



**STAFF REPORT**  
**5/28/2025**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Castulo Estrada, Utilities Director

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement Amendment #1 in the Amount of \$455,001.00 with Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC for Hexavalent Chromium Compliance Project Updated Scope and Fee Estimate for a Grand Total in an Amount not to Exceed \$655,001.00

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement Amendment #1 in the Amount of \$455,001.00 with Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC for Hexavalent Chromium Compliance Project Updated Scope and Fee Estimate for a Grand Total in an Amount not to Exceed \$655,001.00.

**BACKGROUND:**

On August 1, 2023, the State Water Resources Control Board released a proposed regulation for hexavalent chromium (Cr-6) in drinking water, setting a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 µg/L. The Board adopted the MCL on April 17, 2024. The regulation became effective October 1, 2024.

Water Systems with 1,000 to 9,999 service connections, such as the City of Coachella's public water system, which has approximately 9,200 connections have a three-year compliance period. The City's Public Water System has a compliance date of October 1, 2027. The regulation identifies ion exchange, reduction/coagulation/filtration (RCF), and reverse osmosis as Best Available Technologies (BATs), but also acknowledges that other treatment methods, like stannous chloride (SnCl<sub>2</sub>), may be feasible under certain conditions, though more data is required to establish stannous chloride as a BAT.

On April 11, 2023 the City of Coachella respectfully urged Senator Padilla and Assemblymember Garcia to request a \$500,000.00 appropriation through the 2023-2024 State Budget to help the City finance a pilot demonstration project that could provide the needed data to the Division of Drinking Water to consider allowing the City to use SnCl<sub>2</sub> to lower levels of Chromium-6 in its drinking water. Later in July, 2023 the City was notified that it had secured the appropriation through the State Budget.

On November 08, 2023 the City published a Request for Proposals for the subject work and received two proposals. City staff evaluated the proposals.

On April 24, 2024 City Council authorized a Professional Service Agreement (PSA) with Corona Environmental Consulting and appropriated \$200,000.00 of the \$500,000.00 of the funding received by the State. The City at this time still needed to finalize the Funding Agreement with the State of California, and soon after the approval of the PSA the State notified the City that Budget Appropriations had been placed on hold until further notice. Later, at the end of the year the State notified the City that the funding had become available and the City worked to finalize the Funding Agreement with a Scope of Work that focused on evaluating the City's water against treatment technology options through bench scale and pilot testing, permitting support, a preliminary design report and 30% design.

On February 25, 2025 the City of Coachella and the Department of Water Resources executed the Funding Agreement and the \$500,000.00 was sent to the City for this Project.

#### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC (Corona), in collaboration with Water Works Engineers, LLC (WWE), has prepared the attached updated scope of work and fee estimate to outline the tasks and corresponding schedule that will prepare Coachella Water Authority (CWA) to achieve compliance with California State Water Resources Control Board's upcoming Cr(VI) maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 µg/L. This updated scope and fee estimate provides additional details beyond the November 4, 2024, contract between CWA and Corona regarding "Testing and Evaluation of an Alternative Treatment Process for Removal of Chromium (Cr-6) from Groundwater and Water System Planning". It supplements the November 4, 2024, contract and Exhibit A Scope of Services by including all work completed to date and necessary from this point forward to complete preliminary (30%) design by the end of 2025. To accomplish the updated scope, the updated fee estimate increases the November 4, 2024, contract amount of \$200,000.00 to \$655,001.00.

All six of CWA's currently active wells (Well 11, Well 12, Well 16, Well 17, Well 18, and Well 19) will require Cr(VI) treatment to meet system and demands, as will Well 20, which is intended to be drilled and developed within the coming year. Based on prior efforts completed by CWA and current understanding of Cr(VI) treatment across the Coachella Valley, Reduction Coagulation Filtration (RCF) is anticipated to be the most likely selected full-scale Cr(VI) treatment process. This proposed effort will see CWA through preliminary (30%) design for these well sites and will consist of a water system evaluation, the development of a Cr(VI) treatment alternatives analysis, pilot testing, permitting support, and preliminary design through collaboration with WWE.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Per the attached Payment Invoice the City has received \$500,000 for the Planning and Design of a project that removes Hexavalent Chromium from the City's Water System. The City has already committed \$200,000.00 of this funding and is requesting the remaining \$300,000.00 is appropriated to the same project. In addition, staff is requesting the remaining \$155,001.00 is

appropriated into CIP Hexavalent Chromium Treatment City Project W-55 from undesignated reserves in the Water Fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Hexavalent Chromium Compliance Project Updated Scope and Fee Estimate
2. 4600016049 Advanced Payment Invoice