

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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FROM: Waste Management Department &
Purchasing Department

SUBMITTAL DATE: May 27, 2003

SUBJECT: Renewal of Award of Laboratory Services Request for Proposal 97360

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Authorize the County Purchasing office to renew the contract for laboratory services with E.S. Babcock & Sons, Inc. (Babcock), in the amount not to exceed \$198,594 for laboratory services.

BACKGROUND:

The Waste Management Department (WMD) is required to perform groundwater, stormwater, leachate, gas condensate and soil sampling and analytical testing at twenty-one landfills within the county. The regulations mandate that a state-certified laboratory perform the analytical testing. This work is performed on a quarterly, semi-annual, or annual basis depending on the site and type of sampling required. In June of 2000, the WMD issued an RFP for laboratory services (see Attachment A); the award was based on a matrix consisting of the following items: cost, detection limits, turnaround time, quality control/quality assurance, in-house capabilities, and references. Babcock had the lowest bid at \$172,696 and the overall highest rating in the matrix. This contract was renewable annually for up to three years.

FORM APPROVED
COUNTY COUNSEL

MAY 27 2003

BY

Robert Howdyshell, Director
Purchasing Department

Joseph R. McCann, General Manager-Chief Engineer
Waste Management Department

FINANCIAL DATA:

CURRENT YEAR COST: \$198,594

NET COUNTY COST: \$ 0

SOURCE OF FUNDS: 3531-440-695-2-2517

ANNUAL COST: \$ 0

IN CURRENT YEAR BUDGET: YES X NO

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT: YES NO X FY:

COUNTY C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE

Executive Officer Signature

Policy

Consent

Department Recommendation:
Per Executive Office:

Prev. Agn. Ref.

Dist. ALL

Agenda No.

ATTACHMENTS FILED

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BACKGROUND (continued):

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) representatives and consultants have historically agreed that, due to the statistical variances and anomalies that exist between various laboratories, it is prudent to use the same laboratory from year to year. This practice eliminates a variable and allows for more consistent comparisons of analytical laboratory results from individual sampling events. Federal regulations (40CFR 258.53(a)) require that the groundwater monitoring program must include consistent sampling and analysis procedures to ensure monitoring results that provide an accurate representation of ground-water quality. The sampling and analysis procedures include sample collection, sample preservation and shipment, analytical procedures, chain of custody control, and quality assurance and quality control. The WMD has control over sample collection, however the laboratory impacts the remainder of the procedures.

Babcock's facilities are located in Riverside. The location allows the WMD to hand deliver the samples to the laboratory for analysis. This eliminates the use of a courier for sample delivery. Couriers introduce another step in the chain of custody and increase the likelihood of sample contamination. The WMD is required to sample for parameters that have an EPA recommended holding time of eight (8) hours. Babcock's location allows for the ability to comply with the EPA recommended holding time. Other laboratories that have bid in the past are located in Orange County and Kern County, which make it difficult, if not impossible, to meet the time limitations for the samples from WMD sites located in the eastern desert.

Changes in analytical procedures and quality assurance and quality control can lead to the possibility of false-positive results. If a parameter is detected and confirmed, the WMD is required by the RWQCB to begin evaluation monitoring and then enter into corrective action. This is an expensive process leading to increased monitoring, engineering studies, and remedial measures.

The WMD recommends extending the contract for one additional year. As the current contract was competitively bid in the year 2000, extending the contract for one additional year and maintaining consistent unit prices ensures fair and reasonable pricing and minimizes the risk to the District. Babcock's performance has been acceptable and they have agreed to maintain their unit prices as originally bid in 2000 (see Attachment B). The increase in contract value from 2000 (\$172,696) to 2003 (\$198,594) is due to additional testing requirements at the landfills, as required by the RWQCBs. If this were competitively re-solicited at this time, there is no likelihood there would be any other vendor that could match or beat this pricing and provide for a continuum of uninterrupted service delivery for this critical reporting requirement. If this extension is approved, preparations will be made to ensure a competitive solicitation is completed and a new contract is put in place for performance starting July 2004.

HK:hk/acmd

Attachments