



Council Communication No. 97-281

SYNOPSIS –

It has been determined that it is necessary to replace certain components of the existing WRA sewage flow monitoring system because of the age of the system and because of obsolescence of its electronic parts. The system component parts are manufactured solely by American Digital Systems. Similar sewage flow monitoring systems are available from several other manufacturers; however, their component parts are proprietary as well.

FISCAL IMPACT –

Funding for this purchase is provided for in the WRA Facilities Operating Budget which is being funded by all the WRA constituent communities on a proportionate basis which is determined by their sewage flow.

RECOMMENDATION –

Approval to proceed with the Sole Source Purchase of the required flow monitoring equipment from American Digital Systems.

BACKGROUND –

The City of Des Moines is the Operating Agency for the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority. As the WRA Operating Agency, the City of Des Moines is required by the ICA Agreement to measure all the WRA constituent communities' sewage flows that are contributed to the WRA Wastewater Treatment Facilities. This is done to allow an equitable distribution of the operations and maintenance costs of the WRA Wastewater Treatment Facilities based on each individual WRA communities' sewage contribution.

At various times during the 1980's, the City installed the component parts of a sewage flow monitoring system as part of the construction of the WRA sewer network that serves the WRA constituent communities. More than 30 sewage flow monitors were installed during that time period. The flow monitoring system selected at that time was manufactured solely by American Digital Systems.

American Digital Systems, as the initial provider of the equipment, was for many years the only provider of sewage flow monitoring equipment that would provide data reliable to use for the WRA sewage billing functions. In recent years, several other manufacturers have begun to

produce similar sewage flow monitoring systems; however, their component parts are proprietary as well and are not electronically compatible with the ADS equipment that is currently being used.

The City has had a very good experience with the ADS equipment both in the production of reliable sewage flow data for the WRA and in the operation and maintenance of the equipment as well. It has been observed that their equipment is not unreasonably priced when compared to similar functioning equipment that is now provided by other manufacturers.

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