

Goodmorning, my name is Mike Archey. I'm a close observer of District and a vocal critic of District's Energy and Carbon management, its project delivery process, its procurement process and the agency's self-promoting rhetoric that outstrips its results.

Brian and Kari, with regard to Energy and Carbon management and project delivery effectiveness, **when will the past due Energy Neutrality Study be published for public review?**

This project has been highly referenced as a panacea to District's energy and climate goals in the District's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and the Climate Action Plan adopted in May 2023.

This study was awarded in February 2022 and a December 31, 2023 deliverable date. It is now July 11, 2024 and the report now over 20% past due and, to my knowledge is still unavailable. As you all know, the District denied my FOIA request – asserting “deliberative process privilege” - for the records a few weeks ago. Hence my appearance today.

Some things to note about the past due delivery of this Study:

- 1) The District has acknowledged the existential threat that climate change presents and has claimed in official documents, Commissioner speeches, BoC comments in these BoC meetings that “time is of the essence” and “there is no time to delay” in acting on climate mitigation. There is a gap between the sense of urgency in the rhetoric and Districts execution and results
- 2) Similar studies have been conducted by District in past – Malcom Pirnie, AECOM, DHI, CDM, District Biogas Taskforce to name a few. So the subject matter is not new or novel. Aeration, pumping, dewatering, digester heating, biogas production are all the same wastewater treatment processes. I can tell you first hand that the solution sets may have improved, but the underlying wastewater treatment processes are the same. So why is the report so far behind schedule?
- 3) This is an engineering consultant services project that has NO construction or equipment supply chain implications. Again, why is the report so far behind schedule?
- 4) According to the transmittal letter seeking authorization to award this contract, The District highlighted the consultants ability to “complete the work” as a differentiating factor from other consultants. ***“The Brown and Caldwell Inc. team’s breadth of knowledge and experience along with their approach to complete the work were also factors in their high score.”***
- 5) District has been moving forward on energy and carbon projects seemingly regardless of the recommendation outcomes of this Study. \$21MM Stickney Boiler replacement, \$19MM HVAC, ~\$14MM Egan CHP, etc. etc.

6) There are significant Inflation Reduction Act incentives that the District has failed to pursue and / or will allow to expire. These benefits could have / should have saved the taxpayers tens of millions of dollars if properly and diligently pursued.

I'll stop here and will repeat the question I started with;

Brian and Kari, will you please advise when the District will make the Energy Neutrality Study available to the public?

Thank you.

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2022

COMMITTEE ON PROCUREMENT

Mr. Brian A. Perkovich, Executive Director

Title

Issue purchase order and enter into an agreement for Contract 21-RFP-22, Professional Services to Develop Conceptual Plans for Achieving **Energy Neutrality** at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, with Brown and Caldwell Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00, Account 201-50000-612430, Requisition 1564831

Body

Dear Sir:

Authorization is requested to issue a purchase order and enter into an agreement with Brown and Caldwell Inc. to provide professional services to develop conceptual plans for achieving **energy neutrality** at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) from the date of award through December 31, 2023.

Professional services are required to develop conceptual plans and cost estimates for achieving **energy neutrality** at the District. This work is in line with the District's Strategic Plan and is a success measure under Strategic Goal #5: Enterprise Resilience. More specifically, this contract will develop conceptual plans and estimate capital, operating, and maintenance costs for achieving **energy neutrality** at one water reclamation plant (WRP) by 2030 and net **energy neutrality** Districtwide by 2035. Other impacts will be identified, such as how the plans will affect the District's emissions of greenhouse gases and priority pollutants, current/future permits, and other environmental effects. Supplemental tasks will also be included to support this work. These tasks include: (1) convening an expert panel that will participate in brainstorming alternatives to achieve **energy neutrality** and review work products; (2) evaluating replacement of the aeration system at the Hanover Park WRP considering costs, maintenance requirements, and **energy efficiency**; and (3) supplemental services. This project will build off earlier work including the **Energy Neutrality** Feasibility Studies for the John E. Egan and Hanover Park WRPs and the Biogas Utilization Evaluations for the Stickney and Calumet WRPs.

