



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council

STAFF

Jeremy Woolf, Senior Director of Integrated Water Operations
Christina Schroeder, Director of Water Reclamation and Biosolids
Ted Hewitt, Legal

SUBJECT

Resolution 2023-066 Approving an Exception to the Use of a Competitive Process for Biosolids Dewatering Polymer for the Drake Water Reclamation Facility.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to request an exception to the use of a competitive bid process for a contract extension not to exceed five (5) years with Aqua Ben Corporation for purchase of biosolids dewatering polymer is being brought forward for consideration.

The alternative is contrary to the City's best interests for the following reasons:

Selection of an alternative biosolids dewatering polymer would require modification of the Drake Water Reclamation Facility (DWRf) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Modification of NPDES permits is prohibited when the status of a permit is administratively extended. The DWRf NPDES permit is in a status of administrative extension.

Exception to the Competitive Bid or Proposal Rationale:

Section 8-161(d)(1)b. Although there exists more than one (1) responsible source, a competitive process cannot reasonably be used or, if used, will result in a substantially higher cost to the City, will otherwise injure the City's financial interest, or will substantially impede the City's administrative functions or the delivery of services to the public.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

The Drake Water Reclamation Facility (DWRf) uses Aqua Ben Corporation Hydrofloc 1687 Polymer as a dewatering aid used in conjunction with mechanical methods (centrifuge) for the purpose of reducing water content in digested biosolids. Chemical information for Aqua Ben Corporation Hydrofloc 1687 Polymer was submitted to CDPHE with the City's most recent NPDES permit renewal in 2015. The polymer was then approved for use as listed on the NPDES permit fact sheet that was issued with the renewed permit.

In 2021, a renewal request and application were submitted to CDPHE for the DWRF NPDES permit (#CO0047627). The NPDES permit was not renewed but was instead administratively extended. An administrative extension places the conditions of the expired permit and fact sheet into effect until a renewal of the permit can be issued. While an NPDES permit is in administrative extension, it is not eligible to be modified. Since Hydrofloc 1687 Polymer is currently approved for use, as listed on the fact sheet for the DWRF NPDES permit, it is ineligible for the modification required to change polymer usage.

The City Manager has reviewed and approved the justification for this acquisition, subject to the Council's final approval.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Expected cost of polymer for 2023 is approximately \$200,000. Future years cost is expected to range between \$300,000 and \$450,000 based on historical usage and dependent on market conditions and biosolids volume.

Discontinuance of use of polymer would require a halt to use of mechanical methods (centrifuge) for dewatering of biosolids. The current centrifuge design does not allow for use without a chemical aid (polymer). This would result in "wet hauling" of biosolids. Based on previous costs for wet hauling of limited periods, average annual biosolids production costs are estimated to increase to \$12,000,000.

Wet hauling would also result in an inability for continued use of Meadow Springs Ranch for biosolids application until approval can be received for wet application of biosolids at this location by CDPHE.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Not applicable.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

No public outreach is required as this maintains status quo.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. NPDES Permit #CO0047627 Fact Sheet
3. Aqua Ben Corporation Estimate for Purchase