

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
ENGINEERING COMMITTEE (PROJECT COMMITTEE 15)**

July 23, 2010

A Regular Meeting of the South Orange County Wastewater Authority Engineering Project Committee 15 was held on Thursday, July 23, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office located at 34156 Del Obispo Street, Dana Point, California.

The following Engineering Committee Members were present:

MIKE DUNBAR, South Coast Water District
MATT COLLINGS, Moulton Niguel Water District
TONI SCHMIDT, Emerald Bay Service District
DAVID SHISSLER, City of Laguna Beach

Also Present:

BRIAN PECK, SOCWA Director of Engineering
CHRISTINE HUTTON, SOCWA Administrative Assistant
MIKE WILSON, SOCWA Asst General Manager / Director of Operations

Mr. Peck, SOCWA, Director of Engineering, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance.

Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge System Preliminary Design Proposal & Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge System Approach to Environmental Services (PC 15)

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Peck noted for the record that he would not be able to vote on any selection regarding Dudek. The project manager for Dudek is the godfather for one of Mr. Peck's sons. Mr. Dunbar noted for the record that he has a daughter who is employed by Dudek. Mr. Dunbar stated that Dudek will not assign his daughter to any work for either SOCWA or for the South Coast Water District (SCWD). Discussion ensued regarding whether or not this constituted a conflict of interest. Mr. Shissler indicated that he did not believe that it was a conflict as long as the daughter was not part of the team.

Mr. Peck stated that five proposals had been received for the Preliminary Design for the Export Sludge System. The original plan was for the Engineering Committee to complete its review at this meeting; a recommendation would then be taken to the Board of Directors meeting on August 5. Mr. Peck indicated that this was a soft schedule. If additional time or information is needed then a later presentation to the Board can be done.

Eight requests for proposals were sent out for the Preliminary Design. Five of the firms submitted a proposal; a sixth firm, Carollo Engineers, appeared as a subconsultant to Dudek. The two remaining firms that did not submit a proposal are Kennedy Jenks and Malcolm Pirnie. Both firms indicated that they did not have the right staff members available to perform the work. Mr. Peck believed that the five submitted proposals were of high quality. Mr. Peck noted that there were critical technical elements woven into the scope of work for the project. The work involves the pumping of 3 – 5% sludge. This is a different hydraulic condition than pumping sewage. This situation will also require special methods for maintaining the pipeline. Mr. Peck felt that all five of the proposing firms did a good job in addressing these technical issues. However, AECOM didn't get into as much detail as the other four proposals: but it included a reference for a project with the Orange County Sanitation District that was interesting. The subject project involved research with the staff at Cal State Long Beach, in which, sampling and laboratory analysis of 20 percent sludge to determine its rheological qualities. Although 20 percent sludge is significantly different from the export sludge; it does represent a similar line of thinking.

Mr. Peck stated that the scope of work would require the selected firm to reach the 30 percent design level at the end of the Preliminary Design effort. This would involve the development of a series of 40 scale drawings along the pipeline route. However, the scope of work did not define what is to be included in those 30 percent complete drawings. One of the proposing firms, Dudek, appears to have planned on doing more detailed drawings than the remaining firms. Mr. Peck compiled and distributed a table showing the number of drawings and the number of hours proposed by each firm. This allows for a comparison of the relative work level between the proposing firms.

Mr. Peck noted that it was interesting that three out of five proposing teams referenced their experience with the City of San Diego sludge force mains. These pipelines are very similar to the work planned by SOCWA. However, the City of San Diego staff did not return any phone calls requesting information regarding their experience with the consulting firms.

Two companies - TetraTech and Dudek - have significant experience with projects in Aliso Canyon. Both firms did a good job of highlighting that experience in their proposals. HDR did an excellent job showing the experience of their project manager Guillermo Garcia with projects at the Coastal and the Regional Treatment Plants; their proposal further showed how this experience related to the Export Sludge preliminary design.

Mr. Shissler noted that the AECOM team includes elements of Boyle Engineering (who had done significant work for the City of Laguna Beach). However, there is only one person noted in their proposal who had been involved with that work – Andy Romer. Mr. Shissler indicated that the City of Laguna Beach also had good working experience with Dudek. Mr.

Shissler thought that the proposals by Dudek, HDR and TetraTech were strong and the proposals by AECOM and Lee & Ro were weaker.

