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DATE: July 17, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Dan Herrera, PE, Deputy Director of Operations, Public Works & Utilities (PW&U)  
Christopher J. Bolt, MPA, PE, CPM, ICMA-CM, Director, PW&U

SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of a Sewer System Camera Van from RapidView LLC for the Public Works & Utilities Department through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Documents Necessary to Complete the Purchase, and increasing the Budget

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Sewer System Camera Van from RapidView LLC for the Public Works & Utilities Department through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute all Documents Necessary to Complete the Purchase, and increasing the Budget.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Public Works and Utilities Department currently needs to purchase a Sewer System Camera Van to ensure the ability to provide inspection and maintenance on the City's wastewater collection system. The City's wastewater collection system consists of approximately 196 miles of sewer pipelines, ranging from 6 to 54-inches in diameter, and multiple types of materials including vitrified clay pipe (VCP), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), high-density polyethylene (HDPE), and asbestos-cement pipe (AC). The Operations department utilizes a sewer camera van to provide inspection and maintenance of these pipelines utilizing the closed-circuit television (CCTV) capabilities of the sewer camera van. City staff uses CCTV to inspect and analyze the condition of the pipeline and ultimately grade the condition of the piping using the National Association of Sewer Services Companies (NASSCO) Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP) guidelines. The inspection and condition assessment is an integral part of the City's Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP), which is a regulatory requirement needed to operate the wastewater collection system.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Public Works and Utilities Department purchased a sewer camera van 17 years ago from a local vendor located in the city of Petaluma who provided maintenance for the van. The existing sewer camera van requires extensive and frequent maintenance activities and is at the end of its service life. Repair efforts and replacement part acquisition are difficult as the vendor is no longer in business. The existing sewer camera van is regularly out of service, reducing the City's ability to implement its SSMP. A new sewer camera van is necessary to comply with regulatory requirements and ensure the wastewater collection system is properly maintained.

As for the procurement strategy, the City of Petaluma is a member of the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program (Formerly National Joint Powers Alliance), which provides the City the opportunity to access competitively awarded, nationally leveraged cooperative purchasing contracts. The purchase of specialized equipment provides better prices on state and national cooperative lists since local vendors do not sell this type of specialized equipment. Participating in this competitively bid and awarded statewide purchasing program complies with the Petaluma Municipal Code, Section 4.04.100 (Cooperative purchasing programs), which supports the purchases of supplies and equipment made under a cooperative purchasing program with the State, County, or other public agencies that have been competitively bid and awarded.

The following is provided as background information on the cooperative purchasing program. Sourcewell is continuously refining its Request for Proposal process to meet its members' needs, which will meet or exceed those needs. Sourcewell identifies its members' needs by regular outreach to their members, through advisory committees, and researching best approaches. After member need is established, permission to develop the solicitation and procurement process is sought from its publicly elected Board of Directors. A draft solicitation is created and publicly advertised and noticed. A pre-conference is held to clarify and answer questions. If needed, addendums are issued. Proposals are date stamped when received. The evaluation of the proposals received by the bid closing date and time are done by a committee and the findings are given to the Chief Procurement Officer.

Sourcewell and Fleets for the Future (F4F) have created a partnership to coordinate the increased procurement of alternative-fuel vehicles (AFV) throughout the United States. F4F is a national partnership of regional councils, Clean Air coalitions, and industry experts. Their purpose is to coordinate five regional and one national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of AFV. This helps to disseminate best practices, usage, and procurement strategies for vehicle selection and assists with vehicle cost reduction.

The price for the sewer camera van is \$392,257.88 under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing program and is based on competitive bidding conducted by Sourcewell, with a bid awarded to RapidView LLC.

RapidView LLC performed a demonstration of their sewer system camera van at the water field office. Results of this demonstration showed that their camera van provides more visual capabilities allowing for more accurate condition assessments, utilizes optimized equipment to make inspection efforts easier, and can integrate software currently used by City staff ensuring a

smooth operational transition. RapidView LLC also has maintenance facilities located in the East Bay, providing easy access to repair/replacement efforts if needed.

The new sewer camera van will be a diesel vehicle, using renewable diesel fuel and continuing the City's efforts to achieve climate action goals. Additionally, the late battery technology will be utilized, when possible, to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions that occur during daily operations of the CCTV equipment.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This agenda item appeared on the City's tentative agenda document on July 10, 2023, which was a publicly-noticed meeting.

### **COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT**

This proposed action supports the FY 21 through FY 23 City Council Goals and Priorities and the following Workplan items:

- #42 "Find ways for City Operations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve water, decrease waste, and minimize the use of fossil fuels and investigate and pursue options for carbon sequestration."
- #203 "Impose a moratorium on City purchases of fossil fuel-powered vehicles, power equipment, and appliances, with limited exceptions for emergency vehicles and equipment when no low climate pollution causing alternatives are reasonably available."

### **CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS**

Research into electric and alternative energy sewer camera vans was conducted by online research, researching peer-reviewed articles, and interviewing sewer camera van manufacturers. There are currently no electric motors or equipment available for a truck of this type. To meet climate action goals, a renewable diesel engine was selected as the motor for the vehicle. According to the Department of Energy, renewable diesel reduces both carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions when compared to conventional diesel. Depending on the blend of renewable diesel used, this reduction in emissions can be between 65%-80%. Additionally, replacing the gas-powered generator, used to energize the CCTV equipment, with a large battery was evaluated and ultimately included in the vehicle package. This battery will eliminate greenhouse gas emissions during the daily operations of the camera van.

Finally, this action supports California law SB 32 which requires a 40% reduction in GHG emissions below 1990 levels by 2030. As such, this project aligns with the climate action and sustainability efforts the City has been making to become carbon neutral. The camera van will utilize renewable diesel, which has a negligible operational greenhouse gas impact.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), in that purchasing a

replacement sewer camera van does not meet CEQA's definition of a “project,” because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and because the action constitutes organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Relatedly, if the proposed action did constitute a project under CEQA, the action is exempt under the common-sense exemption, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) as the use of a sewer camera van will reduce emissions from an equivalent internal combustion vehicle, which it is replacing.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

The purchase of the sewer camera van is included in the approved FY 22/23 budget using Wastewater Enterprise Funds. The approved budget of \$250,000 will need to be increased by \$142,258 to provide sufficient funding based on the newly advertised price. A budget adjustment will be brought forward in conjunction with first-quarter budget adjustments.

The costs of the Sewer Camera Van quoted by RapidView LLC are below (including taxes and fees):

Type:	Diesel Engine Camera Van
Vehicle Chassis:	<b>2023 Ford F-450 Diesel</b>
Module/Options/Chassis w/ Sourcewell Discount:	\$ 346,326.37
Freight and PDI:	\$ 4,400.00
Field Training:	\$ 7,500.00
Taxes:	\$ 34,031.51
<b>Total Advertised Price:</b>	<b>\$ 392,257.88</b>

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternatives considered but not recommended include:

1. Purchase or lease of internal combustion equivalent for this class of vehicle. This option is not recommended as it fails to meet the City Council’s goals regarding reducing fossil fuel use in the City fleet and does not positively contribute to the City's 2030 carbon neutrality goal established in the Climate Emergency Framework.
2. Do not replace the vehicles and continue to have regular maintenance issues and inability to implement the City’s SSMP and meet regulatory requirements.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution
2. Quote from RapidView LLC