

E Environment Committee

Item: 2012-20

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 25, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: January 11, 2012

Subject: Authorization for Sole Source Procurement from Barr Engineering Company for Update of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional Groundwater Flow Model

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to procure an update of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional Groundwater Flow Model (Metro Model 2) on a sole source basis from Barr Engineering Company. This is for an amount not to exceed \$314,570 over a five-year period.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Council Member Rummel asked for staff's opinion on why there was only one bidder. Staff explained that the original flow model was developed by Barr Engineering as a result of a request for proposals process in 2007. No other consultant had comparable experience and expertise.

In response to a question from Council Member Rummel, staff said this bid is comparable in price to the first contract.

Council Member Rummel asked if the updated model will provide information on flow, water supply, and aquifer drawdown. Staff responded that that is the intention. The original model was used for that purpose, and this update will improve the Council's ability to make those types of predictions. In addition, one of the specific changes we hope to make to this model will be groundwater recharge information.

Council Member Van Eyll commented that the model extends outside of the metro area. He assumes that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would be responsible for implementation outside of the metropolitan area. Staff clarified that the implementation of the plan is concentrated on the metropolitan area; the data needs to come from areas adjacent to the metro area as input to the model. However, the information generated by the model will be useful for all areas.

Council Member Melander asked how many other agencies, outside of the Council, look at this information. Staff said that one of the intents of the legislative action directing the Council to develop a water supply plan was to coordinate among all of those agencies that have responsibility for water supply. The plan was adopted by the Council and DNR jointly. DNR has regulatory authority over groundwater and surface water withdrawals, and it has to approve every local water supply plan. The Council will provide, through the water supply planning program and supporting groundwater model, better information than either DNR or local governments have had in the past for making those decisions.

Motion to approve proposed action was made, seconded, and passed, with Council Member Schreiber abstaining.

E Environment Committee
Meeting date: January 10, 2012,
For the Council Meeting of January 25, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	December 15, 2011
Subject:	Authorization for Sole Source Procurement from Barr Engineering Company for Update of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional Groundwater Flow Model
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-4-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Keith Buttleman 651-602-1015
Division/Department:	MCES, William G. Moore 651-602-1162

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to procure an update of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional Groundwater Flow Model (Metro Model 2) on a sole source basis from Barr Engineering Company. This is for an amount not to exceed \$314,570 over a five-year period.

Background

This project will provide an updated Twin Cities Metropolitan Groundwater Flow Model (Metro Model 2). The update will include incorporating new information into the Metro Model 2, expanding its extent, adding the capability to run transient simulations, and establishing a process to regularly incorporate new data and planning information into the model.

Rationale

After an exhaustive search for potential sources for this service, including a formally advertised Request for Proposals (RFP), only one company submitted a proposal.

Barr Engineering Company (Barr) has the expertise needed to provide this service, and their proposal meets the project objectives outlined in the RFP. Barr is a recognized local expert in the field of groundwater modeling. Highlights of their relevant groundwater-modeling experience include the original Metro Model 2, modeling for Woodbury-Afton groundwater protection, modeling for Savage Fen-Eagle Creek-Boiling Springs investigation, and modeling for over 20 wellhead protection plans in the Twin Cities metro area.

Barr’s proposal addresses all of the RFP objectives of incorporating additional and updated data, implementing transient simulations, calibration and uncertainty analysis, and improving ease of model use.

Funding

Funding is included in the operational budget.

Known Support / Opposition

None.