



City of Tacoma

Questions and Answers No. 2

North End Treatment Plant Trickling Filter Upgrade RFB Specification No. ES25-0058F

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Hailey Erichsen by January 12, 2026. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org; Navigate to [Current Contracting Opportunities / Public Works and Improvements Solicitations](#), and then click [Questions and Answers](#) for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

1. Question: Will the city review substitution requests prior to submittal?

Answer: No, proposed substitutions will have to be included in the bid itself and evaluated for suitability after the bid is opened. Refer to Sections 1.04 and 01 25 00 for specific information on substitution requests before and after submittals.

2. Question: Can you clarify the fencing requirements? On what plan sheet can I find the internal chain link fence referenced in Part 2.01 D of Section 32 31 13?

Answer: The internal chain link fence is located in the Administration Building and is depicted on sheet M-6000-01 of the Plans.

3. Question: Are there any domestic requirements for this job, such as BABA or AIS?

Answer: There are no domestic requirements.

4. Question: At the water tank could there possibly be lead in the pump/pipes that would need to be replaced? If so, what are the disposal requirements?

Answer: Refer to Section 01 35 44 for handling of hazardous waste material.

5. Question: The trickling filter rotary distributor equipment in Section 46 53 23 appears to be sole-sourced. Did the listed supplier disclose that the U.S. Patent No. 6,231,756 mentioned in Part 1.02 is still active?

Answer: The patent listed in the Specifications is now expired. There may be other related patents that may require royalties be paid by other manufacturers copying the Westech design. Costs of all royalties shall be included in the Contractor's bid price

6. Question: The actuated valve and gate schedule in Section 40 06 20.13 calls for VLV-4112F to have an electric quarter turn actuator, but the associated spec section called out is for 40 05 57.13 which is the manual actuators. Is this valve manually actuated or does it have an electric motor? The P&ID sheet shows the location of this valve on sheet I-4200-03 but it is not located anywhere on the mechanical plans to identify what type it is. The same is true for some of the other valves on the schedule.

Answer: Valves VLV-4112F and VLV-4112G are located within the Flow Control Valve Vault on M-4100-08. The valves on M-4100-08 are mislabeled: VLV-4113L should be VLV-4112F and VLV-4113M should be VLV-4112G. Both valves are actuated with electric motor. Specification reference in 40 06 20.13 table to be revised to 40 05 57.23. This will be captured in the forthcoming addendum.



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- 7. Question: With the extensive amount of complex earthwork, shoring, retaining walls, and pipe trenching on the project, we request that the CAD files be made available to all bidders to aid in generating accurate takeoffs.**

Answer: No, CAD files will not be available to bidders for this project.

- 8. Question: Please provide as-builts of the retaining wall to the south of the existing disinfection contact basin.**

Answer: As-built drawings are not available for this retaining wall.

- 9. Question: Section 03 30 00 – 3.06.C.1.a calls for walls exceeding 50' in length to be cast-in-place panels not exceeding 30' in length. Can the trickling filter walls be cast in quarter segments, which would mean each segment of wall would be about 40' long?**

Answer: Yes, that is acceptable.

- 10. Question: Drawing C-0-40 shows two cast-in-place wing walls on either side of the shoring around the trickling filter. Wing walls are not detailed anywhere except the small section above the existing wall per D/S-4100-06. Please advise if cast-in-place wings are needed and if so, please provide details.**

Answer: CIP wings are not needed at that location - permanent shoring wall is constant up until connection point (per Structural detail). Callout should be removed.

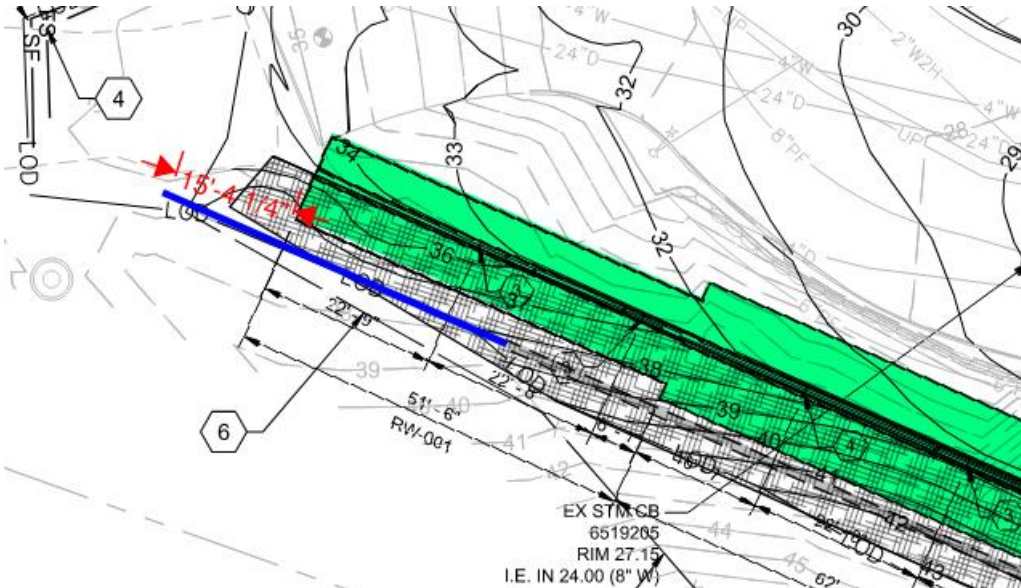
- 11. Question: Note 10 on D-0-03 calls for the Contractor to remove a retaining wall. Is this a cap on top of an existing shored wall? If so, should the note read to "Remove shoring wall and pile cap"? If a shoring wall exists, what type of wall is it?**