On August 18, 2021, the request for proposal for Contract 21-RFP-22 was publicly advertised. One hundred two (102) firms were notified, and forty-four (44) firms requested proposal documents. Seven (7) acceptable proposals were received on September 17, 2021. Acceptable bids were received from AECOM, AMERESCO, Inc., Brown and Caldwell Inc., Carollo Engineers, Inc., dbHMS, Greeley and Hansen LLC, and Sargent and Lundy Engineers.

The proposals were reviewed and evaluated by a panel consisting of three members from the Monitoring and Research Department, one member from the Maintenance and Operations Department, three members from the Engineering Department, one member from the Law Department, and one member from the Procurement and Materials Management Department. The criteria for these evaluations were outlined in Request for Proposal 21-RFP-22 and included: understanding of the project, approach to the work; cost of services; technical competence; financial stability; personnel effectiveness; compliance with insurance requirements; compliance with affirmative action requirements; and submission of all necessary licenses and permits. Following the preliminary evaluation of proposals, it was determined that

all seven (7) proposers were acceptable finalists and were interviewed on November 15, 16, and 18, 2021. A solicitation was sent to each of the finalists on December 3, 2021, for an unqualified Best and Final offer. The best and inal offers were submitted to the Director of Procurement and Materials Management on December 9, 2021.

A final evaluation matrix, including the review of proposals, the interviews, and the best and final offers, resulted in an overall top ranking for Brown and Caldwell Inc. Brown and Caldwell Inc.'s high score was a result of their team's nationwide **energy** experience in areas such as **energy** planning, digestion, **bioenergy**, biogas utilization, cogeneration, renewable **energy**, **energy** reduction, etc. **The Brown and Caldwell Inc. team's breadth of knowledge and experience along with their approach to complete the work were also factors in their high score.**

The agreement for Contract 21-RFP-22 will be in effect from the date of award through December 31, 2023.

Technical memoranda summarizing the background information, conceptual plans, costs, schedules, and other impacts for achieving **energy neutrality** at one WRP by 2030 and Districtwide by 2035 will be provided by the vendor. Another technical memorandum will detail the findings of the aeration system evaluation for the Hanover Park WRP.

Brown and Caldwell Inc. estimates that 1,460 hours are required to review Districtwide data and develop background information for **energy neutrality**, 834 hours for developing a conceptual plan, costs, and schedule for achieving **energy neutrality** at one WRP, 1,877 hours for developing a conceptual plan, costs, and schedule for achieving **energy neutrality** Districtwide, 381 hours for the expert panel, and 452 hours for the aeration system evaluation for the Hanover Park WRP. An estimated 45 people from Brown and Caldwell and their teaming partners will be working on this project. Brown and Caldwell Inc.'s teaming partners include Jacobs Engineering Group, Climate Resilience Consulting, Kaletech, LLC, Shelton Solutions, Inc., Orion Engineers, LLC, and Redmon Engineering Co.

Brown and Caldwell Inc. will fulfill the 20% Minority-Owned Business Enterprise participation goal requirement with Kaletech, LLC; 10% Small Business Enterprise participation goal requirement with Kaletech, LLC, Climate Resilience Consulting, and Shelton Solutions, Inc.; and 10% Women-Owned Business Enterprise participation goal requirement with Climate Resilience Consulting (4.5%) and Shelton Solutions, Inc. (5.5%). Brown and Caldwell Inc. will also fulfill the 3% Veteran-Owned Business Enterprise requirement with Orion Engineers, LLC.

The Diversity Section has reviewed the utilization plan and has concluded that Brown and Caldwell Inc. is in accordance with the District's Affirmative Action Policy.

Inasmuch as the firm of Brown and Caldwell Inc. 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 per Section 11.4 of the Purchasing Act, in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00.

Funds for the 2022 expenditure, in the amount of \$500,000.00 are available in Account 201-50000-612430. The estimated expenditure for 2023 expenditure is \$600,000.00. Funds for the 2023 expenditure are contingent on the Board of Commissioners' approval of the District's budget for that year.

Requested, Edward W. Podczerwinski, Director of Monitoring and Research, EWP:RA:MC:mb
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 for February 17, 2022

Attachment