

March 4, 2025

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to accept Categorical Exemption Number 24-056 prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and,

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to execute a contract, and any necessary documents including any necessary subsequent amendments, with Industrial Design Research, Inc., of Newport Beach, CA, for providing beach lifeguard towers, in a total amount of \$1,627,618, authorize an 8 percent contingency in the amount of \$130,209, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,757,827 for a period of three years, with the option to renew for two additional one-year periods, at the discretion of the City Manager. (District 2, 3)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into a contract with Industrial Design Research, Inc. (IDR) to manufacture and deliver 19 beach lifeguard towers to replace existing assets.

City Council authority is being requested to purchase 19 IDR Large Surveyor Towers. IDR is the sole proprietor of the existing beach lifeguard towers used by the Long Beach Fire Department's (LBFD) Marine Safety Division. The IDR towers are constructed of prefabricated fiberglass panels mounted on a stainless-steel platform and skid structure. The Long Beach Lifeguards own and operate 19 existing lifeguard towers (Attachment A) previously sourced from IDR. They have demonstrated the ability to meet the City's operational needs and provide greater operational value due to their unique material, design, and features.

IDR's lifeguard towers are competitively priced and offer the advantages of design consistency, necessary durability and operational uniformity. Some existing IDR towers have not reached the end of their useful life and will remain operational. Consistent lifeguard towers do not just provide a consistent aesthetic; they provide operational familiarity for lifeguards as they train on this specific type of lifeguard tower and a consistent operational experience for lifeguards assigned to work across all City beaches. The use of consistent lifeguard towers across all beaches allows lifeguards to more rapidly respond to emergencies. Additionally, should replacement parts need to be procured, or if manufacturer services are necessary due to the extent of vandalism or damage, IDR's regional presence allows for a timelier response than other competitors.

The lifeguard towers manufactured by IDR have become the standard in California. They are used in several coastal cities as well as various beaches operated by the California Department

of State Parks. Some of the jurisdictions utilizing IDR products include Los Angeles, Oceanside, Huntington Beach, San Diego, Solana Beach, Ventura, and Santa Cruz. The materials and durability of these lifeguard towers meet the City's operational needs. The towers maximize beach user safety through their design, which features an unobstructed 180-degree field of view doors with simplified egress for fast exiting and stow-away ladders to prevent unwanted access.

These features enable lifeguards to better protect beachgoers by allowing for improved visual monitoring of life and safety conditions and facilitating quick life and safety support. Public safety is further enhanced with vandal-resistant elements and a railing system encompassing the deck. The use of fiberglass panels affixed to a stainless-steel platform and skid structure make the towers highly durable and resistant to corrosion in harsh marine environments. Other competitor products that have been reviewed by the City include powder-coated aluminum structures affixed to powder-coated platforms, but powder-coated structures are subject to wind and sand blast and eventually succumb to corrosion and rust.

Overall, the proposed lifeguard towers' design features and the ability to receive responsive service are necessary as the City maintains its Lifeguard Towers on its beaches 365 days a year, which means quick and simple relocation of the assets is often necessary for the Marine Safety Division. The towers produced by IDR consists of a base and skid system design, which allows the Long Beach Lifeguards to relocate the towers using standard fork or truck lift equipment as changes in tides and seasons occur, or as user activity on the beach increases in certain locations during prime summer months

IDR is the sole proprietor of the lifeguard towers currently used by the LBFD's Marine Safety Division. By awarding a contract to retain one supplier based in the Southern California region that can efficiently and quickly service the units and provide replacement parts for old and new towers, along with a product itself that has proven to be long-lasting and non-corrosive, the City anticipates benefitting from long-term operational efficiencies, consistent training across one tower system, and reduced long-term operating costs and therefore financial savings to the LBFD's operational budget.

In conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Categorical Exemption (CE) Number 24-056 was prepared for this project (Attachment B). The Public Works Department seeks the City Council's acceptance of CE 24-056.

City Charter Section 1801 requires that contracts for City purchases be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder after a competitive bid process but allows for awards without a competitive bid process when, as here, such an award is supported under the law and authorized by a Resolution adopted by the City Council.

This matter was reviewed by Principal Deputy City Attorney Erin Weesner-McKinley on February 14, 2025, Administrative Analyst Tommy Ryan on January 16, 2025, and by Budget Management Officer Nader Kaamoush on February 13, 2025.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action to adopt a Resolution and award a contract concurrently is requested on March 4, 2025, to ensure the contract is in place expeditiously.

LEVINE ACT

This item is subject to the Levine Act. The Mayor, Councilmembers, and Commissioners who have received a contribution of more than \$500 within 12 months prior from a party, participant, or their representatives involved in this proceeding may do either of the following: (1) disclose the contribution on the record and recuse themselves from this proceeding; OR (2) return the portion of the contribution that exceeds \$500 within 30 days from the time the elected official knew or should have known about the contribution and participate in the proceeding.

All parties, participants, and their representatives must disclose on the record of this proceeding any contribution of more than \$500 made to the Mayor or any Councilmembers within 12 months prior to the date of the proceeding. The Mayor, Councilmembers, and Commissioners are prohibited from accepting, soliciting, or directing a contribution of more than \$500 from a party, participant, or their representatives, during a proceeding and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total amount of the contract will not exceed \$1,757,827, inclusive of the 8 percent contingency. The total project cost is estimated at \$2,000,000, and includes the contract award amount of \$1,757,827, inclusive of contingency, along with the cost for design, installation, construction management, labor compliance, and project oversight. Sufficient funds for the project are appropriated in the Tidelands Operating Fund Group in the Public Works Department. On June 7, 2024, the State Lands Commission (SLC) approved expenditures for the Project. All SLC requirements have been met, and the City is ready to proceed with the purchase.

The LBFD will be responsible for operating and maintaining the towers once they are installed. The new towers are a replacement in like-kind of existing towers, and maintenance is expected to be minimal and limited to unforeseen circumstances.

This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

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SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Lopez
Director
Public Works



Dennis Buchanan
Chief
Fire Department

APPROVED:



THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

ATTACHMENTS: A - TOWER LOCATION MAP
B – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION NUMBER 24-056