

CITY OF PALMER ACTION MEMORANDUM No. 09-050

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate and Execute a Professional Services Agreement with Ecological Engineering Group, Inc. for an Environmental Assessment in the Amount of \$171,250 to be Conducted on the Proposed Improvements for the Palmer Wastewater Treatment Plant

AGENDA OF: October 13, 2009

Council action:	Authorized
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Approved for presentation by B. B. Allen, City Manager B. B. Allen

Route To:	Department/Individual:	Initials/Date:	Remarks:
X	Originator – Public Works Director	<i>CR</i>	
X	City Clerk	<i>JR</i> 10/6/09	
X	City Attorney	<i>[Signature]</i> 10/6/09	
X	Director of Administration	<i>[Signature]</i>	
	Director of Community Development		
	Director of Community Services		
	Director of Public Safety		
	Director of Public Works		

Attachment(s): Ecological Engineering Group proposal

Certification of Funds:

	No fiscal impact.	
X	Funds are budgeted from this account number: ARRA 2.5 mill funding subsidy.	\$171,250
	Funds are not budgeted. Budget modification is required. Affected account number:	

Director of Administration Signature: *[Signature]*

Summary statement: Ecological Engineering Group, Inc. (EEG) performed the feasibility study and preliminary evaluation report for covering the lagoons and stand-alone improvements at the wastewater treatment plant (phase I). The EEG report helped the City secure American Relief Recovery Act (ARRA) funding by demonstrating that covering the lagoons would bring the treatment level into compliance at the City's current daily flow rates.

The Phase I work funded through ARRA will install the insulated cover on the lagoon #1 this

year.

The City is required to have an environmental assessment completed prior to any future phases at the Waste Water Treatment Plant or securing any additional ARRA funding. Ecological Engineering Group, Inc. (EEG) in conjunction with an Alaska firm Chilkat Environmental would conduct an environmental assessment if this action memorandum is approved. The Environmental Assessment that will address health and safety issues, in Phases II and III and increased plant capacity up to a flow rate of up to 8 MGD (million gallons per day). The study will also address all the environmental concerns that have been expressed by the residents in the immediate local area.

Ecological Engineers designs are approved for green funding which the City is also qualified to receive. The firm has approved designs from ADEC and EPA which will keep the City qualified for future green funds. In order to continue to qualify for additional green funds the design must maintain the "green components in the master plan" which simply means that methods are energy efficient and friendly to the environment. Other design firms do not have the background experience in this type of design.

There was another environmental firm proposal that was initially considered but due to a legal on-going conflict with the City it was decided to use Chilkat Environmental to complete the work in conjunction with Ecological Engineers. This team will allow the City to maintain the green design component for future developments and obtain a complete environmental review for the facility's phased improvements.

This Professional Services Agreement is reimbursable from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Alaska Clean Water Fund (ACWF) no. 671161 at 100 percent.

The information that is obtained from this review will provide the Palmer City Council and the residents of Palmer all the information that has been previously requested but was not completely funded before. This will also provide the needed data to show any environmental impact in the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Phases II and III are important to the WWTP facility because it will allow the City of Palmer to have a sustainable plan in place to handle the expected projected local growth. During the Environmental Assessment the overall master improvement plan will be created with all the items identified and built into the appropriate phase of work for future expansion. Future expansion will be based upon population growth and MGD (million gallons per day) requirements for the future.

Administration recommendation: Approve action memorandum no. 09-050.



Ecological Engineering Group, Inc.

Ecological Engineers and Consultants
where Life informs design®

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Date: September 18, 2009
To: Carter Cole, City of Palmer, Alaska
From: David Del Porto
Subject: Proposal memorandum for additional services

Per your request, EEG proposes to perform the necessary engineering and environmental assessment tasks for the proposed upgrade to your wastewater treatment plant facility. The report generated from this effort will contain sufficient detail to answer the wastewater design questions as stated in the ACW DWF Loan EID checklist, Rev 1/98, Comprising 11 numbered pages. While this document is a checklist that assumes all of the engineering has been completed, we will use the checklist questions as tasks and subtasks for our work to develop a preliminary budget for the project.

This work relates to engineering and environmental assessment tasks and coordination with your staff for phases 2 and 3 of your proposed phasing for an 8 mgd facility as identified in your WWTP Flow Chart created 6/13/2009 that you have provided to us by email. This level of effort will be sufficient to estimate most probable construction costs as of 2009 based on current material and labor costs, but not sufficient for construction documents nor to predict future costs for said construction.

Because we will be designing to 10% or more of the final project, the information developed in this report will be the preliminary engineering for said permitting and construction engineering and planning efforts.

We are pleased to have Chilkat Environmental with offices in Haines, Alaska working with us on this project and they will be represented in Palmer-by-Palmer resident and respected environmental specialist, Bill Stokes. As stated in their proposal to EEG “We will coordinate with EEG to define the overall project scope upon receipt of a 10% project design. Once scope definition is accomplished to the satisfaction of EEG, the client and important stakeholders, Chilkat Environmental will promptly coordinate agency consultation to determine the Environmental Documents that are needed. Once determined, our team will provide a refined cost estimate for time and materials and a flat rate costs to produce the individual documents required. Our location in Haines with 4 staff will allow us to meet with EEG’s environmental specialist, Dr. Gershon Cohen, who also lives in Haines, as needed to coordinate regulatory compliance. Our Wastewater Specialist is based in Palmer and available for fieldwork and meetings on location.”

Our fee for the above listed tasks is \$171, 250 with a schedule of payments to be negotiated at a later date.

_____ End of Proposal memorandum _____