

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20140063

ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE:

- A) Approve Bid Waiver # W-140161 to waive the formal quotation procedure allowing Lee County Utilities (LCU) to utilize Sanders Laboratory, a local vendor, for regulatory wastewater testing.
- B) Acknowledge the waiver to Sanders Laboratory is requested because it is the only private laboratory within Lee County that can meet the logistics required to meet the daily testing requirements as mandated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).
- C) Authorize this waiver to remain in effect until other laboratories are available in the area that will enable LCU to meet FDEP requirements.
- D) Approve an annual estimated expenditure of \$120,000 for these services.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Fund: Utilities Operations; Programs: Wastewater Treatment Plants; Project: Other Professional Services

WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES:

Allows Lee County Utilities to use Sanders Laboratory, a local vendor, to maintain sampling and testing compliance with Florida Department of Environmental Protection wastewater operating permits for four (4) wastewater treatment plants in addition to services already provided. This action will allow the LCU's Fiesta Village Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant Laboratory to close and save LCU and estimated \$87,970 per year.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

Departmental Category: Item #25

Meeting Date: 3/4/2014

Agenda:

Requirement/Purpose: (specify)

- Statute
- Ordinance
- Admin Code AC-4-1
- Other

Request Initiated

Commissioner:

Department: UTILITIES

Division: No Divisions

By: Pam Keyes

Background:

Lee County Utilities (LCU) currently owns and operates a certified environmental testing laboratory located at the Fiesta Village Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. The lab was originally started by Florida Cities Water Company, which was acquired by Lee County in 1999. After the acquisition, the lab certification was allowed to lapse.

In 2002, LCU determined that an in-house laboratory was beneficial to the operations and pursued certification. By spring of 2003, the laboratory was certified and providing services for three of our wastewater treatment plants.

Over the last few years, the cost to maintain the certification has risen, the equipment has reached its useful life and one of the treatment plants utilizing the laboratory was taken out of service. LCU has evaluated these rising costs and determined that closing the Fiesta Village Lab and use of other laboratory options would be more cost effective.

LCU currently uses the Lee County Environmental Laboratory, the City of Cape Coral Laboratory, and Sanders Laboratories. LCU evaluated each of the labs and found that Sanders Laboratory will meet the needs that are currently provided by the Fiesta Village Lab and will save Lee County Utilities approximately \$87,970 annually. The current LCU lab annual budget is approximately \$181,620 and Sanders Laboratory has provided an annual cost

11. Required Review:

<i>Pam Keyes</i>	<i>Robert Franceschini</i>	<i>Reginald Kantor</i>	<i>Mike Figueroa</i>	<i>Peter Winton</i>	<i>Dawn Perry-Lehnert</i>
UTILITIES	Purchasing	Budget Analyst	Risk	Budget Services	County Attorney
<i>Doug Meurer</i>					
Public Works Director					

12. Commission Action:

proposal of approximately \$93,650 to provide the services currently provided the by in-house program.

LCU's wastewater treatment plants are regulated and permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). These facilities are required by permit to take samples seven days a week and analyze them in accordance with standard laboratory methods. As part of the permit, a fecal coliform must be taken daily and analyzed within six (6) hours of the sample being pulled. Due to these time constraints, only local laboratories can be used. Sanders Laboratory is the only private, local certified environmental laboratory within Lee County. There are no private labs in Collier County and the closest private lab is 60 miles away, located in Charlotte County.

These two wastewater treatment plants are required to staff the plant 24 hours a day, seven (7) a week. Sanders Laboratory will pick up the samples per our schedule, thus eliminating the need to overlap staff during the weekends to allow for the operator to leave the plant to drive the samples to the laboratory. The picking up of samples is included in the price and still allows their prices to remain competitive.

Fund are available in the following accounts:

OD5360548700.503190 – Fort Myers Beach WWTP

OD5362048700.503190 – San Carlos WWTP

OD5362448700.503190 – Fiesta Village WWTP

OD5362848700.503190 – Gateway WWTP

OD5362948700.503190 – Three Oaks WWTP

OD5365148700.503190 – Pine Island WWTP

OD5365248700.503190 – Highpoint WWTP

Attachments: (1) Department Request for Waiver

(2) Justification for Sole Source/Waiver