



MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Bill Robeson, Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director

BY: Shane Taylor, Utilities Manager

SUBJECT: Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the Preparation of the Northern Cities Management Area Annual Report and Monitoring Program for the Years of 2024 through 2026

DATE: November 12, 2024

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve an agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$217,960, which includes a 9% contingency and authorize the City Manager or designee to execute the Professional Services Agreement for the preparation of the 2024, 2025, and 2026 NCMA Annual Report and Monitoring Program subject to any minor, technical, or non-substantive changes as approved by the City Manager in consultation with the City Attorney.

IMPACT ON FINANCIAL AND PERSONNEL RESOURCES:

The City's share for the 3-year agreement is \$217,960. The first-year amount is \$69,823 and is included in the current budget. The City's share represents 31% of the total cost. The additional funds will be included in the upcoming FY 2025-26 and 2026-27 budget. City staff spend an estimated 100 hours a year on NCMA activities.

BACKGROUND:

The collaborative approach to groundwater management was formalized in the 2002 Management Agreement between the Cities of Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, and Pismo Beach, and the Oceano Community Services District (collectively the "Northern Cities"), as well as identified landowners and other parties, and incorporated into the 2005 Settlement Stipulation for the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin Adjudication (Stipulation). On June 20, 2005, the Stipulation was agreed upon by numerous parties, and, in 2008, the Stipulation was incorporated into the Court's final Judgment. The Judgment orders the stipulating parties to comply with all terms of the Stipulation, including annual groundwater monitoring and reporting.

City Council

Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the Preparation of the Northern Cities Management Area Annual Report and Monitoring Program for the Years of 2024 through 2026

November 12, 2024

Page 2

The City has continued to participate with neighboring jurisdictions in the preparation of required reports and studies concerning management of the Santa Maria River Groundwater Basin. Water sampling and preparation of the Annual Report is required by the 2008 Judgment in the Santa Maria Groundwater River Basin Adjudication. The City has participated with representatives from neighboring jurisdictions to form the Northern Cities Management Area Technical Group (NCMA TG) in order to coordinate these water management activities. The NCMA TG represents the following agencies with their respective groundwater pumping entitlements:

Urban Area	Groundwater Allotment	Ag Credit	Total
City of Arroyo Grande	1,202	121	1,323
City of Grover Beach	1,198	209	1,405
City of Pismo Beach	700	0	700
Oceano Community Services District	900	0	900

The Annual Report is prepared by a mutually secure technical consultant firm that is funded proportionally by all of the participating NCMA agencies. The 2023 NCMA Annual Report was prepared by GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

ANALYSIS OF ISSUES:

On August 13, 2024, requests for proposals (RFP) was distributed to (7) engineering firms, advertised on the e-bid board, and newspaper. Two (2) firms responded with proposals.

The proposals from GSI Water Solutions, Inc. and Larry Walker Associates were reviewed by staff, consultant, and all other agencies and was found to be acceptable. Interviews with both firms were conducted and GSI was determined to be the top firm. GSI prepared the NCMA Annual Reports for 2017-2023 and staff has been satisfied with the quality of their water.

Therefore, staff recommends awarding the agreement for the 2024, 2025, and 2026 Annual Reports to GSI Water Solutions, Inc. All NCMA agencies are required by the Court action to participate in the preparation of the Annual Report.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the Professional Services Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$217,960, which includes a 9% contingency, for preparation of the 2024, 2025, and 2026 NCMA Annual Reports;
2. Do not approve the Agreement; or
3. Provide other direction to staff.

City Council

Agreement with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for the Preparation of the Northern Cities Management Area Annual Report and Monitoring Program for the Years of 2024 through 2026

November 12, 2024

Page 3

ADVANTAGES:

Preparation of the Annual Report satisfies the Judgment ordering the parties to perform annual groundwater monitoring and reporting. In addition, implementation of the monitoring and reporting program, which identifies changes in water levels and quality, enables the City and its partner jurisdictions to react quickly to any issue affecting the water supply in the groundwater basin. The monitoring program has provided a mechanism allowing all parties to be better informed with regard to the changing condition of the basin, and consequently, has allowed for the opportunity for better collaboration between the City and partner jurisdictions included in the Arroyo Grande Groundwater Basin Management Agreement.

The GSI team includes staff with local experience and a track record of meeting reporting requirements of adjudicated basins, extensive prior involvement with NCMA and is well suited to lead the preparation of the 2024, 2025, and 2026 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report.

DISADVANTAGES:

No disadvantages have been identified.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

No environmental review is required for this item.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION AND COMMENTS:

The Agenda was posted at City Hall and on the City's website in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Professional Services Agreement
2. Exhibit A - Scope of Services
3. Exhibit B - Schedule of Services
4. Exhibit C - Compensation