City Council Agenda Item Request
Submit to Clerk's Office
No later than 30 days before proposed Council meeting

1. **Date submitted to Clerk's Office:** June 10, 2025

2. **Primary contact person and Department requesting agenda item:** William A Hart, Water Production Manager

3. **Requested Council meeting date:** July 29, 2025

4. **Subject:** Approval of a contract with Bering-Weston JV, LLC, to provide and operate the William DeBruhl Water Treatment Plant Temporary Pretreatment System.

5. **Action Requested:** Approval for the Bering-Weston JV, LLC, to provide a temporary turbidity reduction system for the William DeBruhl Water Treatment Plant to ensure continued water treatment in all weather conditions until a permanent treatment solution can be installed; and the associated budget amendment in the amount of $18,802,253.

6. **Note if time sensitive, and why:** To ensure that the William DeBruhl Water Treatment Plant can continue water production and water supply to the City of Asheville water distribution system.

7. **Potential fiscal impact(s) - if known by staff at time of request:** $1,566,854.40 estimated year one monthly cost. The total cost of this contract is $18,802,253.41 estimated year one cost. The City has applied for FEMA Public Assistance and once approved it is expected that 90% of this expense will be reimbursed by FEMA, and 10% will be reimbursed by the State of North Carolina.

8. **Identify all vendor outreach for Minority & Women Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE).** NA, Federally Funded

9. **Identify all Boards, Commissions and Council Committees with tentative dates - add in the vote and recommendation from each Board:** None

10. **Identify key issues:**
    - In late September, the City of Asheville experienced unprecedented rainfall both from Tropical Storm Helene and a predecessor heavy rain event. A state of emergency covering Asheville was declared on September 25th in relation to Tropical Storm Helene.
    - Heavy rain and flooding reduced the water quality of the Bee Tree Reservoir to a level that could not be treated by the William DeBruhl Water Treatment Plant.
    - Due to the pristine nature of the watershed, the City of Asheville water system relies heavily on sedimentation control through the erosion control that takes place naturally in a healthy ecosystem.
    - The turbidity of the reservoir during Helene was a clear indication that weather events can have a devastating and unpredictable impact on erosion in the watershed and sedimentation in the reservoir.
    - Throughout the events following Tropical Storm Helene, it became abundantly clear that measures must be maintained to ensure there is always a direct filtration system in the water that can be scaled quickly when weather events overwhelm the watershed's ability to manage erosion.

- Following Tropical Storm Helene, FEMA assigned the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with a direct federal assistance (DFA) mission to provide a temporary pretreatment system for the William DeBruhl Water Treatment Plant to reduce turbidity of the water before entering the treatment plant.
- The USACE Temporary Pretreatment System provides needed redundancy to the William DeBruhl Treatment Plant and the ability to continuously treat and provide potable drinking water to the City of Asheville water distribution system and surrounding municipalities.
- The USACE's direct federal assistance (DFA) mission to manage the Temporary Pretreatment System will end on August 18, 2025
- This contract would allow the City of Asheville to assume management of a temporary pretreatment system.