



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

100 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Legislation Text

File #: 14-1149, **Version:** 1

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 2, 2014

COMMITTEE ON PROCUREMENT

Mr. David St. Pierre, Executive Director

Issue purchase order and enter into a joint funding agreement with the United States Department of the Interior - U.S. Geological Survey for the maintenance and operation of seven streamflow gaging stations and one rain gage within Cook County, Illinois, in an amount not to exceed \$80,400.00, Accounts 501-50000-612490 and 201-50000-601170, Requisition 1385791

Dear Sir:

Authorization is requested to issue a purchase order and enter into a joint funding agreement with the United States Department of the Interior - U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the maintenance and operation of seven streamflow gaging stations and a rain gage within Cook County.

The seven streamflow gaging stations are located as follows:

- Salt Creek near Elk Grove Village
- Salt Creek at Western Springs
- Des Plaines River at Lyons
- North Branch of the Chicago River at Deerfield
- North Shore Channel at Wilmette
- Deer Creek near Chicago Heights
- Tinley Creek near Palos Park

In addition to the streamflow gages, this agreement also provides for maintenance and operation of a rain gage on Salt Creek near Rolling Meadows.

The work to be performed by the USGS includes services of individuals possessing a high degree of professional skill where the ability or fitness of the individual plays an important part. Therefore, the services obtained are not adaptive to award by competitive bidding pursuant to Section 11.4 of the Purchasing Act.

The total cost of operating and maintaining these eight gaging stations is \$109,950.00. The District's share of this agreement is \$80,400.00 and the remaining \$29,550.00 will be funded jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the USGS. The estimated 2014 expenditure is expected to be \$20,100.00 and the estimated 2015 expenditure is expected to be \$60,300.00. Services under this agreement will commence October 1, 2014 and extend through September 30, 2015.

The data collected at these sites by the USGS will be used in conjunction with the USGS data from other sites funded by the Corps and other agencies under joint funding agreements. The USGS is the recognized expert in the measurement and reporting of streamflow data. The District's participation in the USGS program will protect the integrity of data and will help in the development of valuable historical records at the gage

locations. The District first provided funding for eight gages in 2006. On March 21, 2013 the Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to the previous joint funding agreement to install a gage on the North Shore Channel at Wilmette, used for Lake Michigan discretionary diversion accounting and to assess the operational impacts of the Wilmette Pumping Station on the Chicago Area Waterway System. USGS installed a new gage on the Des Plaines river near Lyons this year that they are requesting MWRD joint funding on for maintenance and operation; however, the total amount this year is less than previous years because USGS received additional funding from their National Streamflow Information Program for six of the gages MWRD is supporting. All of the gaging stations provide data that the District has used in the development of its Detailed Watershed Plans and will continue to use in future planning and design of capital improvement projects. Further, ensuring the long-term continuity of the data collected by the USGS at the aforementioned gages is an important element of the service that the District provides under its Stormwater Management Program.

The USGS is a non-profit governmental agency and is therefore not required to register as a corporation with the State of Illinois.

In as much as the USGS possesses a high degree of professional skill, it is recommended that the Director of Procurement and Materials Management be authorized to issue a purchase order and enter into an agreement without advertising, per Section 11.4 of the Purchasing Act, in an amount not to exceed \$80,400.00.

Funds for the 2014 expenditure, in the amount of \$20,100.00, are available in Accounts 501-50000-612490 and 201-50000-601170. The estimated expenditure for 2015 is \$60,300.00. Funds for the 2015 expenditure are contingent on the Board of Commissioners' approval of the District's budget for that year.

Requested, Catherine A. O'Connor, Director of Engineering, WSS:JPM

Recommended, Darlene A. LoCascio, Director of Procurement and Materials Management

Respectfully Submitted, Barbara J. McGowan, Chairman Committee on Procurement

Disposition of this agenda item will be documented in the official Regular Board Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners October 2, 2014