

Agenda Statement



Meeting Date: January 20, 2026
To: City Council
Through: Jackie Wilde, City Manager
From: Scott Korbe, Public Works Director
Agenda Item: Replacement of Boilers at Public Safety Building

BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

After experiencing four failures of boiler pumps at the Public Safety Building over the past four years, with costs to rebuild the pumps in excess of \$10,000, the City Council authorized replacement of the pumps in Resolution 2025-032. However, during this winter's freezing weather, the boilers themselves started to fail, necessitating a new strategy aimed at minimizing the potential for freezing to avoid building damage. The Public Works Director worked with Sage Mechanical to examine boiler replacement and/or repair options. The parties identified the option to rebuild existing boilers, replace heat exchangers, replace a single boiler, or replace both boilers. The solutions ranged in cost from \$31,356 to \$57,612. After reviewing the options, the best course of action is to replace both boilers to safeguard the building and offer redundancy, given Whittier's remote location and the delays associated with emergency response during freezing temperatures.

The Public Works and Harbor departments have received excellent response and quality workmanship from Sage Mechanical, which is qualified to replace the City's boilers. Sage will remove and dispose of existing boilers, install the new boilers and adapt them to the existing gas piping and electrical systems, and flush, test, and program the new boilers. The new boilers come with a five-year manufacturers' warranty plus a one-year parts and labor warranty. Sage currently provides on-call emergency services to the City and their quality and reliability makes them an excellent option for safeguarding the City's Public Safety Building boiler system.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Comprehensive Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Whittier Code: <i>WMC 3.32.210(E) Sole Source Procurement</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Other: <i>Resolution 2025-032</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FISCAL NOTE: The 2026 Budget did not anticipate the need to replace the Public Safety Building boilers so an appropriation is required at a proposed cost of \$57,612.

ATTORNEY REVIEW: Yes No Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Council authorize a contract with Sage Mechanical LLC to replace two boilers in the Public Safety Building.