

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 28, 2025

PREPARED BY: Shawn Muir, Community Services Manager

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF PUMP ROOM EQUIPMENT FOR THE
PALM DESERT AQUATIC CENTER (PROJECT NO. CFA00009)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the purchase of pump room equipment from Knorr Systems International in the amount of \$989,206.48, plus a \$15,000 contingency for unforeseen expenses.
2. Authorize release of established Aquatic Facility Equipment Reserve Funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 in Account No. 2420000-2430100 and transfer and appropriate to Aquatic Facility Capital Projects Account No. 2424549-4400100.
3. Authorize the City Attorney to make necessary non-monetary changes to the agreement.
4. Authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement and any written requests for change orders up to the contingency amount, amendments, and any other documents necessary to effectuate this action, in accordance with Palm Desert Municipal Code Section 3.30.170(B).

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

The Palm Desert Aquatic Center (PDAC) was constructed in 2011 as a public recreational amenity for residents and visitors. The facility features three separate pools, each designed to serve a range of community programming and recreational needs:

- Lap Pool: 887,000 gallons; 50 meters in length; depth up to 15 feet. Amenities include diving boards, a climbing wall, a floating obstacle course, and lanes for lap swimming and water fitness programs.
- Recreation Pool: 190,000 gallons; zero-depth entry to a maximum depth of five feet. Includes a rope swing, dual water slides, and designated areas for swimming instruction and recreational use.
- Splash Pool: 13,000 gallons; uniform one-foot depth. Designed for young children, the pool includes a water playground for safe and interactive play.

The facility has been operated and maintained by the Family YMCA of the Desert since its opening. Most of the equipment needed to operate the pools is located in the facility's pump room. Currently, the pump room houses three filtration systems, five heaters, and various pumps and controllers. This equipment runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week, since it was commissioned, except for the heaters, which are only operated in the winter. Due to the extensive use, extreme desert climate, and normal wear and tear, the equipment has reached the end of its useful life and must be replaced. Evidence of this emerged at the start of this year's

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recreational swimming season, when the lap pool required temporary closures over several days, leading to a modified operating schedule to allow for water clarity to improve.

Early planning for the pump room renovation project began in September 2024 when staff requested proposals for the engineering and design of the improvements. The City entered Contract No. A48350 with Rogers, Stringer, and McClelland, Inc. (RSM) and immediately began working on the plans. Full construction documents are now being finalized and an Invitation for Bids to hire a construction contractor has been advertised on the City’s online bidding portal, OpenGov. Staff will return with a request to approve the construction agreement and appropriate funds for installation in September 2025. Staff anticipate construction commencing in mid-November 2025. The construction will require a full facility closure, as swimming cannot safely occur while the pumps are not operating.

RSM provided an equipment list for staff, so the equipment with longer lead times could be purchased in advance of hiring a contractor. Direct City purchase of the equipment also provides cost savings of approximately 15% over requesting the contractor purchase the items. Staff sent the equipment list to five pool equipment vendors in the region, and each vendor provided a quote. Two of the five quotes will not be considered:

- One vendor provided a partial quote for the heaters only. This will not be considered as the request for quotes includes all items on the equipment list and the City intends to work with one vendor for all equipment for the project.
- A second vendor provided a quote with an alternate heater specified. This will not be considered because there is not an approved alternate heater. The construction documents are specific to the heaters on the equipment list provided.

The three complete proposals are summarized below:

Vendor	Location	Quote
Knorr Systems International, Inc.	Santa Ana, California	\$1,059,490.04
Aquatic Environmental Systems, Inc.	Tempe, Arizona	\$1,106,490.54
Horizon Mechanical Contractors of California	Arcadia, California	\$1,274,854.36

Knorr Systems International, Inc. (KSI) was determined to have provided the lowest responsive quote. Following this evaluation, staff received lead times for the equipment, and it became apparent that the urgent purchase of the pumps (16–18-week lead time) was necessary. The pumps were purchased separately to mitigate this lead time and ensure all equipment would be available prior to the installation period (\$70,283.56). A separate quote was requested from Knorr Systems for the remaining items on the list (\$989,206.48).

Staff recommends awarding a Goods and Equipment Purchase Agreement to Knorr Systems International, Inc., for \$989,206.48 as they provided the lowest qualified quote for the purchase of the equipment. Staff are also requesting a \$15,000 contingency for unforeseen expenses.

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Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney’s Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The approved FY 2025-26 Financial Plan and Capital Improvement Project (CIP) List includes \$378,846 under Aquatic Facility – Capital Project Account No. 2424549-4400100 for improvements at the Palm Desert Aquatic Center (PDAC).

The following table reflects the improvements and expenses programmed under this account:

<i>Account No.</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Estimated Cost/ Expenses</i>	<i>Balance</i>
<i>2424549-4400100 PDAC Capital Account</i>	\$300,000		
<i>FY2024/25 Carryover</i>	\$78,846		
<i>HVAC Replacement</i>		\$50,000	
<i>Re-sling chairs</i>		\$25,000	
<i>Roof Access Ladder</i>		\$25,000	
<i>Fence Replacement</i>		\$150,000	
<i>Pumps Purchase</i>		\$70,369	
<i>*Pump Room Equipment Purchase</i>		\$989,206	
<i>*Contingency</i>		\$15,000	
<i>Totals</i>	\$378,846	\$1,324,575	(\$945,729)
	<i>*This Appropriation Request</i>		\$1,000,000
	<i>Balance Available</i>		\$54,271

***Current request**

Staff requests an appropriation of \$1,000,000 from Aquatic Facility Equipment Reserves to facilitate this equipment purchase.

Funds for equipment replacement were deposited and reserved upon PDAC opening. There is no financial impact on the General Fund with this action, however an appropriation from General Fund Facility Reserves will be necessary to complete the project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. City Goods and Equipment Purchase Agreement
2. RSM Agreement A48350