Staff Report
City of Manhattan Beach

TO:　　　　　Honorable Mayor Aldinger and Members of the City Council

THROUGH:　Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM:　　　Bruce Moe, Finance Director
　　　　　　　Leilani Emnace, Information Systems Manager

DATE:　　　November 6, 2007

SUBJECT:　Consideration of One-Year Renewal of Storage Area Network Maintenance Agreement with Nth Generation Computing, Inc. in the Amount of $22,752

RECOMMENDATION:
Staff recommends that the City Council a) waive formal bidding per Municipal Code Section 2.36.140 (waivers) and b) approve the renewal of a one-year Storage Area Network maintenance agreement with Nth Generation Computing, Inc. in the amount of $22,752.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:
Sufficient funds are available in the Information Systems Division budget to renew the annual maintenance agreement.

BACKGROUND:
In 2003, City Council approved the purchase of the Hewlett Packard Storage Area Network (SAN) solution in the amount of $248,946.13. The SAN is essential and provides backup, recovery and centralized management of data storage for the City's mission critical applications on over twenty network servers. The initial contract with the installing vendor, Nth Generation Computing, Inc., included three years of maintenance and support. That three year period is expiring, requiring a new support agreement. Renewal of this contract is necessary in order to obtain continued 24x7x365 four-hour response on all service calls.

DISCUSSION:
The original contract award to Hewlett Packard/Nth Generation was determined through a competitive bid process and involved evaluating eight proposals. Further research and follow-up took place to evaluate hardware, software, management tools, and vendor installation and service capabilities. The vendors' sites were visited specifically to meet with the professional services installation and data migration teams as well as customer site visits. After months of research, review, and discussion, staff selected the Hewlett Packard solution, which was purchased from and installed by Nth Generation.

While Hewlett-Packard SAN support may be obtained from sources other than Nth Generation,

staff recommends renewing the maintenance agreement with them. Since installation, Nth Generation has assisted the City in numerous intricate storage and hardware upgrades and software updates; they are familiar with the systems' configuration to the component level. This vendor has consistently performed well, is responsive, and has provided excellent support during these past three years.