



**STAFF REPORT**  
**7/26/2023**

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**FROM:** Cástulo R. Estrada, Utilities Manager

**SUBJECT:** Reject IRC Backflow's bid as "Non-Responsive", and approve awarding a contract for the replacement of 600 domestic consumption meters to The Van Dyke Corporation, in the amount of \$80,400.00 plus 10% contingency.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Reject IRC Backflow's bid as "Non-Responsive", and authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with The Van Dyke Corporation, in the amount of \$80,400.00 plus 10% contingency for the replacement of 600 domestic consumption meters.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

The City of Coachella and its Coachella Water Authority (CWA) is responsible for the water service to its residents and customers within its service boundary. The Utilities Department serves a population of approximately 45,000 and a service area size of approximately 53 square miles. There are approximately 9,797 (meter) connections to the system.

The existing metering system for CWA is read through an Automated Meter Reading (AMR) and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system. Currently staff drives around with a receiver in their vehicle, which polls the meter register for customer usage data. The data is collected by the receiver. Once the staff is done for the day or week, the receiver data is uploaded to the financial system for billing purposes. It takes approximately one day for all of the meters to be read by two Water Operators with the current AMR and AMI system. However, there are meters and registers that have reached end of life and no longer transmit information to the receiver. Most of these meters need to be read by hand which requires a tremendous amount of time and manpower. It typically takes the current Water Staff approximately an entire week to complete the list of non-reads by reading meters by hand.

In the fall of 2021, the City Awarded a contract to JC Tuckmar, Inc. to replace 625 meters that were in need of replacement. The City considered this as Phase 1 of a multi-phase project.

There are approximately 1,270 meters remaining that need replacement. Coachella Water Authority requested bids for the replacement of another 600 meters in this phase, and plans to replace the remainder as we purchase and receive more inventory.

On June 26, 2023, bid proposals were received from seven (7) contractors as follows:

1. IRC Backflow	\$ 75,000.00
2. The Van Dyke Corporation	\$ 80,400.00
3. RE Chaffee Construction, Inc.	\$113,400.00
4. Genesis Construction	\$127,200.00
5. Three peaks Corp.	\$136,200.00
6. Tri-Star Contracting II, Inc.	\$172,200.00
7. TBU, Inc.	\$237,000.00

Upon the public reading of the submitted bids, it was discovered that the Apparent Low Bidder at the Time (IRC Backflow), may not have properly acknowledged the Addendum No. 1 that was previously issued to address a minor date correction in the Invitation to Bid that was included in the Project Specifications Bid Package.

On June 27, 2023 the City received a formal Bid Protest submitted by The Van Dyke Corporation in accordance with Article 27 of the Project Specifications. The City then contacted both parties in accordance with Article 27 and it was found and agreed upon that IRC Backflow did not properly acknowledge the previously issued Addendum No. 1 as set forth in the Addendum and Project Specifications.

In an effort to provide consistent bidding procedures, and in fairness to the other bidders who properly acknowledged the addendum, City Staff recommends that the City Council deem and reject IRC Backflow's bid as "Non-Responsive", and award the project to the Van Dyke Corp., who properly submitted the forms and was deemed the next "Lowest Responsive Bidder".

Staff has reviewed all seven (7) bids and has determined the lowest responsive bid was submitted by The Van Dyke Corporation.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Project funding allocation of \$88,440.00 was not included in FY 2023-24. A funding appropriation is requested from the reserve balance in the Water Utility Fund to be placed under budget line item account 178-21-120-10-334-000.