Mr. Dunbar indicated some concern that TetraTech had not given more emphasis to the geotechnical evaluation. He felt that TetraTech was capable of more creativity than they had reflected in their proposal. Mr. Dunbar felt that the three strongest proposals were Dudek, HDR and Lee & Ro. The sludge handling experience that Carollo brought to the Dudek team was a strong asset. Mr. Dunbar felt that HDR had done a good job of discussing different alternatives. Mr. Dunbar expressed concern regarding the number of hours identified in the Dudek proposal. It is clear that the difference in hours between Dudek and their competitors is the number of CAD hours.

Mr. Collings also indicated that he was impressed with the HDR proposal. He felt that there had been some creative thought put into the proposal; however, he was not sold on the approach of using the 18-inch sewer as a carrier pipe for the force main. Mr. Collings noted that based on past MNWD experience it was necessary to work with HDR on schedule control. Mr. Collings also felt that Dudek had a strong proposal. He expressed the same concern regarding the high number of hours in the Dudek proposal. Mr. Collings had a higher opinion of the TetraTech team although he agreed that their proposal was plain.

Mr. Wilson questioned whether or not pipe bursting was a viable option. Mr. Dunbar and Mr. Shissler noted the past successful applications of pipe bursting. Mr. Collings noted that it would be a function of the relative proximity of the pipelines. Mr. Peck indicated that he was surprised that only one of the five proposals had really discussed the methodology.

Discussion ensued regarding the HDR concept for running the new force main down to the Coastal Treatment Plant through the 18-inch sewer. Mr. Peck expressed concern regarding the proximity of the 18-inch sewer to Aliso Creek. Mr. Collings noted that MNWD was concerned regarding the potential loss of capacity in the sewer.

Mr. Peck indicated that he had requested all five firms to clarify the CAD hours spent on developing the 40 scale drawings that were to be submitted at the end of preliminary design. Approximately 18 drawings are needed at the proposed scale. AECOM proposed the lowest number of CAD hours at 52. This would result 3 CAD hours per drawing. Several members of the Engineering Committee noted that this was not possible. Lee & Ro and TetraTech were close as each expending 6 to 7 CAD hours per drawing. The Dudek proposal is closer to 12 CAD hours per drawing.

Mr. Wilson stated that he felt both the HDR and the Dudek proposals were strong.

Ms. Schmidt questioned how the final design would be impacted by CEQA. Mr. Peck noted that the goal was to be clear enough in the development of the 30% design that the CEQA process would be accurate. Mr. Peck also stated that it would be an iterative process

where the environmental finding would also lead to potential adjustments of the pipeline route. Ms. Schmidt stated that it would be desirable to remain within the existing SOCWA easement. Mr. Peck noted that SOCWA would need to approach the County if an alteration of the easement would be needed to mitigate environmental damage.

Mr. Shissler noted that it might be necessary to reach a higher level than 30 percent design to adequately address the issues in CEQA. Mr. Dunbar countered that 30 percent would probably be sufficient as the alignment routing would be clearly identified at that level.

Mr. Peck suggested narrowing the list of consultants. There was a consensus among the Engineering Committee that Lee & Ro and AECOM did not have equivalent credentials to the other three firms based on the proposals. This narrowed the selection to Dudek, HDR and TetraTech. The Engineering Committee requested the price range of the three proposals. Mr. Peck stated that HDR was in the high \$70,000 range; TetraTech was in the mid-\$80,000 range; Dudek was approximately \$110,000. Discussion ensued regarding the quality and the price of the three proposals. The Engineering Committee felt that the Dudek proposal was the most thorough and represented the best understanding. Mr. Peck asked if the provisional recommendation of the Engineering Committee was Dudek. Mr. Shissler, Mr. Dunbar, and Mr. Collings agreed that Dudek would be the recommendation if their price was lower to the \$90,000 - \$95,000 range.

Mr. Peck asked the Engineering Committees recommendation for the second place firm in the event that negotiations with Dudek were not successful. The consensus of the Engineering Committee was that HDR was the second place firm.

Mr. Peck noted that the discussion regarding the request for proposals for the environmental services portion of the project would be tabled until the August Engineering Committee Meeting.

ACTION:

The Engineering Committee directed SOCWA staff to commence negotiations with Dudek. The Engineering Committee would recommend award of the project to Dudek if Dudek's fee could be reduced to the \$90,000 to \$95,000 range. SOCWA staff is to begin negotiations with HDR Engineering if the discussions with Dudek are unsuccessful.

Public Comments on Items 1 and 2

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Peck asked if there were any public comments on items 1 and 2. There were none.

ACTION:

No action needed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

/Christine Hutton /

Christine Hutton, Administrative Assistant/Recorder