



**June 18, 2025**

**To:** Transit Committee

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

**Subject:** Agreement for Installation of Battery Electric Bus Chargers and Electrical Infrastructure at the Santa Ana Bus Base

### **Overview**

On November 25, 2024, the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors approved the purchase of ten battery electric buses and electric bus chargers for deployment at the Santa Ana Bus Base. Installation of the chargers and electrical infrastructure is needed. An invitation for bids was released on March 10, 2025, for the installation of battery electric bus chargers and electrical infrastructure at the Santa Ana Bus Base. Bids were received in accordance with procurement procedures for public works projects. Board of Directors' approval is requested to execute the agreement.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-5-3922 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Asplundh Construction, LLC, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$2,790,147, for the installation of battery electric bus chargers and electrical infrastructure at the Santa Ana Bus Base.

### **Discussion**

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) initiated a pilot program to test zero-emission bus (ZEB) technology to obtain operational performance information to determine which ZEB technology, or mix of technologies, best meets OCTA service requirements. The ZEB pilot program was implemented in early 2020 with the introduction of ten hydrogen (H<sub>2</sub>) fuel-cell electric buses (FCEB) and an H<sub>2</sub> fueling station at the Santa Ana Bus Base. The pilot program was expanded in 2023 with the introduction of ten battery electric

buses (BEB) operating from the Garden Grove Bus Base. OCTA is now underway with expanding the ZEB fleet with the addition of 40 new FCEBs along with the installation of an H<sub>2</sub> fueling station at the Garden Grove Bus Base. This project will further expand the ZEB pilot program with installation of electric bus chargers to support ten BEBs operating from the Santa Ana Bus Base. In addition to providing backup to the chargers at the Garden Grove Bus Base, installing chargers at two OCTA bus bases provides flexibility to deploy BEBs from either location on various routes expanding the operating environments in which these buses are being tested. The project will install ten 160-kilowatt plug-in chargers and one 480-kilowatt pantograph charger at the Santa Ana Bus Base, including charger power cabinets, charger dispensers, a pantograph, underground conduits, electrical conductors, metered electrical power distribution equipment, standby generator, Fleetwatch receivers for OCTA's fuel management system, pavement repairs, connection to the Southern California Edison infrastructure, safety compliance, and related work. In coordination with operations maintenance and the equipment manufacturer, the project will energize and test the functionality of the BEB chargers for use.

### ***Procurement Approach***

This procurement was handled in accordance with OCTA's Board of Directors (Board)-approved procedures for public works projects. These procedures, which conform to state and federal requirements, require contracts to be awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder after a sealed bidding process.

Invitation for Bids (IFB) 5-3922 was released on March 10, 2025, through OCTA's CAMM NET system. The bid was advertised on March 10 and March 17, 2025, in a newspaper of general circulation. A pre-bid conference meeting was held on March 18, 2025, and was attended by eight firms. Five addenda were issued to provide the pre-bid conference registration sheets and handle administrative issues related to the IFB. On April 28, 2025, ten bids were received and publicly opened.

All bids were reviewed by staff from the Contracts Administration and Materials Management and Facilities Engineering departments to ensure compliance with the contract terms and conditions and technical specifications. The list of bidders and evaluated bid amounts for base and all optional work are presented below:

**Agreement for Installation of Battery Electric Bus Chargers  
and Electrical Infrastructure at the Santa Ana Bus Base**

**Page 3**

---

<u>Firm and Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Asplundh Construction, LLC Buena Park, California	\$2,790,147
Fasone Construction, Inc. Whittier, California	\$3,273,888
PAR Western Line Contractors, LLC Rancho Cucamonga, California	\$3,638,150
Giant Services, Inc. Victorville, California	\$3,650,000
Inter-Pacific, Inc. Irvine, California	\$3,650,000
Vellutini Corporation doing business as Royal Electric Sacramento, California	\$3,770,000
Mel Smith Electric, Inc. Stanton, California	\$3,890,000
Servitek Electric, Inc. Norwalk, California	\$3,987,793
Greg Abell, Inc. doing business as Precision Electric Co. Lakeside, California	\$4,165,000
RT Contractor Corp. Garden Grove, California	\$5,570,000

The OCTA engineer's estimate for this project was \$3,800,000. The recommended firm's bid is 26.58 percent below the engineer's estimate and is considered by staff to be fair and reasonable. The bid analysis determined costs for underground trenching, conduits, cabling, and generator, mobilization, general conditions, overhead, and profit were overestimated for the project.

State law requires award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. As such, staff recommends award to Asplundh Construction, LLC, the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$2,790,147 for installation of battery electric bus chargers and electrical infrastructure at the Santa Ana Bus Base.

**Fiscal Impact**

Funding for this project is included in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget, Capital Programs Division, account nos. 1722-9022-3145-CAC and 1722-9022-D3126-OMO and is funded through State of California SB 1 (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2017) State of Good Repair grant funds and local transportation funds.

**Summary**

Staff recommends the Board of Directors authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-5-3922 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Asplundh Construction, LLC, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$2,790,147, for the installation of battery electric bus chargers and electrical infrastructure at the Santa Ana Bus Base.

**Attachment**

None.

**Prepared by:**



George Olivo, P.E.  
Program Manager, Capital Programs  
(714) 560-5872

**Approved by:**



James G. Beil, P.E.  
Executive Director, Capital Programs  
(714) 560-5646



Pia Veasapen  
Director, Contracts Administration and  
Materials Management  
(714) 560-5619