

Council Meeting of  
September 1, 2009

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Public Works – Authorize a sole source purchase of five (5) ESSCO sewer lift station pumps from ESSCO Engineers Sales-Service Co. Inc. of Los Angeles, CA. Expenditure: \$80,304.07**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

1. Appropriate \$80,304.07 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund; and
2. Authorize a sole source purchase of five (5) ESSCO sewer lift station pumps from ESSCO Engineers Sales-Service Co. Inc. of Los Angeles in the amount of \$80,304.07 including sales tax and delivery.

**Funding**

Funding is available from the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

**BACKGROUND**

The City has nine sewer lift stations, four of which have back-up pumps and motors. Currently, when a pump or motor fails, it is removed, and a temporary unit is installed in its place until the pump or motor can be rebuilt and reinstalled. Having back-up pumps and motors will eliminate the use of temporary components and reduce the possibility of sewer overflows. This would be Best Management Practice (BMP) to reduce potential overflows. It would also help to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Standards (NPDES) in reducing sewer spills.

**ANALYSIS**

ESSCO Pumps and Controls, aka Engineers Sales-Service Company, Inc., is the manufacturer of the sewer lift station pumps. In California, ESSCO acts as the distributor and service representative for these products. ESSCO Pumps and Controls owns all of the pump patterns and is the only manufacturer and distributor in Los Angeles for these parts and therefore meets the City's definition of a Sole Source

purchase. In the early 1990's, all nine of our sanitary sewer lift stations were rebuilt. Essco Pumps and Control Company was chosen to supply the pumps and electrical control cabinets. It is a local company and has proven to be reliable supplying parts and pump rebuilding services. The wet well slide rail components are not interchangeable with other pump manufacturers. Changing pump manufacturers would include the need for slide rail and force main pipe alterations.

The Torrance Municipal Code, "SECTION 22.3.17. EXCEPTIONS; SOLE-SOURCE PURCHASES" states:

a) The provisions of this Article will not apply to purchases of sole-source services or property, which purchases will be made in accordance with such procedures and regulations as will be established by the City Manager.

b) For purposes of this Section, "sole-source purchases" means those purchases where it would be undesirable or impossible for the City to advertise for bids for particular work or for patented items, or experimental or unique services or products, or where competitive purchases would be unavailable or would not prove advantageous for the City. No sole-source purchases may be made where to do so would show favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud or corruption, or result in the waste of public funds, but may be used only to obtain the best economic result for the public.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE  
Public Works Director

  
By: Matthew Knapp  
Sanitation Services Manager

CONCUR:

  
Robert J. Beste  
Public Works Director

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager