

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TO: BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
FROM: RICHEL MAEDA, ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER
CAPITAL PROJECTS ENGINEERING
SUBJECT: REJECT ALL BIDS – WATER PUMP STATION 9 ELECTRICAL
UPGRADES, CONTRACT NO. C02438

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by Santa Rosa Water and the Transportation and Public Works Department that the Board of Public Utilities, by motion, reject all bids received for Contract No. C02438, Water Pump Station 9 Electrical Upgrades.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This motion will reject all bids for Contract No. C02438, Water Pump Station 9 Electrical Upgrades. Staff recommends rejecting all bids for this contract because only one bid was received, which was 77.97% over the Engineer's Estimate. The Transportation and Public Works Department and the Water Department will pursue design changes to the Project that do not significantly impact the Project objectives and anticipate a re-solicitation of the Project in early 2025.

BACKGROUND

Water Pump Station 9 is a critical facility serving customers within the R9, R9R1, and R10 pressure zones of the City's water system, maintained and operated by the City of Santa Rosa (City) Water and Wastewater (Local) Operation Divisions. Within the station, three 300 HP vertical turbine pumps provide the only means of filling water reservoirs R9A and R9B, and two 75 HP vertical turbine pumps feed directly into the reduced pressure zone R9R1. One of the 300 HP pumps and both 75 HP vertical turbine pumps are connected to variable frequency drives (VFDs). The pump station building has separate rooms for pumps and motors, electrical equipment, and a 1,000-kW on-site backup generator. The station has no safe or reliable method to connect and operate an external portable generator for redundant backup power. As a critical facility, operation in times of emergencies such as natural disasters or power outages is necessary. Proposed improvements will provide another means of redundantly powering the site to ensure

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water supply for emergency firefighting responders and residents can occur without interruption.

Contract No. C02438, Water Pump Station 9 Electrical Upgrades (Project) will replace aging equipment that is nearing the end of its usability as well as incorporate new equipment to increase the safety and reliability of the facility. Improvements will include enhancing the current power supply of the station with the installation of a new mechanically interlocked portable generator breaker, an 800 AMP portable generator connection panel, and a main power PG&E disconnect. These improvements will provide the means to operate two pumps with one large portable generator and facilitate maintenance of the facility. The Project will also include replacing the VFDs for the 300 HP pump and both 75 HP pumps, and the 8" and 18" magnetic flowmeters and transmitters. Upgrades to the station building, HVAC system, overall electrical system, antenna, and ancillary utility piping will also be required as part of the Project.

PRIOR BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES REVIEW

On August 15, 2024, the Board of Public Utilities (Board) approved sole source specifications for various electrical equipment and services for the Water Pump Station 9 Electrical Upgrades Project, Contract No. C02438.

ANALYSIS

The Project was advertised on September 23, 2024, with a bid opening of October 15, 2024. A total of one (1) bid was received in the amount of \$2,903,800.06, which is 77.97% over the Engineer's Estimate. Accepting the low bid and proceeding with the Project would require approximately \$1.5M in additional funding. Rejection of the bid will allow the Transportation and Public Works Department and Water Department to revise the project scope and rebid in early 2025.

Post-bid opening, interviews were conducted with the other potential prime and subcontractor bidders that did not provide a bid for the Project. The Project involves an electrical scope of work estimated to be between 50-80% of the total project cost. One of the prime bidders stated that the electrical subcontractor they typically work with did not provide a bid for the project. The other two prime bidders interviewed cited the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) requirements as the primary reason for not bidding. Four potential electrical subcontractor bidders had the following reasons for not submitting bids: (1) insufficient time to prepare a bid, (2) sole source requirements, (3) small scope of work and PLA requirements, and (4) insufficient time to prepare a bid and chose to bid on a larger project not subject to PLA requirements. The attached memorandum provides additional details from the interviews.

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FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this Project were previously appropriated in the Water Department Capital Improvement Program budget and do not impact the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301 Existing Facilities, which applies to projects that consist of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of the existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Section 15301(d) applies to projects in which restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as an earthquake, landslide, or flood. Specifically, the Project consists of minor alterations of existing facilities to improve public health and safety by allowing the station to be de-energized safely and independent of PG&E and allowing the station to be connected to a portable generator for emergency power. These project improvements are a negligible expansion of existing or former use to improve public health and safety. Additionally, the project qualifies for Section 15303, which consists of the construction and location of small new equipment and facilities in small structures.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Location Map
- Attachment 2 – Summary of Bids
- Attachment 3 – Potential Bidder Inquiries Memorandum

CONTACT

Richela Maeda, Associate Civil Engineer