant since 1988, have the disadvantage of high shipping costs and a single-source manufacturer and supplier in the Western United States. Emulsion-style polymers have lower shipping costs and have widespread availability, which is expected to result in a nearly 50% reduction in annual polymer costs. Solid polymers were not recommended due to space limitations. The study concluded that an emulsion-style polymer system would result in a 30-year Net Present Value of \$800,000 less than a Mannich-style system and would provide the City an opportunity for competitive polymer selection.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

On, July 7, 2020, Invitation for Bids (IFB) 20-74, solicited by the City of Santa Rosa for the purchase of polymer blending and feed equipment for Laguna Treatment Plant, was opened by Purchasing. Of the nineteen (19) prospective bidders, three (3) responses were received and are listed below:

| <b>Vendor</b>  | <b>Bid Amount</b> |
|--|-------------------|
| Velocity Dynamics LLC, dba<br>Velodyne, Louisville, CO | \$149,650.00***   |
| Technology International, Inc,<br>Lake Mary, FL        | \$165,244.00      |
| UGSI Chemical Feed, Inc,<br>Vineland, NJ               | \$196,619.99      |

\*\*\* Lowest responsive bidder

The recommended purchase is for three (3) VeloBlend Liquid Polymer Blending Systems, model VM-1P-300-Rp-1-A-2, to replace existing units.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding for this expense is included in the Water Department Fiscal Year 20-21 adopted budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Not Applicable. This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not Applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution

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