



# STAFF REPORT

AGENDA NO: 9g

MEETING DATE: March 16, 2026

**To: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**Date: March 16, 2026**

**From: Chris Lamm, Director of Public Works – (650) 558-7230  
Weizhi Cheng, Senior Civil Engineer – (650) 558-7258**

**Subject: Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Thirkettle Corporation, dba Aqua-Metric Sales Company, in the Amount of \$185,418.71 for the Advanced Meter Infrastructure Upgrade and Customer Engagement, City Project No. 86700, Increasing the Total Contract Amount to \$483,265.76, and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the First Amendment**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution approving a \$185,418.71 First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Thirkettle Corporation, dba Aqua-Metric Sales Company, for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Upgrade and Customer Engagement, City Project No. 86700, bringing the agreement total to \$483,265.76, and authorizing the City Manager to execute the amendment.

## **BACKGROUND**

On January 21, 2025, the City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement (“Agreement”) in the amount of \$297,847.05 with Thirkettle Corporation, dba Aqua-Metric Sales Company, for implementation of the City’s Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) network and related software integration (Resolution No. 002-2025). The project replaces the City’s outdated Advanced Meter Reading (AMR) drive-by system with Sensus FlexNet AMI technology. This technology improves meter reading efficiency, provides customers with access to hourly meter data, enhances customer engagement, and supports water conservation objectives.

The original project scope included installation of two radio antennas and base stations to provide coverage within the City’s water service area. At that time, the number and locations of the antennas were based on preliminary system design assumptions.

## **DISCUSSION**

During the detailed design phase, conducted in collaboration with the City, Aqua-Metric, and Sensus, a refined propagation study was completed to validate signal coverage across the City’s varied topography and building density. The updated analysis determined that two additional radio base stations would significantly improve signal performance throughout the service area. This enhanced

coverage will improve overall system performance, including better customer experience through more reliable access to data.

A total of four base stations and antennas will be installed to ensure:

- Stronger AMI signal coverage across the service area
- Improved customer experience, including timely leak and high-usage alerts
- Reduced risk of communication gaps in hillside and densely developed areas
- System redundancy in the event of a natural disaster or extended power outage
- Improved consistency in remote meter reading

Staff requests City Council approval of the First Amendment in the amount of \$185,418.71 to incorporate the two additional tower locations, radio base station equipment, network integration, and required testing, bringing the Agreement total to \$483,265.76.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The estimated total project expenditures associated with the amended Agreement are as follows:

Professional Services (\$297,847 + \$185,419)	\$ 483,266
Contingency (15%)	\$72,490
Engineering Design & Administration	\$44,244
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

There is no additional fiscal impact to City funds. Sufficient funding is available within the previously approved Water Capital Improvement Program budget for Project No. 86700 to cover the amended Agreement amount. In addition, project costs continue to be reimbursable under the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant.

Exhibits:

- Resolution
- First Amendment
- Original Agreement