



# MEMORANDUM

## City of Venice

### Utilities Department

TO: Ed Lavallee, ICMA-CM, MPA, City Manager

THROUGH: Javier Vargas, MPA, Utilities Director



FROM: Damien Stillings, Technical Unit Supervisor

DATE: October 24, 2019

COUNCIL APPROVAL: Yes

MEETING DATE: November 12, 2019

STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL: Upgrade and Maintain City Infrastructure and Facilities

SUBJECT: Water Meter Replacement Program – PURCHASE Small Meter Phase 5 and Large Meter Phase 3 (National Meter and Automation – Sole Source Purchase)

Background: Over ten years ago, the City initiated a program for the replacement of all manual read meters with radio read meters. These initial installations have reached their 10 year radio read signal battery life. Utilities initiated a capital project in FY 2018 to start replacement of the oldest of these meters. Utilities is now utilizing ultrasonic meters with cellular batteries that have a signal life of 20 years. As most utility systems do, Utilities uses a sole source supplier for ultrasonic water meters. In this case, Badger Meter is the manufacturer used by Utilities. National Meter & Automation (previously Innovative Metering Solutions (IMS)) is the sole source vendor for Badger Meter in this area. Utilities currently has a sole source purchase agreement with National Meter & Automation for fiscal year 2020 to allow the purchase of ultrasonic water meters needed for all water service connections for these phases of the meter exchange project.

This effort will upgrade the existing radio read meters (Automatic Meter Reading) to Ultrasonic Water Meters. The upgraded ultrasonic meters will ultimately transmit meter data to cell towers and will not require meter readers to drive by each meter to collect meter data. In addition, detailed flow data can be obtained instantaneously online thru a customer portal via the Utilities Department staff for individual customers who now have this new technology. Full implementation of ultrasonic meters with cellular endpoint and customer portal capability is expected within the next 5-10 years.

This phase will include the replacement of 3,592 small meters, 484 large meters. In addition, we will be retrofitting 1,228 meters from AMR (automatic meter reading) to ultrasonic water meters

The anticipated combined cost for the meter purchase in both phases and the retrofits is approximately \$1,171,221.14

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~~Requested Action: We request Council's approval for the services of National Meter & Automation~~  
through a sole source purchase in the amount of \$1,171,221.14 for fiscal year 2020 for Meter Replacement and Retrofit Program.

If for an agenda item, this document and any associated backup created by City of Venice staff has been reviewed for ADA compliance: Yes

City Attorney Review/Approved: N/A

Risk Management Review: N/A

Finance Department Review/Approved: Yes

Funds Availability (account number): 421-1202-536.63-00

**ORIGINAL(S) ATTACHED:** Sole Source

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