



City of Tacoma

Resolution No.:

Meeting Date: June 13, 2023

**Contract and Award Letter
Purchase Resolution - Exhibit "A"**

TO: Board of Contracts and Awards
FROM: Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services
John Burk, P.E., Division Manager, Science and Engineering
Lance Bunch, P.E., Project Manager, Science and Engineering
COPY: City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, EIC Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and
Dawn DeJarlais, Finance/Purchasing, Brandon Snow, Finance/Purchasing
SUBJECT: Sole-Source Waiver for Vaughn Chopper Pumps - South Tacoma Pump Station
Project
Sourcing Request No. 3672607165_2022 – June 13, 2023, City Council
DATE: May 22, 2023

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY:

The Environmental Services Department requests a sole-source waiver of competitive procurement procedures and recommends that a contract be awarded to PumpTech, LLC., Bellevue, WA, for the procurement of Vaughn Chopper Pumps at the South Tacoma Pump Station, in the amount of \$587,110, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from ES Wastewater Fund 4300.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

These improvements will extend the life and significantly reduce maintenance of the South Tacoma Pump Station and reduce the risk of wastewater conveyance interruption which could result in millions of gallons of untreated wastewater overflowing into the surrounding area.

BACKGROUND:

The South Tacoma Pump Station, located just south of the Tacoma Public Utilities Administration Building, was constructed in the 1940s and has a pumping capacity of up to 23 million gallons per day. The Environmental Services Asset Management Group has identified this pump station for significant structural restoration and equipment upgrades to extend the life of the facility, improve reliability, and reduce maintenance.

An upcoming construction project will include replacement of the existing 50–70-year-old Fairbanks Morris pumps. These pumps require higher than normal maintenance and spare parts are often difficult to find or need to be specially manufactured to keep the pumps in service.

ISSUE: The pumps are considered a specialty item that require a nine-month lead time to manufacture and deliver. Because of this time constraint, the Environmental Services Department proposes to purchase the pumps at this time while design and contract documents for the other modifications and construction work are being developed by staff under a separate contract. This will allow for the pumps to be delivered approximately nine months earlier than if combined into a single contract, timed to coincide with the construction activity. Construction activity is anticipated to begin in June 2023.



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ALTERNATIVES: An alternative approach would be to take no action and accept the risk of potential pump failure which, if it were to occur, would result in the overflow of millions of gallons of untreated wastewater.

COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS:

In accordance with TMC 1.06.257, the purchase of Vaughn Chopper pumps represents a justifiable sole-source acquisition on the grounds of standardization of city systems, single-source proprietary technology, and substantial cost savings realized (in the form of decreased maintenance and repair, and avoidance of additional engineering and installation costs related to the South Tacoma Pump Station project) versus taking the acquisition to an open bid.

The below considerations, in accordance with the TMC have led to the determination that a sole-source acquisition for Vaugh Chopper Pumps represents the most cost-efficient option for new pumping equipment at the South Tacoma Pump Station project. The considerations are as follows:

- The current pumps are 50–70-year-old Fairbanks Morris pumps with limited/no access to spare parts, maintenance, and rebuild services.
- The Vaugh Chopper pumps fit within the existing wells and plumbing without major revisions. The estimated cost to re-build the wells to accommodate different pumps is \$500,000 or more.
- Environmental Services currently operates Vaughn Chopper pumps elsewhere, in the wastewater system, to good effect and desires to standardize these pumps where practicable to further increase savings related to maintenance and repair.
- The Vaughn pumps possess a proprietary process/technology for handling and “chopping” solid matter in the wastewater system; greatly decreasing/eliminating maintenance requirements to service clogged pumps and damaged equipment.
- “Chopper” style pumps also eliminate the need for additional screening apparatus in the pump wells. Saving labor, maintenance, and replacement costs associated with the additional equipment.
- Environmental Services’ wastewater engineers have evaluated competing products and found that only Vaughn’s technology effectively produces the claimed results.

CONTRACT HISTORY: This is a new contract.

SUSTAINABILITY: The improvements made to the pump station will: Reduce the consumption of materials necessary for ongoing repairs, reduce the staff time necessary for maintenance and emergency calls to the pump station, and significantly improve the working environment for City staff operating and maintaining the pump station equipment.

EQUITY IN CONTRACTING (EIC) COMPLIANCE: Not Applicable

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (LEAP)
COMPLIANCE: Not Applicable



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FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4300-ES Wastewater Fund	ENV-04013-06-04	5642500	\$587,110
TOTAL			Up to \$587,110

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4300-ES Wastewater Fund	524700	6310010	\$587,110
TOTAL			Up to \$587,110

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$587,110

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? YES

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED. N/A