Answer: Yes, per Records, this is a cylinder pile shoring wall. Note should read "Remove shoring wall and pile cap to two feet below any improvements."



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- 12. Question:** The temporary shored wall at the location of the new concrete retaining wall is not long enough. At the west end, the excavation for the footing will be roughly 12.5' deep, which means the slope of the excavation will never daylight given the surrounding existing grades. Therefore, the shored wall needs to be extended at least 15' (given a 1:1 slope and room for footing forms). If a 1.5:1 slope is required, the shored wall will need to extend even further. See blue line below:



Answer: TESC plan furnished as part of the drawings is a draft as denoted per Section 31 25 00, additional measures may be required depending methods of operation and schedule. Please refer to the Critical Areas Report in Volume 6 - Attachment A for environmental buffers and impact information in that area.

- 13. Question:** The Equity in Contracting (EIC) Requirements for this project state the following requirements: MBE 20%, WBE 16%, and SBE 20%. Given the limited scopes available on this project, would the City be able to reduce these percentages? Even with subcontracting major scopes, we will not be able to achieve these percentages. We request they at least be cut in half. Also, please note that section 1.08 of the Supplementary Conditions calls for the General Contractor to self-perform a minimum of 50% of the total contract value

Answer: The EIC requirements cannot be revised after the advertisement date. If it is determined at bid opening that the requirements are unobtainable, then a waiver may be granted based on the recommendation of the City per Section VI of the EIC Regulations. Bidders may consider using subcontractors with multiple certifications in order to meet overlapping requirement categories.

- 14. Question:** Note 6 on C-0-52 references drawing C-0-10. This drawing does not exist.

Answer: Note 6 should reference M-6700-04 for detailing of the DCB Underdrain Pump Station.



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15. Question: The following pipe systems are not listed in Section 40 05 02 / Piping System Schedule: (BRN) sheet M-6000-01, (DRN) sheet M-6700-01, and (FE) sheet M-6700-01. Can you either add these to Section 40 05 02 or provide the names and specs for the materials for these items.

Answer: FE is Final Effluent and is existing pipe that is not to be modified by the Contractor. DRN is incorrect tag, correct tag is PD. BRN is Brine Solution per Specification Section 40 05 02.63.

16. Question: Section 40 05 02 / Piping System Schedule has the following process service identifiers that I cannot find in the Plans and P&IDs. Can you confirm the following items are not in this project: (BLE) Blended Effluent, (CEE) Chemically Enhanced Effluent, (DF) Defoamer, (PC) Plant Coagulant, (PINF) Primary Influent, (POL) Polymer, (PSCUM) Primary Scum, and (SSCUM) Secondary Scum?

Answer: These service identifiers apply to existing piping systems that are shown on the Plans but will not require modification by the Contractor.

17. Question: The 2" 1W pipe shown on sheet C-0-61 is not in the Section 40 05 02 Piping System Schedule. Can you please add this pipe system and provide the pipe, fittings, and valve types? The pipe is shown attaching to an existing 2" W2H pipe. What is the existing pipe material type? Keynote #8 says "See drawing M-4100-01" but the 2" 1W pipe is not shown on that drawing, or any other drawing. Where does this pipe go to?

Answer: 2" 1W pipe should be removed from sheet C-0-61, all proposed 1W pipe routings will be per M-4100-09.

18. Question: In reference to the 2" W / 1-1/2" & 3/4" CW pipe shown on sheet M-4100-09, what is the existing 4" W pipe? For the connection of the 2" W to the 4" W, do you want any valves? For the underground material type for the 2" W / 1-1/2" & 3/4" CW, pipe schedule 40 05 02.23 calls for SCH 80 PVC & Copper pipe. What type of pipe do you want? The plumbing fixture schedule on sheet M-4100-09 calls for Watts HY-800 3/4" yard hydrants, yet the location calls for installation per Detail 3 on sheet M-0-03. The detail calls for a 1-1/2" post hydrant with a protective shield, but the Watts HY-800 is only available in 3/4" pipe size and does not have a protective shield option. Please clarify what size hydrants you want. If it is 1-1/2", I would suggest the Zurn Z1390 post hydrant as these come with a protective shield option. You also call for heat tape on the hydrants, but they are frost-free. Is heat tape really necessary?

