




Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR

September 26, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager
Submitted By: Chris Mead, Director, Information Technology
Subject: Contract: Computer Network Cabling

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Capitol Communications Inc. increasing the amount by \$175,000 to cover additional cabling work on the computer network, for a total amount not to exceed \$210,000, and extending the term to June 30, 2008.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Budget Code 010-2701-410-3406 (General fund, I.T. Administration, professional services)

CMS # BR2JJ

These expenditures are in the FY 2007 budgets for the departments requesting cabling work. The funds for each specific project are transferred to I.T., which is the department administering the contract.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The relocation of City staff and reconfiguration of work areas frequently requires changes to the City's computer network cabling infrastructure. These projects vary in size from re-arranging cubicles to provisioning an entire new building such 1947 Center Street.

The cabling to the desktop computers is especially demanding – the City's network now operates at 100Mb (megabits–millions of bits per second), and installing cable to reliably operate at this speed requires skilled work. In addition, following installation, each cable must be carefully tested. Finally, the work must be carefully and neatly executed to allow easy reorganization and reconfiguration.

The City's largest upcoming project is the re-configuration of the Corporation Yard. The work includes the complete re-cabling of the buildings and a significant amount of trenching and undergrounding. The cabling will consist of traditional copper wiring, and fiber optic cables.

Capitol Communications Inc. is a specialist cabling company that has satisfactorily completed many projects for the City. In addition to copper-based cabling, the company has expertise in deploying fiber optic cables, which are increasingly used as data transmission rates—necessitated by the use of ever-larger computer files—continue to increase.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley first began using Capitol Communications services in the 1990s when they participated in the original data cabling of the Civic Center. The company acted as a subcontractor to PCS Networks Inc., which was awarded the networking contract by competitive RFP. Since that time, the City has used other cabling companies, but has always returned to Capitol Communications as a superior choice. However, in the last few years the cabling services market has matured, and therefore later this fiscal year staff plans to issue a new RFP, specification number 06-10135-C. The current item before Council will therefore be the last project under the existing contract.

The City's computer network actually consists of several layers of hardware and software technology that includes: desktop computers, cabling, servers (which control printing and other functions, and store email, files, Web pages, and other databases), and wide-area network links to other City sites and to the Internet. The contract with Capitol Communications covers the cabling—that is, the provisioning of the copper cable that runs from the “cabling closet” on each floor to each desktop computer, telephone, printer, and fax machine, and the linking of buildings via fiber optic cable.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Conceivably, City staff could do the cabling themselves, but there is insufficient work to build up the high level of expertise required to ensure a reliable network. Moreover, the intermittent demand for cabling work would make resource allocation difficult.

CONTACT PERSON

Chris Mead, Director, Information Technology, 981-6510

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH CAPITOL COMMUNICATIONS INC. FOR COMPUTER NETWORK CABLING

WHEREAS, the present and future computer networking demands of staff and policy makers require a state-of-the-art computer network; and

WHEREAS, Capitol Communications has completed many high quality cabling projects for the City; and

WHEREAS, the contract has been entered into the City contract database, and assigned CMS #BR2JJ.

WHEREAS, funds are available in current year departmental budgets and will be transferred to budget code 010-2701-410-3406; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley authorizes the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Capitol Communications Inc., increasing the contract amount by \$170,000 for a new contract amount not to exceed \$210,000. A record signature copy of said contract amendment to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.