AGENDA NO. ___

CENTRAL BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

MAY 8, 2006 - Water Resources
Cole, Vasquez
MAY 22, 2006 - Board Meeting
Prepared by: Van M. Jew
Submitted by: Paul E. Shoenberger
Approved by: Art Aguilar

ACTION CALENDAR

VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES FOR THE RIO HONDO PUMP STATION

SUMMARY:

The two 700 horsepower variable frequency drives (VFD) and associated transformers at the Rio Hondo 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 loss 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 Also, the current VFD technology utilized at the station is obsolete and replacement parts are no longer manufactured or readily available on the open market.

Bid History - Time Extension and Re-Bid

Extra efforts have been made to accommodate bidders and secure the most number of bids. The bid history has been as follows:

Date	Event
March 31, 2006	Issued bid packet to potential bidders
April 11, 2006	Bid due date extended by 7 days at the request of potential bidder
April 18, 2006	District receives only 1 bid
April 24, 2006	Board directs staff to re-bid project
May 2, 2006	Staff receives 2 bids and 1 quote

Bid Results

Given the limited number of VFD manufacturers and the quality of VFD specified, it was anticipated that the District would likely receive two (2) bids. On plan holders list were four (4) manufacturers. The manufacturers responded to the May 2nd bid as follows:

Manufacturer	Action
Allen Bradley	Bid in the amount of $364,900
Toshiba	Submitted non-responsive bid
Square D	Emailed a quote
WEG	Did not bid

Allen Bradley submitted the only bid that meets the District specifications. Allen Bradley is well-recognized as a high quality VFD manufacturer and has the most market share among water agencies in Southern California. The District is already among Allen Bradley's customers and has their product installed at the Hollydale Pump Station. The bid submitted by Toshiba was incomplete, unclear, took several exceptions to the specified product and District's contractual language. Square D emailed a quote and did not follow the bidding procedure. Their quote also took exception to some of the District's specifications. WEG specializes in higher-end products and for that reason likely did not bid.

In addition to pre-purchasing the drives and associated transformers, the District will later be required to retain a contractor to install the equipment.

Southern California Edison (SCE) Rebate Funds

Staff has been in contact with SCE to determine what, if any, rebate funds are available for the replacement of the variable frequency drives. Information requested by SCE has been submitted to SCE and a determination should be made in the near future.

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 May 8, 2006 and was recommended for approval at the May 22, 2006 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the General Manager to award the pre-purchase of the variable frequency drives and associated transformers to Royal Wholesale Electric (Allen Bradley's distributor) for a not-to-exceed amount of $401,390 (bid amount of $364,900, plus 10% for contingencies).

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.

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