

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: October 6, 2008
Reviewed by: *BP*

SUBJECT: Neilson Street Storm Drain Project Geotechnical Services

REPORT BY: Ann Chaney, Community Development Director
Richard Cunningham, Public Works Manager
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. C07-13 Agreement for Consultant Services with URS Corporation for Geotechnical Engineering and Inspection Services during Construction

BACKGROUND

In September 2006, the City Council approved a Contract and Agreement for Consultant Services (ACS) with URS Corporation of Oakland (URS) for what were later to be referred to as Phase 1 Services. The Phase 1 services involved the preparation of a study of alternatives and technical approaches for the construction of storm drain improvements in the Curtis - Neilson - Santa Fe area. The scope of the initial study included reviewing several alternative storm drain alignments that were identified in the 1998 Watershed Management Plan, subsequent alignments prepared by the City Engineer, and an alternative route in Neilson Street that would involve deep excavation and/or tunneling.

Following completion of the Phase 1 study, Council in May 2007, approved a scope of work and services for URS, and the City subsequently entered into a new Agreement for Consultant Services (Contract No. C07-13) with URS for Phase 2 Services in the amount of \$106,219. Phase 2 services provided for the preparation of the plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E) for the recommended alternate, which would install a storm drain in Neilson Street between Albany Terrace and the south City line. The proposal required URS to consider installation by Microtunneling (MT) or by Pilot Tube Microtunneling (PTMT), and proceed with the most favorable option. The scope of the design included the replacement of the sanitary sewer main and lower laterals in this portion of Neilson Street.

In February 2008, Council approved Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. C07-13 in the amount of \$68,077 for Phase 3 services. Phase 3 services directed URS to prepare additional PS&E and bid documents for alternative PTMT tunneling methodology and additive items for the sewer work. This additional service was requested in order to provide the City with the flexibility to award a contract that would fall within the City's

budget limitations for the project. Phase 3 also provided compensation to URS for submittal reviews, attendance at meetings and limited site visits.

In June 2008, the City received alternate bids for the MT and PTMT projects, with and without the additive items for the sewer rehabilitation. In July 2008, a Contract was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder for the MT option plus the sewer rehabilitation. Construction began in August.

ANALYSIS

The installation of the new 30 inch storm drain pipe in Neilson Street will require the excavation of 4 large pits. Two of these pits will be more than 27 feet deep. These pits require engineered shoring and backfill. It is critical that the construction and subsequent backfill of these pits be observed by a qualified Geotechnical Engineer. Review of the excavation and backfill of smaller pits for rehabilitating the sewer system by pipe bursting methods will also be required.

The proposed Amendment No. 2 to Contract No. C07-13 is attached. The amendment attaches the proposal from URS to perform the Phase 4 services. These services include geotechnical observation, inspection and testing during construction. Phase 4 services will be provided on a time and materials basis for an amount not to exceed \$30,078.

URS has been involved with the project from the onset and has acquired very specialized knowledge of the existing conditions as well as the contract requirements for installing the pipelines by MT and pipe bursting technologies. URS is therefore considered to be uniquely qualified to perform the required Phase 4 geotechnical engineering services. A proposal from a second firm with knowledge of this project, DCM Engineers was solicited, but they declined to propose.

The previously approved Phase 3 services included limited site visits and construction observation and Staff was concerned about the appearance of duplication in compensation for this work. A memorandum from URS explaining the difference and confirming that there will be no duplication of payment for Phase 3 work under Phase 4 (Amendment No. 2) is attached.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The cost of the Phase 4 services was included in the project budget for the Neilson Street Storm Drain and Sanitary Sewer Projects and is included in the current 5 Year CIP. Funding for the Neilson Storm Drain is from the revenues generated by the Measure F-2006 parcel tax for Streets and Storm Drains. Funding for the sewer rehabilitation work is from revenue generated by the Sewer Service Charge and the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

Attachments

1. Amendment No. 2 to CSA C07-013
2. Proposal from URS for Phase Services
3. URS Memorandum explaining there will be no duplication of Phase 3 services in Phase 4