



**CITY OF**

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# **NEWPORT BEACH**

## **City Council Staff Report**

June 8, 2021  
Agenda Item No. 11

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** David A. Webb, Public Works Director - 949-644-3311,  
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**TITLE:** Geotechnical and Material Testing Services – Approval of On-Call Professional Services Agreements

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**ABSTRACT:**

The City of Newport Beach's (City's) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) contains many projects that require geotechnical and material testing services to evaluate and support design options and to confirm conformance to project specifications during construction. Staff recently issued a Request for Proposals for these services and is requesting the City Council's approval to enter into four separate on-call Professional Services Agreements with GMU Geotechnical Engineering, Geocon West, Leighton Consulting and Harrington Geotechnical Engineering.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Approve four separate on-call Professional Services Agreements with GMU Geotechnical Engineering, Geocon West, Leighton Consulting and Harrington Geotechnical Engineering for geotechnical and material testing services at a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000 per agreement, and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreements.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City's CIP involves a wide range of infrastructure improvement projects. Most of these projects require geotechnical and material testing services such as material observation and testing, trench backfill and compaction testing, geotechnical recommendations, pipe welding, and structural inspections. These services require personnel with specialized training, certifications and licenses.

In addition, soil and material testing is performed in certified laboratories by certified technicians. The City does not have the resources to perform these services in-house. In order to continue to support the City's CIP, staff is requesting approval of four separate on-call Professional Services Agreements with GMU Geotechnical Engineering, Geocon West, Leighton Consulting and Harrington Geotechnical Engineering for geotechnical and material testing services at a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000 per agreement. The term for each of these agreements is three years and will expire on June 30, 2024.

The City currently has four similar on-call agreements with four geotechnical firms. These current agreements were approved on July 10, 2018 with a three-year term and are set to expire on June 30, 2021. Similarly, these four current on-call agreements have a not-to-exceed amount of \$300,000 each for a total of \$1.2 million. Of this amount, approximately \$760,000 has been encumbered or spent. In addition to geotechnical services as part of the on-call agreements, geotechnical services are also included as subconsultant services for various individual CIP projects. These geotechnical services for individual CIP projects totaled approximately \$430,000 for the last three years. In order to continue with geotechnical support for our CIP, staff is recommending approval of four new separate on-call Professional Services Agreements.

In February 2021, staff requested proposals to provide geotechnical and material testing services. Staff received 25 proposals from the following firms:

<b>Firm Name</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	<b>Rank</b>
GMU Geotechnical Engineering	284	1
Geocon West	283	2
Leighton Consulting	254	3
Harrington Geotechnical Engineering	253	4
Ninyo & Moore	251	5
NV5	249	6
Fenagh Engineering and Testing	247	7
MTGL	247	8
Koury Engineering & testing	245	9
Hushmand Associates	242	10
Willdan Engineering	242	11
RMA Group	238	12
Wood Environmental & Infrastructure Solutions	237	13
Construction Testing and Engineering	236	14
Converse Consultants	236	15
Krazen & Associates	235	16
Group Delta Consultants	234	17
Terracon Consultants	234	18
American Engineering Laboratories	230	19
GeoTek	230	20
Smith Emery Laboratories	228	21
Southwest Inspection and Testing	226	22
Atlas Technical Consultants (United Heider)	223	23
Geo-Advantec	218	24
Professional Services Industries	213	25

The City's proposal review team consisted of three staff members from the Public Works Department. Using the qualification-based selection process, the proposals were evaluated by the review team independently. Proposal evaluations were based on the consultant's understanding of the scope of work, experience, qualifications, and availability of staff. While most of the firms appear to meet the minimum qualifications as required by the request for proposals, the top four consultants were selected by the review team as the most qualified and responsive firms. All four of these firms have successfully completed similar services for other local agencies and their billing rates are consistent with industry standards. GMU Geotechnical Engineering and Geocon West are currently performing these services for the City and have had high marks for their current efforts.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The approval of these on-call agreements does not create an obligation to expend funds. Funding for these services will be expensed to individual projects within the approved CIP.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Staff recommends the City Council find this action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Professional Services Agreement with GMU Geotechnical Engineering  
Attachment B – Professional Services Agreement with Geocon West  
Attachment C – Professional Services Agreement with Leighton Consulting  
Attachment D – Professional Services Agreement with Harrington Geotechnical Engineering