

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Doug Monn, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Award Contract to Alpha Electrical Service for Replacement of Variable Frequency Drives at Sewage Lift Station No. 1
DATE: May 4, 2010

NEEDS: For the City Council to consider awarding a contract to Alpha Electrical Service for replacement of variable frequency drives at Sewage Lift Station No. 1.

FACTS:

1. The City owns and operates a sewage lift station on North River Road (Lift Station No. 1) that pumps approximately 1.8 million gallons of sewage per day across the Salinas River to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Failure of Lift Station No. 1 would likely result in a major sewage spill to the Salinas River.
2. Fines and cleanup costs associated with a potential spill would be significant.
3. Lift Station No. 1 contains three large pumps that rotate operation. One of the pumps began shutting off erratically in October 2009. City staff hired Alpha Electrical Service of San Luis Obispo, an electrical equipment and controls service, to troubleshoot the problem.
4. Alpha Electrical Service found the existing variable frequency drives (VFDs), electrical systems that control the speed of pump motors, are failing. The existing VFDs are old (installed 1989) and outdated. Replacement parts are no longer available. Alpha Electrical Service recommended replacing the three VFDs.
5. City staff requested and received the following quotes for equipment and labor to replace the three VFDs, including cooling systems:
 - Alpha Electrical Service – \$49,795
 - Electricraft – \$62,828
 - Mike Roach Electric – \$115,720
6. Alpha Electrical Service's quote is responsive and responsible.
7. Per the City's agreement with Templeton Community Services District (TCSD) to provide wastewater collection and treatment, TCSD would be billed for approximately 11%, or \$5,477, of VFDs replacement cost. Net cost to the City would be \$44,318.
8. \$890,000 remains in the City's Capital Improvement Projects Budget for rehabilitation of sewage lift stations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010. The remaining balance should the project be awarded would be \$845,682.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: Failure of Lift Station No. 1 VFDs interrupts an essential service and could threaten public health. Alpha Electrical Service specializes in complex electrical controls and has demonstrated ability to install and program VFDs. It would be in the City's best interest to retain AES for installation of replacement VFDs.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Sewer System Management Plan

FISCAL IMPACT: The Capital Improvement Projects Budget has sufficient funding for this expenditure. This expenditure would have no impact on the General Fund.

- OPTIONS:**
- a. Adopt Resolution No. 10-xx, to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Alpha Electrical Service in the amount of \$49,795 to replace the VFDs at Lift Station No. 1.
 - b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

Prepared by: Matt Thompson, Wastewater Manager

Attachment: Resolution No. 10-XX

I:\PWD\Staff Reports\2010\10-05-04 Sewer Lift Station No. 1 VFDs Replacement, Staff Report.doc

RESOLUTION NO. 10-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES
AWARDING A CONTRACT TO ALPHA ELECTRICAL SERVICE
FOR REPLACEMENT OF VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES AT SEWAGE LIFT STATION NO. 1

WHEREAS, the City of Paso Robles owns and operates a sewage lift station on North River Road (Lift Station No. 1) that pumps approximately 1.8 million gallons of sewage per day across the Salinas River to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Failure of Lift Station No. 1 would likely result in a major sewage spill to the Salinas River.

WHEREAS, in October 2009, one of three pumps in Lift Station No. 1 began shutting off erratically. Alpha Electrical Service of San Luis Obispo found the existing variable frequency drives (VFDs), electrical systems that control the speed of each pump motor, are failing. The existing VFDs were installed in 1989 and are outdated. Replacement parts are no longer available.

WHEREAS, City staff requested and received quotes for equipment and labor to replace the three VFDs, including cooling systems. Alpha Electrical Service quoted the lowest price of \$49,795.

WHEREAS, Alpha Electrical Service's quote is responsive and responsible. Alpha Electrical Service specializes in complex electrical controls and has demonstrated ability to install and program VFDs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council does hereby authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Alpha Electrical Service in the amount of \$49,795 for installation of replacement variable frequency drives at Lift Station No. 1.

Section 2. This expenditure shall be disbursed from the Capital Improvement Project Budget (Budget Account 221-910-5452-577).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Paso Robles this 4th day of May 2010 by the following votes:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Duane Picanco, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lonnie Dolan, Deputy City Clerk