

Agenda Statement

Meeting Date: September 23, 2025
To: City Council
Through: Jackie Wilde, City Manager
From: Scott Korbe, Public Works Director
Agenda Item: Replacement Boiler Pumps at Public Safety Building



BACKGROUND, JUSTIFICATION, & INTENT:

The boiler pumps at the Public Safety Building have failed for the fourth time in four years with the costs of rebuilding pumps exceeding \$10,000. Pump failures result not only in costly repairs, but in the need to maintain redundant parts inventory, delays in maintenance, on-call emergency call-outs, and potential downtime. While it is possible to replace the existing pumps with pumps that are less expensive, the multiple challenges with the existing pumps makes it clear that these pumps are not meeting the City's needs, and therefore staff recommends purchasing better quality more reliable pumps that will result in less downtime, despite a slightly higher cost.

The Public Works and the Harbor departments have received excellent response and quality workmanship from Sage Mechanical, which is qualified to replace the City's existing pumps. Sage recommends replacing the existing Taco pumps with Grundfos brand pumps. These pumps offer higher efficiency (reduced gas and electric consumption by operating on a progressive demand system, heating only the amount needed), longer service life which reduces downtime and emergency repairs, and lower long-term maintenance costs due to fewer expected rebuilds and service calls. While on site, Sage will perform preventive maintenance and system optimization, repair multiple glycol leaks, service and clean both boilers, and leave two sets of consumable parts for future boiler service needs. Sage currently provides on-call emergency services to the City and their quality and reliability makes them an excellent for safeguarding our boiler system.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Legislative Priorities: <i>list the legislative priority</i>	☐	☐	☒
2. Comprehensive Plan: <i>list action item number (see Consistency Checklist Reference Material)</i>	☐	☐	☒
3. Whittier Code: WMC 3.32.210(E) <i>Sole Source Procurement</i>	☒	☐	☐
4. Other:	☐	☐	☐

FISCAL NOTE: The 2025 Budget did not include replacement pumps, necessitating an appropriation. The estimated cost of the project is \$20,573 and we recommend an additional \$2,000 contingency to address unforeseen needs.

ATTORNEY REVIEW: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION: Council authorize a contract with Sage Mechanical LLC to replace

two boiler pumps, service the boilers, and provide replacement parts.