Answer: Multiple questions above will be answered in order:

- 1) Existing 4" W pipe material is unknown.
- 2) No valves necessary with the BFP upstream. Contractor to use best practices if a valve is required in this location for installation.
- 3) Match existing piping material to existing 4" W line.
- 4) Provide suggested Zurn model Z1390 post hydrant with protective shield.
- 5) Heat tape is not required with a frost-free model.



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19. Question: How long does the price hold need to be after bid?

Answer: The contract pricing is not subject to renegotiation. Contractors shall account for escalation in the bid prices.

20. Question: Spec Section 01 45 00 indicates that the QCS Inspector is designated by the Owner's Representative but the submittals section notes that the Contractor's QCS plan shall include the QCS Inspector and the Contractor's Responsibility section indicates the QCS Inspector is not Owner-provided. In addition, Section 01 45 23 indicates the Owner is responsible for testing. Please clarify the responsibility of the Contractor for inspection and testing services so a competitive bid can be provided.

Answer: The contractor shall designate a QCS Inspector. The text "and designated by the Owner's Representative." will be removed by addendum to Section 01 45 00 Part 1.02.C. Testing shall be performed in accordance with 01 45 23.

21. Question: Spec Section 01 35 44 indicates the presence of lead paint. Please confirm if lead paint identification and remediation, as well as any other hazardous material identification and remediation, will be compensated as a change order as it cannot be quantified at bid time. If not, how should this be priced into the bid?

Answer: Refer to Section 01 35 44 for handling of hazardous waste material. This work shall be paid for by change order.

22. Question: In the EIC Utilization Form, Column C requires a list of all bid item numbers to be performed by the Certified Business. If multiple bid items are listed in Column C, are we required to list out a separate subcontract amount per bid item in Column D, or a total of all items combined?

Answer: The total subcontract amount for each row should be entered into Column D.

23. Question: For Specification 46 53 24, Part 2.03, who is to supply the anchorage to attach the pier bases to the trickling filter floor – the Contractor or Media Manufacturer?

Answer: Media Manufacturer shall design and specify the anchorage.

24. Question: In Section 40 05 02, the Ammonium Sulfate (AS) piping is called out as pipe system schedule 40 05 02.56. This is the Glass Lined DI pipe spec. Can you please provide the correct pipe spec for the AS piping?

Answer: Correct specification reference is 40 05 23.

25. Question: In Section 40 05 02, the Plant Drainage (PD) piping is called out as pipe system schedule 40 05 02.54. That schedule is not provided in the specs. Can you please provide this schedule?

Answer: Correct specification is 40 05 02.45

26. Question: In Section 40 05 02.45, the lining for pipe and fittings list Ceramic Epoxy, Cement Lined, and FBE lined and coated. Can we pick any of these linings? There doesn't appear to be a preference listed.

Answer: Contractor shall bid Fusion Bonded Epoxy Lining and Coating: AWWA C116, NSF 61 certified, Factory Applied.



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27. Question: In Sections 40 05 2.45 and 40 05 02.56, the external coating spec for buried DI pipe and fittings is the M-1 petrolatum based wax tape coating. Due to the high cost of applying the M-1 coating to the pipe and fittings, I want to verify that this is the correct coating for all buried DI pipe and fittings called out in Sections 40 05 2.45 and 40 05 02.56.

Answer: The referenced coating is for valves on buried DI pipe as specified in the two referenced specs.

28. Question: The top and bottom of permanent wall near trickling filter #2 is clearly identified on sheet C-0-51. However, the top and bottom of permanent wall near the disinfection contact basin is not called out on sheet C-0-52. Please provide the top and bottom of wall elevations for this contractor-designed permanent wall.

Answer: Details of disinfection contact basin walls are found on structural drawings, see S-6700-04.

29. Question: What is the facing requirement for the contractor-designed permanent walls? Is exposed piles/lagging acceptable or will a concrete facing be required? If concrete, please provide finishing detail.

Answer: Permanent shoring walls shall be concrete Class 1 surface finished per WSDOT 6-02.3(14)A.

30. Question: Please provide the maximum horizontal tieback limits for all contractor-designed retaining walls (temporary and permanent).

Answer: Refer to Geotechnical Report in Attachment C for information on shoring tieback recommendations.

31. Question: All the pipe, tanks, fittings, instrumentation etc. associated with this project usually comes in a "take-off" describing the parts and materials specified for this project. Can a materials list be made available?

Answer: Materials list or take-off is not available.

32. Question: For Section 46 53 24 Part 2.03.A.3, is a concrete support system allowed as an alternative to a manufacturer supplied system? If so, what drawings detail the proposed concrete support system? In addition, for a concrete support system does 46 53 24 Part 2.05.A.1 apply?

Answer: A concrete support system is not allowed as an alternative.

33. Question: Will the HMT Aluminum Dome Roof Design be considered as an acceptable alternative to the specifications found in Section 13 33 13 Geodesic Domes Part 1 1.01.B.2?

Answer: No, this substitution is not acceptable. Due to the proximity to sea water and the potential for wind-blown ocean salts to accumulate on the metal surface, it would be optimal to shed rainwater and eliminate ponding with a flush surface as noted in the current spec.