

March 23, 2021

AGENDA ITEM

TO: Honorable Mayor Domenighini and Members of the City Council

FROM: Royce W. Cunningham, Contract Community Development Services Director

SUBJECT: Authorize Staff to Solicit Proposals to Conduct Condition Assessments of the City's Five Sewer Collection System Lift Stations and the Major Process Equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

RECOMMENDATION

By simple motion, the City Council authorizes the Solicitation of Statements of Qualifications/Proposals to Conduct Condition Assessments of the City's Five Sewer Collection System Lift Stations and the Major Process Equipment at the Willows Wastewater Treatment Plant.

SITUATION (or BACKGROUND):

The City of Willows, like many cities in the Sacramento Valley, is topographically very flat. The flat land slope results in sewer pipelines getting very deep, some as deep as 25-feet, as they slope toward the wastewater treatment plant. Therefore, sewer systems in the City need to periodically have sewer pumping plants, or lift stations, located in the system to raise the wastewater up to a shallower pipeline before continuing toward the City's wastewater treatment plant. If lift stations did not exist, sewer pipeline depths would be too deep to maintain, and would be unfeasibly expensive to construct or repair. The City of Willows maintains five (5) sewer lift stations in the sewer collection system. Four (4) lift stations; Sycamore Street, Pacific Avenue, Lassen Street, and Road 57 are in the City Limits, and one lift station, the Cherry Street Lift Station, is in the Northeast Willows Community Services District.

The lift stations were all constructed in the mid- to late 1980s and the early 1990s. They are all over 30 years old. The lift stations are showing signs of wear, and the equipment has been experiencing more frequent breakdowns, sometimes requiring emergency response to avoid a wastewater spill to the street or storm drain. Such spills pose a public health hazard, are in violation of State regulations, and typically result in fines from the State if a sewer overflow reaches a creek or stream. It would be prudent to have the lift stations evaluated by a professional engineering consulting firm with specialized experience in condition assessments of wastewater equipment, to determine remaining service life of major lift station components, which lift station components may need replacement, the timing of such replacement, and the estimated cost to replace or rehabilitate lift station facilities. The City would then be in a better position to plan and budget for the improvements.

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The last major improvement project at the Willows Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was completed in 2007. Although not as old as the five lift stations, some of the major process equipment at the WWTP is also starting to show signs of age. Major equipment at the WWTP includes pumps, bar screens, clarifiers, air blowers, aeration basins, filters, disinfection basins, an emergency generator, and various sensors and pieces of monitoring equipment. It would also be prudent to have the major WWTP equipment evaluated by a professional engineering consulting firm with specialized experience in condition assessments of wastewater treatment plant equipment, to determine remaining service life of the major WWTP process components. It would be efficient and cost effective to have the condition assessments for both the lift stations and the WWTP equipment conducted simultaneously by the same consultant.

Staff has prepared a Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals (RFQ/RFP) to conduct condition assessments of the five sewer lift stations and the major process components at the WWTP. A copy of the RFQ/RFP is included as Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Once the RFQ/RFPs are received and reviewed, staff will return to the City Council with a request to enter into an agreement with the recommended consulting firm. The funding for the Condition Assessment will come from the Sewer Fund. Prior to starting work on the lift station condition assessment, staff will contact the Northeast Willows Community Services District (NEWCSD) to confirm that NEWCSD is willing to pay for the condition assessment of the Cherry Street Lift Station. If NEWCSD is not interested in participating in the condition assessment, the Cherry Street Lift Station will be removed from the consultants Scope of Work.

NOTIFICATION

None required.

ALTERNATE ACTIONS

The City Council has several options:

1. Do not perform any condition assessments of sewer system facilities, and therefore do not solicit proposals.
2. Modify the RFQ/RFP to only perform condition assessments of the five sewer lift stations or the Wastewater Treatment Plant equipment, but not both.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff Recommends that by simple motion, the City Council authorizes the Solicitation of Statements of Qualifications/Proposals to Conduct Condition Assessments of the City's Five Sewer Collection System Lift Stations and the Major Process Equipment at the Willows Wastewater Treatment Plant.

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Respectfully submitted,

s/s Royce W. Cunninham

Royce W. Cunningham, P.E.
Contract Community Development Services Director

Attachments: Request for Qualifications/Request for Proposals