



CITY OF HOUSTON - CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date:

ALL

Item Creation Date: 10/23/2017

20DWO09 Water Research Foundation

Agenda Item#:

Summary:

Background:

SUBJECT:

Approval of payment for the 2017 Membership Dues to the Water Research Foundation.

RECOMMENDATION: (SUMMARY)

City Council to approve to pay the 2017 Membership Dues to the Water Research Foundation.

SPECIFIC EXPLANATION:

BACKGROUND: The Water Research Foundation is a member-supported, international nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Formed in 1966, they are the nation's only research foundation devoted to drinking water research and governed by water utilities.

PURPOSES: The City of Houston, along with other member utilities, asks Water Research Foundation to solicit research proposals to identifying the best available technology, such as granular activated carbon, membrane technology, ion exchange and alternate disinfectants for the removal of contaminants which have been identified as candidates for regulation or which are being prosed for regulation. The foundation also adopts research projects that deal with the study of new technologies which could help treatment plants operate more efficiently and economically or for research which could evaluate the risks and/or cost benefits associated with regulating certain contaminants.

The program is international in scope and the results will benefit all water utilities, including the City of Houston and its customers. The primary benefit that they offer to the City of Houston, and to all utility subscribers, is participation in the centralized research program that is directed by and conducted on behalf of the drinking water community.

As a result of the program, the drinking water community has realized savings of millions of dollars annually; the Foundation has demonstrated the value of an industry-sponsored research program that benefits the drinking water community and the customer.

BENEFITS: As a member of the Water Research Foundation, the City of Houston will receive research on today's most complex challenges. With the long list of proposed regulations now facing the water industry in the short term, this membership will continue to play a vital role in ensuring that the City of Houston is ready to meet these regulations in an efficient and timely manner.

DUES: Annual Subscription cost is determined by the volume of water treated by the City of Houston multiplied by our subscription rate of \$1.17 per million gallons minus water sold to other utilities and minus any unmetered water. This calculation has yielded a subscription amount of \$352,211.12.

ESTIMATED FISCAL OPERATING IMPACT:

Funding for this item is included in the FY2018 Adopted Budget. Therefore, no Fiscal Note is required as stated in the Financial Policy Ord. 2017-1078.

Carol Ellinger Haddock, PE
Acting Director
Department of Public Works and Engineering

Prior Council Action:

Motion 2016-0534, dated 11/9/16

Amount of Funding:

\$352,211.12-Water and Sewer System Operating Fund (8300)

Contact Information:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Description

previous RCA and Motion
WRF Invoice

Type

Backup Material
Backup Material