



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Adopt resolution authorizing the purchase of nine - 15 kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears from Trayer Engineering Corporation of San Francisco, in the amount of \$201,235.24 (EUD)

MEETING DATE May 21, 2003

SUBMITTED BY Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION That the City Council adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase of nine - 15 kV liquid insulated vacuum switchgears, as a sole source purchase, from Trayer Engineering Corporation of San Francisco, in the amount of \$201,235.24

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This type of switching equipment is utilized throughout the underground distribution system in industrial, commercial and residential areas to supply branch feeders from the main feeders. The equipment also provides switching points for both the main and branch feeders as well as protection of the branch feeders utilizing fuses. It also provides switching points during fault isolation and service restoration as well as clearance points for normal and emergency work.

The Department formally bid 11 units of this type of equipment in January 2000 and received three bids of which one met the specifications. The other two bids were based on the same manufacturer's equipment and took exceptions to the specifications. The specifications required a switch within the equipment that provides for a "visible open" point verifiable through a viewing window. The main switch is a vacuum insulated switch and cannot be visibly verified open. The equipment offered by Trayer Engineering does have this feature. The "visible open" is a safety requirement when work is performed on the system. Being able to obtain and verify such a visible open with a simple switch operation is of great benefit. The alternative involves separating the 600 ampere cable connections requiring considerable amounts of labor and risking cable and terminator damage and contamination resulting in possible future faults. The "visible open" is required regularly during maintenance and construction/expansion work on the system. The ability to obtain the "visible open" with a single switch operation offers significant labor saving, preserves the integrity of the system and minimizes Interruptions to our customers.

In addition, the Trayer Engineering product is made of stainless steel resulting in reduced maintenance costs: has over forty years proven experience in the utility industry with 30 years in Lodi for the switch mechanism; and is insulated with a biodegradable insulating fluid. The stainless steel design and biodegradable insulation fluid are options at additional costs from the other manufacturer.

Based on the above and the fact that the other manufacturer has not changed design since the last bid and that Trayer Engineering Corporation's quotation is less per unit than the unit price at the bid in January 2000, it is recommended that the City Council authorize this purchase as a sole source purchase.

It should be noted that the Department has been using this type of equipment from other manufacturers over the years and has replaced all but the four mentioned below due to failures, deterioration and not meeting current operating requirements

This equipment will be installed in new commercial developments being planned at the northwest corner of Lower Sacramento Road and Kettleman Lane and in residential developments in the Century Meadows area. Other uses

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager



CITY OF LODI

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Nine - 15 kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears (continued)

will be for replacement of four existing switches (from other manufacturers) no longer considered reliable and not meeting today's operating requirement as well as to replenish the Department's inventory for future developments currently in the preliminary design stage.

FUNDING: Available within the Electric Utility Department's 2001-03 Financial Plan and Budget Distribution System Improvement (Page E-31)

Funding Available Vicky McAthie
Vicky McAthie, Finance Director

Alan N. Vallow
Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY: Hans Hansen, Manager, Engineering and Operations

c: City Attorney
Finance Director
Purchasing Officer

APPROVED: _____
H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-86

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL AWARDING
THE SOLE-SOURCE BID FOR NINE UNITS OF PADMOUNT
LIQUID INSULATED VACUUM SWITCHGEARS

WHEREAS, Lodi Municipal Code §3.20.070 authorizes dispensing with bids for purchases of supplies, services, or equipment when it is in the best interest of the City to do so; and

WHEREAS, the 15kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears are utilized throughout the underground distribution system in industrial, commercial, and residential areas to supply branch feeders from the main feeders; and

WHEREAS, the equipment also provides switching points for the main and branch feeders as well as protection of the branch feeders utilizing fuses. It also provides switching points during fault isolation and service restoration as well as clearance points for normal and emergency work; and

WHEREAS, the Department formally bid 11 units of this type of equipment in January 2000 and received three bids, of which one met the specifications. The other two bids were based on the same manufacturer's equipment and took exceptions to the specifications. The specifications required a switch within the equipment that provides for a "visible open" point verifiable through a viewing window. The main switch is a vacuum insulated switch and cannot be visibly verified open. The equipment offered by Trayer Engineering does have this feature. The "visible open" is a safety requirement when work is performed on the system. Being able to obtain and verify such a visible open with a simple switch operation is of great benefit. The alternative involves separating the 600 ampere cable connections requiring considerable **amounts** of labor and risking cable and terminator damage and contamination **resulting** in possible future faults. The "visible open" is required regularly during maintenance and construction/expansion work on the system. The ability to obtain the "visible open" with a single switch operation offers significant labor savings, **preserves** the **integrity** of the system, and minimizes interruptions to our customers; and

WHEREAS, the Trayer Engineering product is made of stainless steel **resulting** in reduced maintenance costs; has over forty years proven experience in the **utility** industry with 30 years in Lodi for the switch mechanism; and is insulated with a biodegradable insulating fluid. The stainless steel design and **biodegradable** insulation fluid are options at additional costs from the other manufacturer; and

WHEREAS, based on the above information and the fact that the **other** manufacturer has not changed design since the last bid and that Trayer Engineering Corporation's quotation is less per unit than the unit price of the bid in January 2000, it is recommended that the City Council authorize this purchase as a sole source purchase; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager recommends the sole-source purchase of nine (9) units of 15kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears from Trayer Engineering Corporation, of San Francisco, CA, in the amount of \$201,235.24.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Lodi City Council does hereby approve the sole-source purchase of nine (9) units of 15kV padmount liquid insulated vacuum switchgears from Trayer Engineering Corporation, of San Francisco, CA, in the amount of \$201,235.24.

Dated: May 21, 2003

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2003-86 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Lodi in a regular meeting held May 21, 2003, by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Beckman, Hansen, Howard, and Land
NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None
ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Mayor Hitchcock
ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None



SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk