
Date: February 21, 2024

To: The Honorable Board of Directors **From:** Shivaji Deshmukh, General Manager

Committee: Engineering, Operations & Water Resources

Staff Contact: Christiana Daisy, Deputy General Manager

Subject: Adopt Standardization of Vaughan Company Inc. Chopper Pumps

Executive Summary:

The RP-1 Thickening Building and Acid-Phase Digesters Project, EN22044, will improve the solids handling and treatment at RP-1 through the construction of a new solids thickening facility and acid-phase digesters. This Project includes the installation of 16 new chopper pumps, which will protect downstream equipment by cutting larger solids to prevent blockages that can damage equipment and block pipes.

A review of the available providers of such equipment concluded that Vaughn Company Inc., can provide all the necessary pumps for this Project. In addition, the Operations and Maintenance Department staff have documented numerous benefits over other manufacturers. These benefits include:

- wear components that are heat treated and hardened for impact and wear resistance,
- non-clog and performance guarantees from the manufacturer on all pumps,
- higher hydraulic efficiency, which is over 70%, and
- flush less cartridge mechanical seals that have been proven successful at IEUA facilities.

Consistent with IEUA's asset management program to standardize equipment when practical, IEUA is installing Vaughan chopper pumps as part of the RP-5 expansion project, and the majority of the chopper pumps currently in operation at IEUA are manufactured by Vaughan. These pumps have proven reliable and provide the added benefit that staff already have knowledge of operating and maintaining Vaughan chopper pumps and have the key spare parts in the warehouse.

Therefore, staff is requesting a finding per Public Contract Code 3400(c), which allows public agencies to specify a specific product for use if the awarding authority makes a finding that one or more conditions exist, specifically matching existing products in use on the particular public improvement.

Staff's Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Adopt a finding pursuant to Public Contract Code 3400(c) that the use of Vaughan Chopper Pumps, specifically condition: (2) to match an existing product that is used across all treatment plants at IEUA; and
2. Authorize the standardization selection and sole source procurement for future O&M and capital projects.

Budget Impact *Budgeted (Y/N): Y Amendment (Y/N): N Amount for Requested Approval*

Regional Sewerage *Technical Committee (Y/N):*

Policy Committee (Y/N):

Environmental Determination:

Not Applicable

Attachments:

Attachment 1 - [PowerPoint](#)

Attachment 2 - [Background](#)