



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Bogdan Vitas, City Manager
E. David Fernandez, Asst. City Manager - Operations

FROM: Jay Gewin, Utilities Manager

DATE: June 6, 2013

RE: **Ratification of the City Manager's Emergency Approval of a Task Order 4-13-STM from CH2M Hill in the Amount of \$112,117 for Engineering Services for the Design, Permitting, and Bid Phase Services for an Emergency Outfall and Generator for the Simonton Street Stormwater Pump Station. Approving Appropriate Budget Transfers from Stormwater Fund Reserves to Facilitate Project.**

ACTION STATEMENT:

This resolution will ratify the City Manager's emergency approval of task order 4-13-STM from CH2M Hill in the amount of \$112,117 for engineering services for the design, permitting, and bid phase services for an emergency outfall and elevated generator for the City's Stormwater Pump Station at the north end of Simonton St.

City Code Section 2-797 (2) authorizes the City Manager to make emergency procurement of commodities or contractual services where the cost exceeds \$20,000 when there exists a clear and present threat to public health, property, safety, or other substantial loss to the City, including cases where a natural disaster has occurred, is occurring, or is imminently threatening.

The agreement will be executed pursuant to F.S. 287.055 (CCNA), City Code 2-841, and the City's contract with CH2M Hill approved by Resolution # 12-280. This resolution will also approve appropriate budget transfers from stormwater fund reserves to facilitate project.

BACKGROUND:

Front Street is one of the most oft-flooded areas of our City during torrential rains. Sitting at a very low elevation of around two feet, a massive amount of rainwater rapidly flows downhill from higher elevations to the south and quickly inundates this basin during heavy downpours. Businesses in the area are regularly threatened by the flooding, and the high waters are a safety concern for this busy pedestrian area.

The City of Key West operates a stormwater pump station (SWS-5) located at the North End of Simonton St. near the beach. This station is designed to pump rainwater down two 120 foot wells near Simonton Beach.

Unfortunately, the station has not been operating as effectively as desired. Either due to soil/dirt saturation in the rock formation of the wells, an old stormwater collection system, or the overwhelming amount of water during heavy rains and high tides, the system needs to be improved to help lessen flooding during significant storms. We are planning to install valves so that the wells can be isolated to better determine functionality, but believe that another solution is needed to assist the area.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

City Staff believes that the best solution to assist the Front Street area in heavy rains is an emergency outfall into the waters off of Simonton Beach. This outfall would only be used when structures in the area are threatened by floodwaters.

A successful outfall has already been built for the Patricia and Ashby Stormwater pump assist well. A similar outfall is currently under construction for the new George Street Basin stormwater project.

The outfall will not pump trash and other debris directly into nearshore waters. The individual storm grates have trash guards installed, and the existing pump station includes a vortex unit that separates remaining trash from the rainwater before it would enter the outfall.

An elevated generator would also be needed at this site so that the pump station can continue to operate during power outages. We have successfully installed similar generators at other stormwater pump stations around town.

CH2M Hill has successfully designed several stormwater projects for the City, and also wrote our stormwater master plan. They have excellent knowledge of the City's existing stormwater system, and of the unique environmental conditions here in Key West.

This task order includes the following components:

- a) Field Survey and Geotechnical Investigation
- b) Detailed Design Documents for Bid
- c) Permitting for the Project
- d) Bid Phase Services

The City does not have the staff available with the time and technical expertise required to

perform this design work independently. Staff has reviewed this task order and found it consistent with the hourly rates established in the City's contract with CH2M Hill.

Further, City staff does not feel that the hours that will be billed under this task order are disproportionately allotted to higher-wage management staff. In fact, the Principal Project Manager and Sr. Project Manager positions combined account for approximately 16% of the hours allotted in this task order.

The City Manager has executed this task order on an emergency basis so that design work can begin immediately.

OPTIONS / ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES:

1. The City Commission can ratify the City Manager's emergency approval of the task order to CH2M Hill and continue with the design of the emergency outfall and generator on a timely basis. This firm has successful experience working with the City on other projects of a similar technical nature, and has very capable staff to ensure successful project completion. This option is recommended by City Staff, as the neither City nor OMI have the personnel available with the ability to perform the scope of work included in this task order.
2. The City Commission can decline the task order from CH2M Hill. This option is not recommended by Staff, as the City will not be able to utilize the engineering services that are essential in completing the project. City Staff believes that CH2M Hill is the firm that can best design the emergency outfall and generator project of the engineering firms we have under contract. Without hiring a design firm, the City will not be able to better improve the repeated flooding conditions on Front Street during torrential rains.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

City Staff had recommended including this project in the FY 2014 budget. However, recent repeated flooding of the Front Street area has made Staff recommend pursuing this project immediately. Total design and construction costs for this project are estimated at \$730,000. Funds will be transferred from stormwater reserves to proceed with the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Commission select option 1, ratifying the City Manager's emergency approval of task order 4-13-STM from CH2M Hill in the amount of \$112,117 for engineering services for the design, permitting, and bid phase services for the emergency outfall and generator construction at the Simonton Street Pump Station, with the approval of appropriate budget transfers from stormwater fund reserves.