City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: October 15, 2024

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Steven Valle, Senior Administrative Analyst
s_valle@ci.lompoc.ca.us

SUBJECT: Approval of Professional Services Agreement for the Lompoc Groundwater Percolation Basin Feasibility Study with EKI Environment & Water, Inc.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council:

1) Waive the procurement requirements set forth in Municipal Code Section 3.36.030 and,

2) Approve and authorize the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement (Attachment 1) for environmental and water resource engineering services with EKI Environment & Water, Inc. in the amount of $315,000 to conduct the Lompoc Groundwater Percolation Basin Feasibility Study (Project) as a component of the Guadalupe-Lompoc Climate Action Initiative (GLI).

Background

The Santa Barbara County Regional Climate Collaborative (Collaborative) was established in March 2020 by the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department's Sustainability Division to facilitate and implement equitable climate policies, programs, and projects that empower communities and improve quality of life within Santa Barbara County. Since its inception, the Collaborative has focused on opportunities to combat climate change in Santa Barbara County.

In 2022, the Collaborative identified the Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) program, a state-funded capacity building grant program for under-resourced communities, as an opportunity to fund capacity building activities to address climate change and increase engagement with under-resourced communities in the region, emphasizing collaboration with the cities of Lompoc and Guadalupe. The Collaborative organized various community stakeholders throughout Guadalupe, Lompoc, and the greater Santa Barbara County region and prepared the GLI proposal for the RCC grant program on behalf of interested stakeholders, including the City.

The City's Project, included in the GLI proposal, is to conduct a groundwater percolation basin feasibility study which will identify areas suitable for stormwater infiltration and prepare up to 30% design plan layout sheets of the system(s), such as infiltration basins and bioswales. The study would assist the City in implementing one of its water sustainability projects outlined within its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

On October 4, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6547(22), authorizing the City to participate in the GLI and apply for RCC grant program funding with the Collaborative. The Collaborative applied to RCC grant program in October 2022, but the application was unsuccessful.

Upon notification of the unsuccessful application to the RCC program, the Collaborative submitted the GLI proposal to State Senator Monique Limón's office for consideration in the State budget. Senator Limón's office was successful in advocating for the GLI proposal, which included the City's Project, and the GLI proposal was added to the State's 2023-24 CNRA General Fund Specified Grant Program budget.

On July 16, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 6686(24) which authorized receipt of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) grant funding for the Project through a Subcontractor Agreement (Attachment 2) with the Community Environmental Council (CEC). The CEC is the primary grant recipient from the CNRA and is the GLI project administrator. The adoption of Resolution No. 6686(24) also approved the necessary supplemental appropriations to fund the Project.

Discussion:

The Project, as outlined in Attachment 2, will take two years to complete and is recommended to be conducted by EKI Environment & Water, Inc., who is more familiar with the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) and ongoing projects related to the Basin than other engineering firms due to their current involvement in the implementation of the City's GSP.

The five tasks to be undertaken throughout the Project include:

1. Project Management (Task 1): Overall project management activities, including project budgets, schedule, staff assignments, contractor coordination and management, records management, and contract compliance. Tasks include accounting of expenditures of allocated funds, preparation of progress reports, invoices, and associated documentation, and as-needed communications with Santa Barbara County Grant Manager and Community Environmental Council.

2. Community Outreach and Engagement (Task 2): Develop a brief Technical Memorandum (TM) that guides Stakeholder Communication and Engagement (SCE) during site investigation, selection, and design. A key aspect of the TM is to identify the groups and community members to engage, the input needed from

them, and a strategic plan for meetings and events to solicit their input relevant to the promising projects.

3. Inspection and Geotechnical Confirmation (Task 3): Includes conducting soil and percolation studies and exploratory subsurface geophysical surveys at potential sites to confirm site suitability. For budgeting purposes, it is assumed that confirmation studies will be conducted at up to three sites.

4. Preliminary Project Design (Task 4): Prepare preliminary design of selected projects for Lompoc to permit and build the projects more efficiently. This includes a field topographic survey of one to three project sites and preparation of 30% design plan layout sheets with a preliminary grading plan and a schematic of an assumed gravity diversion structure. A geotechnical report is not included in this task but is likely needed to assess earthwork requirements as required for subsequent detailed design submittals.

5. Project Summary Report (Task 5): A Technical Memorandum will be prepared to summarize project findings, provide the design plan layout sheets, and report and archive the data collected.

Staff is requesting that the City Council formally waive the procurement requirements set forth in Lompoc Municipal Code Section 3.36.030. Staff has selected EKI Consultants to conduct the project due to the firm's knowledge and prior experience with water resource projects within the three management areas of the Santa Ynez Valley Groundwater Basin, as outlined in the City's Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan (SGMP) and because the firm is also currently assisting the City to implement activities outlined in the SGMP using a separate grant (Prop 68), and the Lompoc Groundwater Percolation Feasibility Study will build on efforts already undertaken for the SGMP by EKI Consultants. This will result in substantial savings of time and money for the City as well as maintaining consistency between projects.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct impact to the City's General Fund due to the approval of Attachment 1. City Council's approval of Resolution No. 6686(24) on July 16, 2024, approved the receipt of grant funding and necessary supplemental appropriations to fund the Project in its entirety. The City is not required to provide a cost share towards the activities to be conducted through the Project. All grant funds received by the City through the CEC, per Attachment 2, will be used towards environmental and water resource engineering services provided by EKI Environment & Water, Inc. to implement the Project as outlined above and in Attachment 2.

Conclusion:

Approval of an agreement with EKI for environmental and water resource engineering services will authorize the use of a subgrant award of $315,000 from the CNRA to fund long-term water supply resilience activities and will supplement ongoing activities to implement the City's GSP. Ultimately, the grant-funded Project will assist the City to ensure water runoff during storm and/or flood events is better redirected from the Santa Ynez River into the groundwater basin instead of to the Ocean Park Estuary.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Steven Valle, Senior Administrative Analyst

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

_____
Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Professional Services Agreement
2) Subcontractor Agreement