



February 9, 2023

To: Transit Committee

From: Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: Agreement for Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Facility Operations and Maintenance

Overview

On October 26, 2022, the Orange County Transportation Authority issued a request for proposals for the operations and maintenance of the compressed natural gas fueling facility located at the Irvine Sand Canyon Bus Base. Proposals were received in accordance with the Orange County Transportation Authority procurement procedures for professional and technical services. Staff is requesting Board of Directors' approval to award an agreement for these services.

Recommendations

- A. Approve the selection of Trillium USA Company, LLC, doing business as Trillium, as the firm to provide compressed natural gas fueling facilities operations and maintenance.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-2-2898 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Trillium USA Company, LLC, doing business as Trillium, in the amount of \$471,600, to provide compressed natural gas fueling facility operations and maintenance for a three-year initial term from March 1, 2023 through February 28, 2026 with one, two-year option term.

Discussion

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) currently operates a fleet of 484 compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered buses in fixed-route service. To meet the daily fueling demand of these buses, each fixed-route base is equipped with a CNG fueling station. Natural gas is provided to OCTA's four fixed-route bases by Southern California Gas Company, where it is then compressed and dispensed into high pressure tanks on board CNG buses. The CNG compression

and dispensing equipment operations and maintenance (O&M) is provided under contract at each fixed-route base. OCTA is responsible for providing the natural gas, electrical power, and personnel for dispensing fuel into the buses. The fixed-route bases in the cities of Anaheim, Garden Grove, and Santa Ana are contracted under one agreement, and the base at Irvine Sand Canyon is contracted under a separate agreement. The CNG fueling station at the Irvine Sand Canyon Bus Base was procured separately and was designed to be mobile because of the City of Irvine's plan to extend Marine Way through the base to intersect Sand Canyon Avenue. Due to the unique base design, O&M has been done independent of the other bases. The procurement discussed herein is for the O&M of the CNG equipment at the Irvine Sand Canyon fixed-route base.

The scope of work for the O&M agreement requires the firm furnish qualified personnel, parts, and materials sufficient to operate and maintain the CNG fueling station in accordance with all federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, while providing capabilities to fuel the OCTA fleet per established specifications.

Procurement Approach

This procurement was handled in accordance with OCTA's Board of Directors (Board)-approved procedures for professional and technical services. In addition to cost, other factors are considered in an award for professional and technical services. Award is recommended to the firm offering the most comprehensive overall proposal considering such factors as qualifications, prior experience with similar projects, staffing and project organization, work plan, as well as cost and price.

On October 26, 2022, Request for Proposals (RFP) 2-2898 was issued electronically on CAMM NET. The project was advertised in a newspaper of general circulation on October 26 and October 31, 2022. A virtual pre-proposal conference was held on November 1, 2022, followed by an in-person job walk held on November 2, 2022, with six attendees representing two firms. Three addenda were issued to make the pre-proposal conference presentation and registration sheets available, respond to written questions, and to address administrative changes related to the monthly usage of fuel.

On November 29, 2022, two proposals were received. An evaluation committee consisting of OCTA staff from the Contracts Administration and Materials Management, Maintenance, and Operations departments met to review the submitted proposals. The proposals were evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria and weightings:

- Qualifications of the Firm 30 percent
- Staffing and Project Organization 15 percent
- Work Plan 25 percent
- Cost and Price 30 percent

Several factors were considered in developing the criteria weightings. A higher level of importance was assigned to the qualifications of the firm, which is weighted at 30 percent, to emphasize the importance of the proposing firms' related experience in CNG fueling facility O&M services, with a proven history in successfully providing similar services. Staffing and project organization was assigned a 15 percent weighting to ensure the proposed staff is knowledgeable and experienced in preventative maintenance and other requested services. Work plan was weighted at 25 percent to ensure the proposing firms demonstrated an understanding and approach to accomplishing the work specified in the scope of work. Cost and price was also weighted at 30 percent, as it is important for firms to propose competitive pricing to carry out the required turn-key services.

On December 6, 2022, the evaluation committee reviewed both proposals based on the evaluation criteria. The firms are listed below in alphabetical order:

Firm and Location

Clean Energy (CE)
Newport Beach, California

Trillium USA Company, LLC
doing business as (dba) Trillium (Trillium)
Houston, Texas

On December 15, 2022, the evaluation committee interviewed the two firms. Each firm had the opportunity to present its approach for accomplishing the requested services, project team qualifications, and respond to evaluation committee questions. During the interview, each firm described its understanding of tasks involved in this project, specifically those which have the potential to cause disruption to bus operations, daily inspections process, as well as monitoring process for the CNG station and associated equipment. Both firms also were asked specific questions related to each firm's approach to meeting OCTA's service requirements.

After considering information obtained through interviews, the evaluation committee did not make any adjustments to scores.

Based on the evaluation of written technical proposals, information obtained from the interviews, as well as cost and price, the evaluation committee recommends that Trillium be selected to provide CNG fueling facility O&M services at the Irvine Sand Canyon Bus Base.

Qualifications of the Firm

Both firms are established companies with experience in providing CNG fueling facility O&M services.

