



**September 13, 2018**

**To:** Transit Committee

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

**Subject:** Agreement for Facility Modifications for a Hydrogen Gas Detection System at the Santa Ana Bus Base

### **Overview**

As part of the Orange County Transportation Authority's Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget, the Orange County Transportation Authority Board of Directors approved facility modifications for a hydrogen gas detection system at the Santa Ana Bus Base. Bids were received in accordance with the Orange County Transportation Authority's public works procurement procedures. Board of Directors' approval is requested to execute the agreement.

### **Recommendation**

Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-8-1864 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and EFS West, Inc., the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$685,350, for facility modifications for a hydrogen gas detection system at the Santa Ana Bus Base.

### **Discussion**

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) completed construction of the Santa Ana Bus Base in 2005. In 2007, facility modifications were made to comply with requirements for operation and maintenance of compressed natural gas buses. On February 13, 2017, the OCTA Board of Directors (Board) authorized the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to negotiate and execute an agreement with the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE) to accept \$13,241,092 in grant funds from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The grant provides OCTA with ten hydrogen fuel cell buses, a liquid hydrogen fueling station, and modifications to facilities for the detection and emergency evacuation of hydrogen gas.

The cooperative agreement between OCTA and CTE, the grant lead, defines responsibilities of each entity under the hydrogen fuel cell bus demonstration project. The purpose for the demonstration project is to gain knowledge about the overall operation of the hydrogen fuel cell electric bus through actual use, data collection, and data reporting.

Under the cooperative agreement, one item of responsibility is a facility modification for installation of a hydrogen gas detection system in the bus maintenance facilities on the Santa Ana Bus Base site. Design of the facility modifications was completed and a public works invitation for bids (IFB) was issued. The facility modification includes installation of hydrogen gas detection devices, flame detection devices, audible alarms and related warning lights, as well as signage, electrical conduit and wiring, control panels, system programming, commissioning, and training. Under the demonstration project, ten hydrogen fuel cell buses will be purchased and fueled onsite at the Santa Ana Bus Base using the newly built liquid hydrogen fuel station. Commissioning of a hydrogen fuel cell bus infrastructure is scheduled for the end of 2018.

### ***Procurement Approach***

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

IFB 8-1864 was released on August 3, 2018, through OCTA's CAMM NET system. The project was advertised on August 3 and 7, 2018, in a newspaper of general circulation. A pre-bid conference was held on August 8, 2018, and was attended by two firms. One addendum was issued to make available the pre-bid conference registration sheets and presentation, as well as respond to approved equal requests related to the IFB. On August 20, 2018, two bids were received and publicly opened.

All bids were reviewed by staff from OCTA's 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 bid amounts is presented below:

<u>Firm and Location</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
EFS West, Inc. (EFS) Valencia, California	\$ 685,350
Clean Energy Newport Beach, California	\$ 790,288

The engineer's estimate for this project was \$827,000. The recommended firm's bid is about 20 percent lower than the engineer's estimate and is considered by staff to be fair and reasonable.

State law requires award to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. As such, staff recommends award to EFS, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$685,350, for facility modifications for a hydrogen gas detection system at the Santa Ana Bus Base.

#### **Fiscal Impact**

The project was approved in OCTA's Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget, Capital Programs Division, Account 1722-9022-D157-0MP, and is funded by CARB through the CTE and Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee County Transportation Commission Partnership Program.

#### **Summary**

Based on the information provided, staff recommends the Board authorize the CEO to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-8-1864 between OCTA and EFS, the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$685,350, for facility modifications for a hydrogen gas detection system at the Santa Ana Bus Base.

#### **Attachment**

None.

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