



## CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

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**MEETING DATE:** 06/11/2024

**REQUESTER:** Peter Wolbach

**PRESENTER:** Peter Wolbach, Staff Engineer - Utilities

**ITEM TITLE:** CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTANCE, APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF CONTRACT K-2324-128: A CONTRACT BY AND BETWEEN THE NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY AND GARVER, LLC., IN THE AMOUNT OF \$730,343, FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE NORMAN WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY BIOSOLIDS AND CONTAMINANTS OF EMERGING CONCERN SAMPLING PROJECT AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION.

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### **BACKGROUND:**

The Norman Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) operates a conventional activated sludge wastewater treatment facility, including anaerobic digestion (bacteria breaking down organic matter) of waste sludge from both primary and secondary clarifiers. After primary and secondary digestion, the waste sludge is “dewatered” using centrifuges and the resulting biosolids are then transported from the WRF for land application. While biosolids are regularly tested for regulated contaminants to meet permit requirements, sampling biosolids to identify contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) has not yet been performed. In October 2023, Norman received \$830,000 of “full principal forgiveness” (effectively a grant) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) funds to perform a biosolids evaluation on emerging contaminants from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB), to be funded on a reimbursement basis.

The City also operates a yard waste recycling program adjacent to the WRF at 398 Bratcher Miner Road, with “turned windrow” composting. The City is considering the benefits of co-composting (with mixed piles of dewatered, digested WRF biosolids and yard waste), as well as the production of Class A biosolids, but has not yet initiated a co-composting program. The City desires further evaluation of the extent CEC’s are present in the biosolids and/or removed via the composting process. This proposed project would include characterization of CECs in both the solid and liquid processing trains at the WRF.

Garver, LLC provided a proposal that includes professional services related to a twelve-month sampling and piloting campaign to determine the mass balance of various regulated and unregulated chemicals in the WRF solids train. The sampling campaign will focus on a select list of prioritized chemicals that have both been detected in the WRF liquids process train sampling

(multiple campaigns between 2016 and 2022) and were identified in the United States Environmental Protection Agency's recent risk-based assessment of biosolids contamination.

**DISCUSSION:**

With respect to sampling biosolids, Garver's proposal includes sampling from four pilot biosolids beds that will need to be constructed and sampled from. Norman will be responsible for constructing the solids-piloting beds, operating the Solids Train Process Equipment, and decommissioning the completed pilot. Garver will provide Project Administration which includes the pilot plan, developing the sampling plan, and executing the pilot plan and sampling plan.

With the scheduled 12 months of sampling, the project is expected to be complete within 15-18 months.

**RECOMMENDATION 1:**

Staff recommends that NUA approve appropriation of \$730,343 from the Wastewater Reclamation Fund Balance (Account 32-29000) to WRF Emerging Contaminant Study, Design (Account 32999942-46201; Project WW0340). Reimbursement payments from the principal forgiveness grant will be posted to Other Revenue/SRF Loan Proceeds (Account 319-333318) when received from the OWRB.

**RECOMMENDATION 2:**

Staff further recommends that NUA approve Contract K-2324-128 between NUA and Garver, LLC in the amount of \$730,343 for professional services for the Norman WRF Biosolids and CEC Sampling Project.