

**Metropolitan Domestic Water Improvement District  
Board of Directors Meeting**

**June 8, 2020**

**Approval of Analytical Laboratory Services Contract  
with Turner Laboratories, Inc.**

**Synopsis**

The Board of Directors is requested to approve the Analytical Laboratory Services Contract with Turner Laboratories, Inc., (Turner) for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 in the amount of \$600,000.

**Background**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) enforces federal drinking water requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Water quality testing services necessary to maintain compliance with ADEQ Drinking Water Rules and to ensure the delivery of safe, reliable water to customers must be performed by a qualified laboratory.

In previous years, the District solicited requests for proposals from qualified laboratories for various water quality constituents. Consistently, Eurofins-Eaton Analytical, Inc., (Eurofins) and Turner are the top-ranked firms for the analysis of certain water quality constituents according to their quality assurance / quality control, method detection levels, costs for analyses, turnaround time, references, certification, and other pertinent factors such as laboratory methods used, and laboratory reports.

Eurofins is currently under contract to perform these services for inorganic chemicals (IOC) and metals, synthetic organic chemicals (SOC), and Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Three and Four (UCMR3) and (UCMR4) constituents.

Turner Laboratories is currently under contract to perform these services for volatile organic chemicals (VOC), radiochemicals, and disinfection byproducts (DBP), which include total trihalomethanes (TTHM), haloacetic acid (HAA5).

**Issues**

Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc. has an office in Scottsdale, Arizona and their Laboratory is located in Monrovia, California. Turner Laboratories, Inc. is located in Tucson, Arizona.

Because Eurofins and Turner consistently rank as the highest qualified laboratories for these analytical services, and because both companies have continued to perform these services to the satisfaction of the District, staff solicited quotes for continuing to provide these services for Fiscal Years 2021-2025.

Quotes were received from both Eurofins and Turner for Fiscal Year 2021. Eurofins noted that they reserve the right to increase analytical costs up to ten percent annually. Turner would keep their prices the same for all five years.

VOC and arsenic samples often require 24-48 hour RUSH analyses and Eurofins is unable to meet the necessary turnaround times. Holding times (24-48 hours) for some IOC constituents such as nitrate, orthophosphate and others, cannot be met by Eurofins Labs as they need to be shipped to the lab in Monrovia, California.

For the UCMR-3 analyses (1,4-dioxane, hexavalent chromium and PFAS), and UCMR-4 analyses (total germanium, bromide, TOC, etc.), Eurofins is licensed for these procedures and the cost continues to remain cost effective. In addition, there is enough holding time to allow for the shipment of these samples by staff.

Eurofins did not submit a quote for radiochemicals or DBPs.

Both Eurofins and Turner submitted competitive quotes for SOCs. When considering shipping and staff processing, as well as the price escalation noted by Eurofins, the Turner quote is more cost-effective over the 5-year period for SOCs.

Estimated costs for the 5-year period are:

VOCs/DBPs	= \$175,000
SOCs	= \$225,000 (this will be lower if SOC waivers approved by ADEQ.)
IOCs	= \$175,000
Radiochemicals	= \$25,000

### **Recommendation**

Based on staff review of the quotes, and consideration of sample processing times, shipping and handling, and holding times for certain constituents, it is recommended that Turner be utilized to complete VOC, DBP, SOC, IOC, and radiochemical analyses. The anticipated annual cost is \$120,000, for a total 5-year cost of \$600,000. Actual expenditures will be as authorized per the adopted annual budgets.

### **Suggested Motion**

I move to approve of Analytical Laboratory Services Contract with Turner Laboratories, Inc., for Fiscal Years 2021-2025 in the amount of \$600,000 to complete analytical services related to volatile organic chemicals (VOC), disinfection byproducts (DBP), synthetic organic chemicals (SOC), inorganic chemicals (IOC), and radiochemicals, and to authorize the General Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract for these services. The General Manager is also authorized to negotiate and enter into a contract for these services with Eurofins-Eaton Analytical, Inc., in the event Turner Laboratories, Inc., is unable or unwilling to perform.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila M. Bowen, P.E.  
District Engineer

I concur with the above-noted recommendation.  
Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Olsen, P.E.  
General Manager