

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Mayor and City Council Members  
Steve Parker, City Manager

**From:** Timothy J. Howe, Director – Water / Wastewater Utilities

**Through:** Rick Cortes, Deputy City Manager

**Subject:** Water Plant – Variable Frequency Drives

**Date:** July 16, 2024

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, Council rejected a bid for purchasing, installation, and startup of three (3) variable frequency drives (VFDs) at the Water Plant. Staff recommended rejection of the bid based on questions received related to specifications suggesting these specifications were unclear, thus resulting in a single bid. The City clarified the specifications and rebid the project. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, the City received four (4) bids ranging from \$167,939.00 from RGV Industrial to \$102,702.00 from Austina Armature.

The current variable frequency drives are outdated and conflict with an auto transfer switch that allows the backup generator to “auto start” during a power outage. This project will update the VFDs and correct this issue.

Staff recommends acceptance of the low bid in the amount of \$102,700.00 from Austin Armature. Austin Armature routinely provides service on various equipment at the water and wastewater treatment facilities and staff are confident in their ability to perform this upgrade. Funding is provided through 2018 and 2022 Utility Revenue Bonds. Staff will be available at the July 16, 2024, council meeting to address any questions or concerns.