

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

APRIL 13, 2006 - Water Resources
Cole, Vasquez
APRIL 24, 2006 - Board Meeting
Prepared by: Van M. Jew
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Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES FOR THE RIO HONDO PUMP STATIONSUMMARY:

Variable frequency drives (VFD) are electronic controllers used in the operations of pumps to automatically adjust pump motor speed to match system demand variances. VFDs generally last for 10-15 years.

Status of the VFDs at the Rio Hondo Pump Station

The two 700 horsepower VFDs and associated transformers at the pump station are currently in need of replacement. The drives have been in service since 1993 and have reached the end of their useful life. The units require constant attention by the District's field operators to keep them running. The drives often overheat and have experienced phase arm and capacitor failures. A subsequent phase arm failure will result in a significant lost of supply capacity at the pump station. Also, the current VFD technology utilized at the station is obsolete and replacement parts are no longer manufactured or readily available on the open market.

Purchase of the VFDs

Under the Co-General Manager's authority, an electrical engineering consultant was retained to prepare plans and specifications to replace the two VFDs. To shorten the overall project schedule, two-bid sequences were proposed: 1) Pre-purchase the drives and associated transformers directly from the manufacturer; and 2) Retain the services of a qualified contractor to install them. This two-step sequence is expected to shorten the overall project schedule by three months.

Bids were opened on April 18, 2006. It was anticipated that the District would receive at least two bids. Only one bid was received from Royal Wholesale Electric at an amount of \$367,000. The engineer's estimate was for \$250,000.

In addition purchasing the drives and associated transformers, the District will be required to later retain a contractor to install the drives and an inspector to oversee the contractor's work.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

Funds are available in the Facility Replacement Budget for fiscal year 2005-06.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not required.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on April 13, 2006 and was agendaized to the April 24, 2006 Board meeting for consideration.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board directs the District's Chief Representative to reject the bid and re-bid the Project.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.

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