



Environment Committee

Meeting date: December 8, 2009

**Business Item
Item: 2009-454**

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 30, 2009
Subject:	Authorization to Execute Purchase Order Change with Polydyne for Polymer at Empire
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Micky Gutzmann 651-602-1741; Pat Oates 651-602-4911
Division/Department:	MCES c/o William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to execute a purchase order change to increase the amount of the polymer purchase order by \$200,000 to cover polymer purchases at the Empire Wastewater Treatment Plant through September 2010.

Background

A purchase order (PO) was awarded to Polydyne for the purchase of polymer beginning 10/9/08. The term of the PO is two years ending September 30, 2010, with three one-year options to extend. Each extension will be brought before the Environment Committee and Council for approval.

During the summer of 2008, a polymer trial was conducted at the Empire WWTP. This was the first polymer trial since the plant was expanded in 2005. Three vendors participated in the trial. Based on the testing, polymer use at Empire was estimated at 200,000 pounds. This estimation has proven to be low as an additional 192,397 pounds of polymer are expected to be used by the end of September 2010.

Rationale

Analyzing polymer use and solids process performance for 2009 has identified three reasons for the need for additional polymer:

- Solids production: The annual sludge production at Empire was estimated to be 2,600 tons based on the previous year’s records. The first nine months of 2009 show solids production at 3,237 tons or 24% above the amount estimated.
- Increasing cake percent solids: Drier cake solids equal lower operating costs. In a concerted effort to achieve drier cake solids, a higher dose of polymer is needed. An increase in cake solids of 2.5% has been observed. The actual polymer dosage has been 33% greater than the dose used in the trial.
- Sludge thickening: The polymer trial did not quantify dosage for thickening. This process accounts for an additional 13% of polymer use and was excluded in the original contract estimate.

The increased utilization of polymer has necessitated the increase in dollar amount on the purchase order.

Funding

Funds are available in the Empire Plant’s Annual Operating Budget.

Known Support / Opposition

None.