

From: Shikada, Ed
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 1:26 PM
To: Council, City; Council Agenda Email
Cc: Executive Leadership Team; ORG - Clerk's Office
Subject: Council Agenda Consent Questions for May 24: Item 2 and 4



Council Question Response

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

On behalf of City Manager Ed Shikada, please find below the staff responses to inquiries made by Council Member Tanaka in regard to the May 24, 2021 Council Meeting agenda.

- **Item 2: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Upgrade Contract at Regional Water Quality Control Plant**
- **Item 4: Contract Approval for Critical Emergency Systems Professional Services**

Item 2: Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Upgrade Contract at Regional Water Quality Control Plant

1. How would day-to-day operations of the Regional Water Quality Control Plant be affected if this request is denied?

Per the Resource Impact section on page 3 of SR11997, "If this project is not approved, the Plant will continue to use a less secure and efficient SCADA system than the proposed system." Furthermore, the department would not be able to retire the unsupported legacy software used for regulatory reporting; technical glitches with this software would likely result in noncompliant regulatory reporting.

2. What is the plausibility of hiring another person to maintain compliance of the existing legacy software? If possible, how much would this cost?

An additional SEIU Technologist could feasibly be added to the organization at a salary cost of \$155,334 plus benefit costs; however, the long-term cost of the additional staff member would greatly exceed the cost of this project (\$186,824) and the plant information management system project (\$116,938). The upgraded software and new plant information management system software will be maintained without the cost of an additional staff member.

3. Why is the financial cost of the wastewater treatment unevenly distributed between Palo Alto, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Stanford University, and the East Palo Alto Sanitary District? Why is Palo Alto responsible for 35%, whereas the other 5 agencies are responsible for 65%?

Palo Alto contributes approximately 35% of the flow and pollutants to the plant as it relates to its population of residents, businesses, and groundwater

infiltration. The other agencies contribute approximately 65% based on their respective sewershed contributions. The six agencies are not equally distributed in flow and pollutant concentrations (i.e., not 1/6th for each agency). Basing operating costs on actual flow and pollutant strength more accurately distributes cost share between the respective agencies.

4. Why was there such a low response rate for the number of wastewater treatment process proposals received during the solicitation process?

The project received four proposals for the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Upgrade project. Staff did not find this to be an unusually low response rate.

5. Does this contract need to be renewed this year? Can this upgrade to a new software wait until next year?

The SCADA Upgrade project is not a renewal of an existing contract. It is a new project. The SCADA software is not a new software but an upgrade from GE Digital iFix 5.8 to GE Digital iFix 6.1. Given the security, efficiency, and loss-of-support issues for the software, staff is not recommending a delay.

Item 4: Contract Approval for Critical Emergency Systems Professional Services

1. Would it be possible for City employees to develop the technical capacity/skillset to perform this work, or is it more efficient to continue contracting PSI?

The technical capabilities described in the scope of work and the range of services provided by the vendor include mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, power systems, vehicle systems, low voltage wiring, high voltage wiring, SyTech radio interoperability platforms, solar power, custom fabrication, and other services that would be infeasible for one or several City employees to provide, especially considering that the services are not needed daily, but sporadically. The complexity of the Mobile Emergency Operations Center (MEOC) and other vehicles and systems is nontrivial. The City greatly benefits from the vendor's relationship with the City and knowledge of our equipment and mission. Further, certain public safety staff had previously augmented some of these functions, but those positions in the Police Department and in the Office of Emergency Services were eliminated in prior budgets.



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