

Council Meeting of  
September 13, 2011

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

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: General Services and Public Works – Authorize purchase of 2012 CNG-fueled Peterbilt 320 Chassis Cab with Vactor Model 2110 Truck Body.  
Expenditure: \$439,231.47**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the General Services Director and Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Authorize issuance of a purchase order to Haaker Equipment Company of La Verne, CA in the amount of \$439,231.47 including sales tax and tire fees, to furnish one (1) new and unused 2012 CNG-fueled Peterbilt 320 Chassis Cab with Vactor Model 2110 Truck Body as a cooperative purchase with the City of Whittier, CA (Ref: City of Whittier Purchase Order #11000323); and
- 2) Appropriate and transfer \$119,895.15 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund to the Fleet Services Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund.

Funding

Funding is available from the Fleet Services Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund and the Sewer Enterprise Fund.

**BACKGROUND**

The City's Sewer Cleaning Trucks (Vactor) play a vital role in maintaining Torrance's quite expansive sewer infrastructure. The Wastewater Crews who operate these trucks on a daily basis perform a considerable amount of preventive maintenance work within the sewer systems throughout the City, a very proactive process that serves to prevent serious sewer backup problems. The Vactor Trucks also provide for timely response to sewer emergencies, 24/7, 365 days a year.

During fiscal year 2008/2009 there was only one (1) sanitary sewer overflow event in the City. The following year there were eight (8) events. During 2010/2011 there were seven (7) of these events. Staff feels that this trend may continue given the age of some portions of the City's sewer infrastructure. However, this trend can be greatly mitigated with the replacement of the subject Vactor Truck.

The proposed Vactor purchase is a scheduled replacement for the unit listed below, which has exceeded its established service life and is in need of replacement.

<b>Veh #</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Make</b>	<b>Hours of Operation</b>	<b>Vehicle Condition</b>
8997	1997	Ford LTS 8000 w/Vactor Body	13,720	Water Tank Rusting. Main Boom, Hose Reel and Hydraulic System problems.

Vactor Truck # 8997 is four (4) years past its ten-year scheduled replacement date. Though it has been well maintained over the years, not even the best Mechanic can make these highly complex trucks last forever. This truck was out of service due to repairs and maintenance for a total of 119 days during the past twelve months. That much downtime is unacceptable for any vehicle. This truck is badly in need of replacement. By doing so we will increase the reliability of the Vactor fleet, increase the efficiency of the City's sewer maintenance programs and reduce the vehicle maintenance workload. This in turn will serve to mitigate recent staff reductions within the Fleet Services Division as called for in the FY2011-2013 budget.

Furthermore, replacement of the existing truck, a diesel fueled vehicle with a cleaner-burning natural gas fueled vehicle will serve to further "green" the City's vehicle fleet and will dramatically reduce harmful diesel emissions in and around our community.

## **ANALYSIS**

In 2008 the Wastewater Section of Public Works' Sanitation Division expanded from 9 to 11 employees. This staffing increase was approved in order to keep up with the City's aggressive annual sewer cleaning regimen. Before the additional crew members were added there were four (4) sewer cleaning trucks, one of which was considered a spare, to be used when one of the other trucks was down for maintenance or repairs. When the two members were added to the Crews the "spare" truck essentially was no more. Sanitation uses every existing truck now just to keep up with routine day-to-day sewer maintenance requirements in the City. Now, whenever any of the Vactor trucks is in the shop for repairs or maintenance the Wastewater Section's work falls behind and their ability to provide timely response to emergencies is degraded.

On January 11, 2011 the City of Whittier issued a purchase order (#11000323) to Haaker Equipment Company as a result of competitive bids for a Vactor Truck meeting the same specifications now required by the City of Torrance. Given the City's need to replace truck number 8997 as soon as possible due to its poor operational reliability, coupled with the potential to save valuable staff time and money through avoidance of a Torrance-specific bid, staff recommends that the City Council approve the proposed cooperative

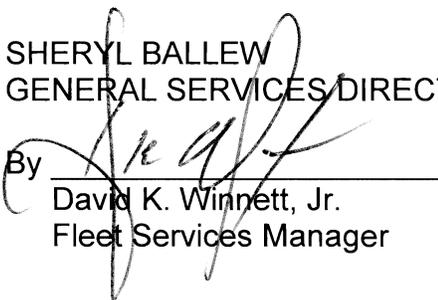
purchase in accordance with The Torrance Municipal Code, (Section 22.3.15), (EXCEPTIONS COOPERATIVE PURCHASES) states;

"a) The provisions of this Article will not apply to purchases made pursuant to any cooperative governmental purchase program, which purchases will be made in accordance with such procedures and regulations as shall be established by the City Manager.

b) For the purposes of this Section, the term cooperative governmental purchase program means any combination between the City of Torrance and any other public agency or public agencies for the joint purchase of property or services".

Respectfully Submitted,

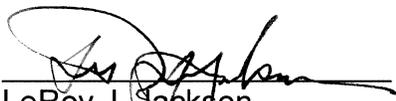
SHERYL BALLEW  
GENERAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

By   
David K. Winnett, Jr.  
Fleet Services Manager

CONCUR:

  
Sheryl Ballew  
General Services Director

  
Robert Beste  
Public Works Director

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager