



City Council Report

Date: May 18, 2026
To: City Council
Through: Michael Kennington, Deputy City Manager/Chief Financial Officer
From: Edward Quedens, Business Services Director
Kristy Garcia, Procurement Administrator
Subject: Five-Year Term Contract for Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) for the Water Resources Department **(Citywide)**

Recommendation

Council is requested to approve the award as recommended.

A committee representing the Water Resources Department and Procurement Services evaluated responses and recommend awarding the contract to the highest scored proposal from Arq Purification, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$420,000 annually, with an annual increase allowance of up to 5% or the adjusted Consumer Price Index.

Background / Discussion

Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) is a critical treatment chemical used at the Brown Road Water Treatment Plant to remove total organic carbon and control taste and odor in the raw water supplied through the Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal system. PAC absorbs naturally occurring organic compounds as well as synthetic organic contaminants, improving overall water quality and supporting compliance with regulatory standards.

This contract ensures the reliable supply of PAC needed to maintain effective treatment, particularly during the summer months when water demand is highest. Without adequate PAC application, the City would be unable to effectively treat CAP water and could face challenges meeting customer demand in Southeast Mesa. Continued procurement of PAC is essential to sustaining uninterrupted operations and maintaining public confidence in the City's drinking water supply.

City staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to all registered Powdered Activated Carbon providers. Eight proposal responses were received, five of which did not meet the minimum qualifications and were deemed non-responsive. The remaining three proposal responses were evaluated and scored in accordance with the City's established policies and procedures and relative to the scoring criteria in the solicitation. Scoring criteria included qualifications and experience, conformance to the powdered activated carbon specifications, proposed pricing, and compliance to the terms and conditions. Staff requested Best and Final Offers from the three highest-scoring proposals. Based on the evaluation results, the committee recommend awarding the contract to the highest-scoring and lowest priced respondent.

Purchase Information

Action: Award

Procurement Type: Request for Proposals

Contract Number: 2026009

Local Consideration: Not applicable as there were no Mesa responses

Protests Received: None

Initial Contract Term: Five years

Possible Renewals: None

Funding Source: Water Enterprise Operations and Maintenance Fund

No Bid Response Received

Pencco, Inc.

Univar Solutions USA, LLC

Proposals Deemed as Non-Responsive

Arq Purification, LLC: CarbPure: HRA (does not meet specifications)

Atlas Carbon, LLC (Procurement could not verify conformance to specifications)

Carbon Activated Corporation: RUWA-PL1500 (does not meet specifications)

Norit Americas, Inc. (does not meet specifications)

PM Chemical Solutions, LLC (did not submit PAC sample)

Proposal Responses

Arq Purification – Greenwood Village, CO (CarbPure TRA) (Recommended)

Calgon Carbon Corporation – Moon Township, PA

Carbon Activated Corporation – Phoenix, AZ (COL-PL800)

Preliminary Proposal Scoring Results

Respondent	Total Points Possible / 800
Arq Purification, LLC	637.50
Calgon Carbon Corporation	490.18
Carbon Activated Corporation	560.47

Final Proposal Scoring Results

Respondent	Total Points Possible / 800
Arq Purification, LLC (Recommended)	637.50
Calgon Carbon Corporation	503.49
Carbon Activated Corporation	578.75