Trillium is part of Love's Family of Companies, which was founded in 1964 and headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Trillium has prior experience designing, building, operating, and maintaining CNG and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) vehicle fueling stations for bus transit agencies. The firm has provided similar services to the City of Visalia Transit, North County Transit District, and San Diego Metropolitan Transit System. Trillium designed and built OCTA's Santa Ana CNG fueling facility in 2008 and subsequently, the fueling stations at the Anaheim and Garden Grove bus bases. The Southern California O&M team currently maintains all three fueling facilities. Furthermore, the firm demonstrated extensive experience with station takeovers and CNG equipment optimization during a transition. During the interview, Trillium demonstrated experience in CNG station design and automation configuration, as well as O&M.

CE was established in 1996 and headquartered in Newport Beach. It has experience in fueling station O&M, station design, engineering and construction, performing facility modifications, as well as supplying renewable fuel to customers. CE maintains and operates fueling facilities for transit properties across the nation including Foothill Transit, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Nassau Inter-County Express, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Authority. CE is the current contractor providing O&M services to OCTA's CNG fueling facility at the Irvine Sand Canyon Bus Base. During the interview, CE demonstrated experience with OCTA's CNG equipment, preventative maintenance requirements, and both scheduled and unscheduled maintenance repair services.

Both firms received favorable references from customers where CE and Trillium have operated and maintained the facilities for more than ten years.

Staffing and Project Organization

Both CE and Trillium proposed experienced project teams with relevant experience in CNG fueling facility O&M services.

Trillium proposed a team with project experience in successfully operating and maintaining the CNG facilities for transit projects. Trillium proposed the same team that is currently providing CNG fueling facility O&M services at other OCTA's CNG stations. The proposed team demonstrated a comprehensive project organization plan to ensure staff availability for the Irvine Sand Canyon Bus Base, as well as the other bases. The proposed project manager has more than nine years of engineering, construction, and project experience. Trillium's project team provided detailed and complete responses to all questions asked during the interview.

The team proposed by CE has extensive experience in O&M of CNG stations. The proposed project manager has nine years of relevant experience. CE proposed to continue utilizing the same team that currently services OCTA's CNG fueling station at the Irvine Sand Canyon Bus Base. In addition, the CE team demonstrated a high level of commitment to this project and presented detailed responses to each question from the evaluation committee. During the interview, the CE team demonstrated knowledge and expertise in providing CNG fueling facility O&M services to various transit agencies.

Work Plan

Trillium's work plan included a thorough approach to carrying out and maintaining high-level service standards at the requested facility. The work plan also demonstrated an understanding of OCTA's requirements, including routine and scheduled maintenance, remote monitoring and support 24 hours per day, seven days per week, comprehensive station reporting, and parts availability on mechanic's vehicles who service the facilities. Trillium's remote monitoring and support team have the ability to access each facility remotely to assess the situation and dispatch a mechanic if needed. The firm also provides a website customized to OCTA's facilities where OCTA can monitor how many vehicles have been fueled, the duration of fills, how many skids are running, and if there have been any alarms at the station. Trillium's work plan also addressed preventative and remedial maintenance activities, such as inspections and calibration adjustments. In its proposal and during the interview, Trillium provided a comprehensive transition plan to be implemented upon award.

CE demonstrated an understanding of the requested services specified in the RFP in its proposal and during the interview. CE's work plan outlines the facility operations, the purchase of spare parts, and ensures no lapse in fueling or service. The work plan also presents an approach of OCTA's requirements, including proactive and scheduled maintenance, emergency maintenance and response, remote station monitoring, reporting, and safety training of personnel and local parts availability. CE's remote station monitoring center oversees

real-time station status and performance 24 hours per day, seven days per week, and can detect any faults or alarms that may occur. The monitoring center has the ability to reset alarms quickly and also dispatch technicians as necessary. CE also has weekly and monthly checklists to track maintenance as well as an online customer portal, where reports and invoices can be downloaded, and currently scheduled and completed maintenance can be viewed.

Cost and Price

Firms were asked to provide firm-fixed per therm cost based on various throughput ranges. The proposed per therm rate was scored based on using 150,000 therms per month, which is based on the monthly throughput average from January to August 2022. Pricing scores were based on a formula, which assigned the higher score to the firm with the lower total pricing based on the firm-fixed per therm price and scored the other proposal's total pricing based on the relation to the lower total pricing. Trillium proposed the lower per therm rates resulting in the lower total pricing; therefore, the firm's cost is deemed fair and reasonable.

Procurement Summary

Based on the evaluation of the written proposals, the firm's qualifications, information obtained from the interviews, as well as cost and price, the evaluation committee recommends the contract award to Trillium. The firm demonstrated a thorough understanding of OCTA's requirements for CNG fueling facility O&M and submitted a comprehensive proposal that is responsive to all requirements of the RFP.

Fiscal Impact

The project was approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget, Operations Division/Maintenance Department, Account No. 2166-7611-D1208-TSC, and is funded through the Local Transportation Fund.

Summary

Based on the information provided, staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-2-2898 with Trillium USA Company, LLC dba Trillium, in the amount of \$471,600, to provide CNG fueling facility operations and maintenance, for a three-year initial term from March 1, 2023 to February 28, 2026, with one, two-year option term.

Attachments

- A. Review of Proposals, RFP 2-2898 Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Facility Operations and Maintenance
- B. Proposal Evaluation Criteria Matrix, RFP 2-2898 Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Facility Operations and Maintenance
- C. Contract History for the Past Two Years, RFP 2-2898 Compressed Natural Gas Fueling Facility Operations and Maintenance

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