



Memorandum

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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Date: February 4, 2021

To: Utility Board

From: Jason Kintner, Chief of Operations/Public Works Director
Allen Hunter, Utility Operations Manager
Maya Giddings, CIP Project Manager

Re: Meter Replacement Project Update

BACKGROUND:

More than 60% of the City's existing water meters are 15 years or older. Water meter accuracy is the greatest at the beginning of its life and degrades with age and use. With an aging utility, a standardized replacement program is needed. The water system currently has a wide array of water meter manufacturers, types, and reading technologies of varying age. To assist with the evaluation of the City's meter replacement program, the City retained HDR to perform an analysis, provide recommendations on standardizing the meter program, and aid in the development of a Request for Proposal ("RFP") process.

METER REPLACEMENT RFP:

The City issued an RFP in June 2019. The RFP included proposals to provide either an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system or an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system for the City's water utility. Each Proposal included vendors to furnish/install meters and transmitter units, data collection and management and required integration with the City's billing system. Additionally, each proposal was to be designed to an expected useful life of at least 20 years.

The City received nine proposals. An Evaluation Committee, including representatives from Public Works, Finance, Community Planning & Development, as well as Information Services Departments reviewed each proposal, completed interviews, and performed reference checks with other jurisdictions. Following this review, two vendors were selected to complete a small pilot installation to test the meter and data platforms (November 2019).

While many proposals clearly demonstrated an ability to provide a standardized meter replacement program for Mercer Island, Ferguson/Sensus was identified as the preferred vendor and contract negotiations are currently underway. On Tuesday night, staff will provide an update on the project and discuss the upcoming project schedule.