



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 16-0846, **Version:** 1

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Recommendation to adopt resolution authorizing City Manager, or designee, to execute a contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., of Long Beach, CA, to provide groundwater monitoring and reporting at former City Fuel Sites 7, 10, 11, and 17, and provide services that will result in the accelerated removal of the contaminants at these sites, for a total contract amount of \$1,474,890, plus a 10 percent contingency in the amount of \$147,490, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,622,380, for a period of five years, with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods, including any necessary amendments thereto, provided that the total contract amount is not exceeded. (Citywide)

City Council approval is requested to enter into a contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM), to provide groundwater monitoring and reporting at former Fuel Sites 7, 10, 11, and 17, to provide services that will result in the accelerated removal of the contaminants at these sites, and to prepare reimbursement documentation for these actions as needed by the City.

The City has pursued cleanup and remediation at these inactive sites since 1994, when it was reported to the Certified Unified Program Agency within the Long Beach Health and Human Services Department that five fuel sites located in the City may be contaminating the groundwater. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) opened cases against those facilities, requiring that groundwater monitoring, testing and reporting be conducted. Subsequently, fuel tanks at these five sites were removed. Furthermore, to ensure compliance with the LARWQCB's requirements, and to avoid civil liability penalties of up to \$1,000 per day, the City engaged contractors since then to monitor, test and report on these facilities at an average annual cost of \$100,000. One of the five original cases has been remediated and closed (Tree Farm - 7600 E. Spring Street), no longer requiring groundwater monitoring. The four contaminated facilities listed below currently remain in an "open case" status:

- Fire Station No. 7 - 2295 Elm Street
- Fire Station No. 10 - 1417 Peterson Avenue
- Fire Station No. 11 - 160 E Market Street
- Fire Station No. 17 - 2241-2247 Argonne Avenue

In an effort to bring the sites to closure, staff has proposed to move beyond monitoring and actually remediate the sites. AECOM has developed Accelerated Site Closure plans that focus on cleanup and remediation, above and beyond the monitoring and reporting currently

being required by the LARWQCB, except that for Fire Station 7, the LARWQCB has issued a directive to take such action. The closure plans for each site will include:

- Design of a groundwater remedy in the form of a Remedial Action Plan.
- Installation of the groundwater remedy - Biosparging wells and equipment will be installed adjacent to former underground storage tanks (USTs) at a maximum depth of 40 feet below ground surface. Biosparging is a technology used to reduce concentrations of petroleum constituents in groundwater by introducing oxygen into the saturated zone to increase biodegradation and minimize volatilization.

The project should be complete in approximately seven years. Once these projects are completed, monitoring, testing and reporting requirements from the LARWQCB will cease. With ongoing monitoring and reporting costs of \$125,000 growing by an average of 3.2 percent annually, this is an estimated savings to the City of approximately \$1.5 million within ten years of project completion.

In addition to remediation and monitoring, AECOM has assisted the City with preparation and submission of reimbursement documentation of costs associated with the groundwater monitoring and reporting and accelerated closure plans. These costs are eligible for reimbursement via the California Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund (USTCF). This Fund provides reimbursement for expenses associated with the cleanup of leaking USTs.

AECOM has an extensive knowledge of the City's fuel facilities that is not easily transferrable to a new vendor and has provided excellent groundwater monitoring, testing and reporting services for the City for the past 11 years. This knowledge greatly enhances AECOM's ability to coordinate the reimbursement requests and communicate with the USTCF to clarify their requirements and provide information to support the City's reimbursement claims.

A competitive procurement is not feasible because recreating the case files, remediation plans, and background reimbursement research would be an extensive, drawn-out effort, and to do so would constitute an unproductive use of time and an unnecessary expenditure of public funds. Fleet Services' research of several other environmental firms specializing in UST remediation services revealed that AECOM's proposal is both economically competitive and extremely thorough.

City Charter Section 1801 requires that contracts for City purchases be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after a competitive bid process, but allows for awards without a competitive bid process if accompanied by a Resolution adopted by City Council.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Monica Kilaita on August 19, 2016 and by Assistant Finance Director Lea Eriksen on August 17, 2016.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Accelerated closure of these four fuel sites dramatically lessens the possibility of further environmental contamination due to groundwater effects on the size of the underground petroleum product plume. Remediation actions reduce the contaminated area as well as the exudates from the ground wells. The City is taking a proactive approach to remediate all affected sites, not only Fire Station No. 7 as mandated by the LARWQCB. As a result, the City will benefit from a cleaner, safer environment.

City Council action to adopt the attached Resolution and award a contract concurrently is requested on September 13, 2016, to ensure that a contract is in place expeditiously.

The total contract amount will not exceed \$1,622,380 for a five-year term. Anticipated costs for FY 17 are \$249,670. Sufficient funding for FY 17 is budgeted in the Fleet Services Fund (IS 386) in the Financial Management Department (FM). Funding for subsequent years will be requested as part of the annual budget process. The costs are recovered through monthly user charges billed to customer departments through the Fleet MOU. In addition, these costs are eligible for reimbursement from the State's USTCF for expenses associated with cleanup of leaking fuel storage tanks. The award of this contract will provide continued support to our local economy by assisting in the preservation of employment for 75 full-time employees residing in Long Beach.

Approve recommendation.

JOHN GROSS  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

APPROVED:

PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER