



ITEM REPORT UTILITY COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 6/3/2026

Agenda Section: Business Item

Department Origination: Public Works

Agenda Item: Approve the Rice Lake Construction Group Invoice in the amount of \$50,850.00 for Work Completed on the Water Treatment Plant Filter Rehabilitation

Approval Required: Simple Majority Vote

BACKGROUND

Since installation of the backwash troughs in 2017, the City has experienced ongoing leakage between the concrete filter walls and trough end plates, contributing to filter media loss. Multiple repair efforts, including caulking and plate installation in 2020 and recaulk during the 2022 Filter Reconstruction Project, did not fully resolve the issue. In 2025, City staff observed a significant increase in media accumulation within the backwash tank, prompting further investigation by City staff and SEH. SEH evaluated several repair concepts in coordination with caulking manufacturers and Orthos Filters representatives. These options were reviewed and refined with City staff, and a final approach was issued through an RFQ to contractors. The selected solution included installation of EPDM gaskets, stainless steel angles anchored to the wall with epoxy anchors, and sealant at the trough/angle interface to create a compressed seal to limit leakage and media loss. A proposal from Rice Lake Construction Group was approved by City Council on March 17, 2026.

Rice Lake Construction Group completed the work in Spring 2026. Based on field observations as noted in the attached field report, Filters 1 and 2 are effectively sealed with no visible leakage, while Filter 3 shows an estimated 70% reduction in leakage and Filter 4 approximately 30% reduction. Residual leakage in Filters 3 and 4 is primarily attributed to uneven concrete wall conditions, gasket transitions, and localized deficiencies such as loosened anchors and minor structural issues. The project has resulted in a meaningful reduction in leakage and media loss, but additional refinements are needed to fully address the issue.

Additional improvements are recommended for Fall 2026 when filters can be taken offline, including installation of more compressible gasket materials, replacement of select anchors, and addressing wall irregularities. A letter from Rice Lake is included for reference. A change order with Rice Lake will be required to implement these modifications in Filters 3 and 4, and will be brought forward to Utility Commission at a future meeting.

SEH recommends full payment of Rice Lake's quote amount of \$50,850 for the work completed to date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

These improvements were not accounted for in the 2026 Budget. The work is proposed to be financed through the Water Enterprise Fund - Repairs & Maintenance WTP Equipment (EOM) line item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends approval of Rice Lake Construction Group Invoice in the amount of \$50,850.00 for work completed on Filter Rehabilitation at the Water Plant.

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED

MOTION to approve the Rice Lake Construction Group Invoice in the amount of \$50,850.00 for Work Completed on the Water Treatment Plant Filter Rehabilitation.