



Department of Public Utilities
Public Utilities Administration
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: April 21, 2025

FILE: PU-25-69

TO: George R. Keller, Jr., CPPT
City Manager

VIA: Adam Reichbach ^{ds}
Assistant City Manager

VIA: Chris O'Brien ^{ds}
Director of Public Safety

FROM: Vincent Morello, P.E. ^{ds}
Director, Department of Public Utilities

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve the Issuance of a Purchase Order to Pro-Mec Engineering Services, Inc. in an amount up to \$225,750.00 for the emergency repair of Degasifier No. 1, which experienced a catastrophic failure. The Procurement Method used is Emergency.

ISSUE:

The Department of Public Utilities (Department) urgently needs to repair Degasifier No. 1, a crucial component of the water treatment process that removes gases from treated water. This emergency arises from the collapse of the media support structure inside the degasifier. This support structure is exposed to corrosive chemicals, including hydrogen sulfide, which may have contributed to its sudden failure. The procurement method used is emergency purchase, as the failure of the Degasifier poses a significant threat to the quality of the drinking water produced at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP).

EXPLANATION:

During recent maintenance work at the Blend Tank, the treatment facility downstream of the degasifiers at the WTP, Department staff discovered degasifier media in the tank. An investigation revealed that the media support structure inside Degasifier No. 1 had collapsed, allowing media to pass through the unit, into the blower, and subsequently into the Blend Tank. This failure reduced the treatment efficiency of the degasifier, led to a significant increase in chemical consumption, and could affect the quality of the treated drinking water.

Department staff assessed the failure in collaboration with engineering consultants from Arcadis, Inc., the contractors for the most recent upgrade to the unit, TSC Jacobs/JAWS, and Pro-Mec Engineering Services, Inc., a contractor specializing in degasifier and scrubber rehabilitation and installation. The Department requested and received the attached proposal for emergency

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repairs to Degasifier No. 1, in an amount up to \$225,750.00 for repairs to the support structure and the replacement of the damaged media.

Funding for this project was included in the amended FY 2025 Capital Improvement Plan and is available in account numbers 442.409901.53600.563020.000706.000.000 and 442.409901.53600.563020.000707.000.000.

AUTHORITY:

**§ 38.41 COMPETITIVE SOLICITATIONS REQUIRED: EXCEPTIONS
(C)(1) Emergency purchases:**

In urgent cases of compelling emergency that require the immediate purchase of goods, supplies, materials, equipment, or services, the CPO is authorized to secure, when possible, emergency goods, supplies, materials, equipment, or services by open market procedure. All such emergency purchases must receive prior administrative approval except for the most urgent situations presenting a clear and present substantial threat to life or property where immediate action is required.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department Director and the Director of Procurement and Contract Compliance recommend that the City Manager authorize the Issuance of a Purchase Order to Pro-Mec Engineering Services. in an amount up to \$225,750.00 for the emergency repair of Degasifier No.1. The Department will request approval ratification for this emergency purchase by the City Commission at a future commission meeting.

Signed by:

George R. Keller, Jr. CPPT

4/28/2025

APPROVED BY: George R. Keller, Jr., CPPT
City Manager

Date

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