

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Resolution authorizing execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with GeoEngineers for geotechnical and structural peer review services for shoring installations in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$275,000, plus all applicable taxes.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes the execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with GeoEngineers to provide technical expertise for Development Services geotechnical and structural peer review services for shoring installations, in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$275,000.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No. 10064

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

On September 13, 2021, Council was updated on the development activity which has presented challenges for staff to maintain timely service in reviewing permit plans. This contract is part of an overall workload and performance management strategy to ensure that additional resources and specialized technical expertise are available to respond to project schedule needs for contractors and land developers.

Bellevue is experiencing record-breaking construction activity largely attributed to the major commercial office and multi-family projects located in Downtown and BelRed. The magnitude and extended nine-year duration of the current peak, coupled with recent challenges filling vacant positions, created the need to outpace some permit review work to consultants. The competitive job market is presenting a challenge to filling positions, and recruitment efforts are ongoing, but consultants continue to be an important element in managing development services workload. This contract also provides the necessary technical expertise to perform geotechnical peer reviews of shoring systems for high-rise parking garage deep excavations adjacent to streets and public/private utilities, which the City does not have available internally.

Development cycles generate peaks and valleys in permitting activity and associated workload in Development Services. To manage through the cycles, staff use a combination of resource options: regular employees (FTE's) for ongoing baseline work, limited term employees (LTE's) when projections show a more sustained increase in permitting, and private consultants to address short-term spikes or to bring in technical expertise that is not available internally. These flexible resource options are critical in efforts to achieve the key objective of delivering high quality, fast, and predictable services.

Development Services currently holds Professional Services Agreements with 15 consulting firms for plan review services of structural, seismic peer review, fire protection, residential, geotechnical, mechanical, and electrical systems.

This Professional Services Agreement will allow geotechnical design peer review of temporary and permanent earth shoring systems utilizing significant expertise and experience in the field of geotechnical and structural review of shoring designs. Currently, the City has two other consultants qualified to perform this type of work, but the number of proposed high-rise projects requires multiple firms with geotechnical expertise to complete shoring system reviews in a timely manner.

Staff has evaluated several geotechnical engineering firms on the consultant roster and selected firms that met criteria including experience in specific technical disciplines, engineering licensing, and experience providing geotechnical peer review services.

Staff will bring forward to Council additional agreements for firms that meet Development Services resource needs.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

A lack of available plan review consultants would slow permit application timelines, and the City does not have the necessary technical expertise to perform geotechnical peer reviews of shoring systems.

Fiscal Impact

The contracted amount of \$275,000 for geotechnical and structural peer review is a pass-through cost paid entirely by the developer and there is no anticipated impact to the Development Services budget.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution authorizing execution of a five-year Professional Services Contract with GeoEngineers for geotechnical and structural peer review services for shoring installations in an amount not to exceed a contract total of \$275,000, plus all applicable taxes.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10064

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

GeoEngineers Contract