




**Contract and Award Letter
Purchase Resolution – Exhibit “A”**

TO: Board of Contracts and Awards
FROM: Ramiro Chavez, P.E., PgMP, Director, Environmental Services
 Lance Bunch, P.E., Principal Engineer, Science and Engineering 
COPY: City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, EIC Coordinator, LEAP Coordinator, and Stan Rowden II, Senior Buyer, Finance/Procurement
SUBJECT: Central Wastewater Treatment Plant Mixed Liquor Channel Pipe Replacement Project, Request for Bids Solicitation No. ES26-0002F, Contract No. CW2281974 – May 19, 2026 City Council
DATE: April 24, 2026

RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY: The Environmental Services Department (ES) recommends awarding a contract to Stellar J Corporation, Woodland, WA, in the amount of \$1,509,900, plus a 20 percent contingency, for a projected contract amount of \$1,811,880, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from the ES Wastewater Fund 4300 for construction of the Central Wastewater Treatment Plant (CTP) Mixed Liquor Channel Pipe Replacement project.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents.
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

Constructing new piping in the mixed liquor channel wastewater treatment system supports these priorities by replacing old infrastructure and ensuring proper wastewater treatment to protect the water quality of the Puget Sound in compliance with Department of Ecology permit regulations.

BACKGROUND: The CTP is a key facility in the City of Tacoma’s wastewater treatment system, providing secondary treatment prior to final disinfection and discharge into Commencement Bay. The mixed liquor channel is an essential process component that conveys wastewater from the oxygenation basins to the secondary clarifiers for final treatment. In early 2024, ES performed a condition assessment of the mixed liquor channel infrastructure and found the 4-inch spray water line and associated mixing and chemical systems to be in poor condition.

ISSUE: The current condition of the spray water line and supporting systems presents a risk to treatment operations. Failure of these components could disrupt the mixed liquor channel process, negatively impact treatment performance, and increase the risk of regulatory non-compliance. In addition, aging equipment in the mixing and chemical systems contributes to reduced reliability, higher maintenance demands, and operational inefficiencies. Replacing the deteriorated 4-inch spray water pipeline and associated mixed liquor channel systems ensures continued reliable operation of the CTP.

ALTERNATIVES: One option is to take no action and continue operating with the existing mixed liquor channel piping and system. However, this approach carries significant risks and delaying the project would increase the likelihood of system failure, potentially leading to unplanned outages, higher emergency repair costs, and added operational challenges. Proceeding with the replacement through this project offers a cost-effective way to support system performance while maintaining regulatory compliance.



COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION:

Request for Bids Specification No. ES26-0002F was opened on April 7, 2026. Five hundred seven (507) companies were invited to bid in addition to normal advertising of the project. Three submittals were received. Stellar J Corporation submitted a bid that resulted in the lowest evaluated submittal. The table below reflects the amount of the base award.

<u>Respondent</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Submittal Amount</u>
Stellar J Corporation	Woodland, WA	\$1,509,900
General Mechanical, Inc	Tacoma, WA	\$1,567,000
Apex Mechanical, LLC	Battle Ground, WA	\$1,715,000

Pre-bid Estimate: \$2,000,000

The recommended award is 24.5 percent below the pre-bid estimate.

CONTRACT HISTORY: New Contract

SUSTAINABILITY: Sustainability was addressed by prioritizing the replacement of deteriorated infrastructure and aging equipment to promote long-term reliability and efficient operation of the CTP. Upgrading the 4-inch spray water pipeline and associated mixed liquor channel systems helps reduce the likelihood of process disruptions that could result in reduced treatment efficiency or potential environmental releases.

EQUITY IN CONTRACTING (EIC) COMPLIANCE: Not applicable - EIC Exception: Lack of certified contractors

LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (LEAP) COMPLIANCE: The LEAP requirements for this project are 15 percent of the project labor hours must be worked by Local Employees and an additional 15 percent of the labor hours must be worked by Apprentices, per TMC 1.90.040.

FISCAL IMPACT:

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4300 ES Wastewater Fund	ENV-04030-11-04	5330100	\$1,811,880
TOTAL			Up to \$1,811,880

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
4300 ES Wastewater Fund	524700	6310010	(\$1,811,880)
TOTAL			Up to (\$1,811,880)



FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$ 1,811,880

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? Yes

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED. N/A