



## ITEM REPORT UTILITY COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 12/4/2024  
Agenda Section: Business Item

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**Department Origination:** Public Works

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**Agenda Item:** Approve SEH Fee Amendment No. 1 in the Not To Exceed Amount of \$27,600.00 for additional engineering services related to the 2024 Well Replacement Exploration project

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**Approval Required:** Simple Majority Vote

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### **BACKGROUND**

The Council awarded a Contract to SEH at the June 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. This engineering contract is related to work by Traut Companies for exploration to identify future production well locations near the Public Works facility.

During initial drilling exploration, unexpected clay material was encountered in one of the initial test well locations. The location was not desirable for a production well, requiring additional borings to evaluate other locations in the area near the water treatment plant site. These added boring required were identified under Change Order 1, and required additional time for SEH engineering services.

Subsequently, after the additional drilling work completed under Change Order 1, further drilling was considered to evaluate a couple locations in the area. The work was completed to assist with design decisions related to sizing of the raw watermain for the City's Water Supply Improvements – Wells 5 & 6 project. This work was completed as part of Change Order 2. These added boring required additional staff time for SEH engineering services.

The following outlines additional services provided as part of the 2024 Well Replacement Exploration project for the City of Baxter (in coordination with the City Engineer/Staff). Additional services generally increased contractor coordination, field investigation efforts (time and laboratory costs), and final report preparation. This included the selection of alternative exploratory boring locations when unfavorable aquifer conditions were encountered at one of the initial boring locations (EB-2/MW-2) and again at the first alternative boring locations (EB-3).

### **Task 1: Field Preparation/Contractor Selection**

#### **Expanded Well Replacement Exploration**

- Review available data and selected alternative drilling locations.
  - Work with City to select locations based on property boundaries, known utilities, and other factors.
- Work with driller to prepare a change order and provide services within approved budget.
- Prepare and present a field investigation summary/presentation to the Utilities Commission.

#### **Eastern Aquifer Exploration**

- Review available data and selected alternative drilling locations.
  - Work with City to select locations based on previous boring logs, property boundaries, known utilities, and other factors.
- Work with driller to prepare a change order and provide services within engineering budget identified with Change Order 1.

### **Task 2: Field Investigation**

### **Expanded Well Replacement Exploration**

- Provide drilling oversight for two additional drilling locations and installation of one additional monitoring well.
  - Log soil borings in accordance with ASTM standards.
  - Coordinate with contractor for a preliminary capacity test.
  - Establish final observation well construction specifications.
  - Coordinate with contractor for the selection and evaluation with of soils for screen and filter pack sizing of planned water supply wells.
  - Oversee final development of additional observation well with contractor.
- Based on conversations with the City, additional water quality sampling parameters were added to the scope.
  - Coordinated additional sampling bottles and parameters with subconsultant labs.
  - Coordinated rental of PFAS compliant sampling equipment including pump, tubing, PFAS-free water for de-contamination of field equipment.
  - Additional Laboratory Consultant Fees
    - Soil Analysis – Eurofins (\$1450)
    - Basic Water Quality Analysis – National Testing Lab (\$888.30)
    - PFAS/Treatment Parameter Analysis - Pace Laboratories (\$2242)
- Install a third transducer/telemetry unit for the additional well and extended monitoring period for three transducers/telemetry to two months.
  - Summarize and evaluate transducer/telemetry data to pumping data (provided by AE2S) and present comments and recommendations on pumping program of existing wells.

### **Eastern Aquifer Exploration**

- Provide drilling oversight for two additional drilling locations.
  - Log soil borings in accordance with ASTM standards.
  - Coordinate with contractor for a preliminary capacity test.
  - Establish final observation well construction specifications.
  - Coordinate with contractor for the selection and evaluation with of soils for screen and filter pack sizing of potential future water supply wells.

### **Task 3: Report Preparation**

#### **Expanded Well Replacement Exploration**

- Additional time to complete reporting tasks.
  - Preparation of additional soil boring logs.
  - Preparation of additional observation well construction data.
  - Analysis and tabulation of additional analytical data
  - Update geologic cross-sections to incorporate new data, as appropriate.
  - Additional conclusions and recommendations regarding installation of Wells #5 and #6.
- Prepare and present a Well Replacement Report to the Utilities Commission and Council.
- Participate in additional project meetings.

#### **Eastern Aquifer Exploration**

- Additional time to complete reporting tasks.
  - Preparation of additional soil boring logs.
  - Additional conclusions and recommendations regarding the potential of future wellfield development from an eastern aquifer.

- Prepare and present an Eastern Aquifer Exploration results to the Utilities Commission and Council.

Attached is a SEH contract in the not to exceed amount of \$27,600.00.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total of both the field work/drilling and the SEH contract was initially estimated at \$119,665.00.

Original Contract (Traut Companies): \$88,465  
Change Order 1: \$23,492.50  
Change Order 2: \$33,940.00  
Total Revised Contract Amount (Traut Companies): \$145,897.50  
Original SEH Contract: \$31,200.00  
Amendment 1: \$27,600.00  
Total Engineering Fees: \$58,800.00  
Total Budget (amended): \$204,697.50

The project, including the engineering fees, has not been budgeted or identified in the Water Enterprise Fund five-year cashflow analysis. The impact on future water utility rates is unknown at this time, the combination of the proposed expenses will result in future rate increases. A more detailed mid-year review and update to the cashflows, once the 2023 audit and financial statements are complete, will be necessary to project the estimated future impact on the Water Enterprise Fund and identify potential funding sources.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

City Staff recommends approving the SEH Fee Amendment No. 1 in the Not To Exceed Amount of \$27,600.00 for additional engineering services related to the 2024 Well Replacement Exploration project.

#### **COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED**

**MOTION** to approve the SEH Fee Amendment No. 1 in the Not To Exceed Amount of \$27,600.00 for additional engineering services related to the 2024 Well Replacement Exploration project.