

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 8, 2021

TO: THOMAS C. ESQUEDA, City Manager
City Manager's Office

FROM: MICHAEL CARBAJAL, Director 
Department of Public Utilities

SUBJECT: AFFIRM THAT HOWDEN ROOTS LLC IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO FURNISH AND INSTALL PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC CONTROLLER UPGRADES AND SOFTWARE INTEGRATION ON AIR COMPRESSOR BLOWER UNITS AT THE FRESNO-CLOVIS REGIONAL WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

The purpose of this memorandum is to request City Manager approval for a uniquely qualified vendor to furnish and install programmable logic controller (PLC) upgrades on the air compressor blower units at the Fresno-Clovis Regional Wastewater Reclamation Facility (Facility).

The Facility is a secondary treatment plant with an annual rated capacity of 91.5 million gallons per day (mgd). A key part of the treatment process involves the addition of air to the treated sewage to assist the aerobic digestion process. The addition of air helps naturally occurring bacteria treat ammonia and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) resulting in essential, economical, and effective wastewater treatment.

The Facility is equipped with 1500 HP air compressor blower units which are needed for the treatment process and are amongst the larger electrical power consuming pieces of equipment at the Facility. The economical operations of these units is managed by process controls. The Facility has several Howden/Turblex brand Air Compressor Blowers in use which require specific instrumentation and PLC upgrades to operate efficiently with the main Facility controls systems. The air blower units, having proprietary programming control functions, require the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) equipment for proper function. The use of other equipment would not allow for access of the OEM PLC proprietary programming which is needed for proper configuration and operation.

Staff asserts that the OEM vendor is uniquely qualified to furnish and install, including program integration, the needed PLC equipment. The total cost for the work is

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\$218,800. Staff is requesting approval to contract this work with the OEM vendor Howden Roots LLC under the uniquely qualified exemption to formal bidding.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Rick Staggs at 559-621-5110.

X Approved _____ Denied



Thomas C. Esqueda, City Manager



Date

c: Rick Staggs, Assistant Director – Wastewater
Jesus Gonzalez, Jr., Public Utilities Manager
Charles Masters, Engineer II