

Memorandum

REPORT TO: City Commission

FROM: Brian Heaston, Engineer III
Shawn Kohtz, Director of Utilities

SUBJECT: Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Professional Services Agreement with DB Groundwater and Environmental LLC to provide third party technical assistance for the Municipal Groundwater Supply Project

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2025

AGENDA ITEM TYPE: Agreement - Vendor/Contract

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize the City Manager to Sign a Professional Services Agreement with DB Groundwater and Environmental LLC to provide third party technical assistance for the Municipal Groundwater Supply Project.

STRATEGIC PLAN: 6.1 Clean Water Supplies: Ensure adequate supplies of clean water for today and tomorrow.

BACKGROUND: The attached professional services agreement (PSA) with DB Groundwater and Environmental LLC (DBG&E) provides for third party technical assistance for the City's municipal groundwater project (the "project"). Morrison Maierle is under contract as the City's primary consultant for the project. DBG&E will provide technical review assistance and offer advice and recommendation to the City as Morrison Maierle's work progresses. Many key internal decisions points will occur throughout the project as the City and its consultant experts develop and implement a test well drilling and aquifer testing program. To develop this program an advanced groundwater computational model will be built to identify suitable test well locations with favorable aquifer properties. Test wells will then be designed, and aquifer testing and surface water monitoring protocols will be prepared for each well. DBG&E will provide technical assistance throughout the course of this work. DBG&E is owned and operated by Dave Barnes. Mr. Barnes is a PhD civil engineering professor at Montana State University and a consultant with a focus on groundwater hydrology, modeling, remediation, and complex well design and troubleshooting.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES: None.

ALTERNATIVES: As suggested by the City Commission.

FISCAL EFFECTS: The City is direct hiring DBG&E in conformance with state procurement law and City purchasing policy. The total cost of professional services rendered

will not exceed \$50,000. The PSA sets the agreed fee at \$25,000. A future amendment to increase the fee to an amount not greater than \$50,000 may be needed. The FY26 biennial budget, and FY26-30 Commission-adopted capital improvement plan for the water impact fee fund, contains \$1,622,400 for project 'WIF33 – Test Well & Mitigation System Program'. An administrative budget amendment will occur to bring sufficient WIF33 funding forward into FY25 to cover the the PSA cost. The current water impact fee fund balance is adequate to support this budget amendment.

Attachments:

[Final PSA - DBG&E Tech Asst_20250314.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: April 10, 2025