



# STAFF REPORT

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**Meeting Type:** City Council  
**Meeting Date:** July 21, 2025  
**From:** AJ Thorne, Public Works Director  
**Subject:** Contract Approval: Fiber Optic Improvements for Alder Creek, Sandercock, and Terra Fern Sites

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## DECISION TO BE MADE:

Whether to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement for the installation of the fiber optic cabling at the Alder Creek, Sandercock, and Terra Fern sites as part of the Alder Creek WTP Improvements project.

## APPLICABLE COUNCIL GOAL:

- **Goal 7.1:** Complete Alder Creek Water Treatment Plant improvements (improved communications are required for new treatment operations)

## BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

The City of Sandy recently updated its Water System Master Plan, which was approved by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and adopted by the City in November 2022. The City selected Stantec as the Program Manager for its Sandy Drinking Water Reinvestment Program (SDWRP) in the spring of 2023. After consulting with the City, it was determined that stabilizing the Alder Creek Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was an immediate and critical need to ensure reliability. To stabilize the plant's production reliability, the required upgrades include upgrading the Raw Water Pump Station and constructing new building infrastructure containing new membrane filtration equipment, support facilities, and a new Finished Water Pump Station.

These upgrades to the Alder Creek WTP are occurring concurrently with the Portland to Sandy Water Filtration Plant Transmission System project, which will provide a secure connection to the Bull Run Supply at the Bull Run Filtration Facility. The connection to the Bull Run Filtration Facility and the upgrades to the Alder Creek WTP will provide the City with two reliable sources to secure supply for the near-term future (year 2040) expected treated water demand.

These new fiber services will be connected to the SandyNet fiber line along highway 26. This section of fiber line is contracted with our partner CBX, who maintains the fiber connection along the highway to other service locations such as the Hoodland library. Using SandyNet as the provider for this site will offer rapid service response times with a partner that is already familiar with the needs of the City. There is no other service provider readily available at any of these sites.

**KEY CONSIDERATIONS / ANALYSIS:**

Installation of fiber optic communications infrastructure is the last step in shoring up communications for Sandy's drinking water system. Staff has been battling communication issues with the water site for some time, often resulting in unnecessary off-hours site visits to confirm operation. Due to the remote location of Alder Creek, it will be very beneficial to have fiber at this site. With all three sites on fiber connections, Sandy's water system will be able to run more efficiently with more automation, and safely with accurate data being conveyed to the SCADA system.

An invitation to bid for fiber optic cabling at the Alder Creek, Terra Fern, and Sandercock sites was released on June 18, 2025, for the drilling of approximately 8,561 lineal feet of underground cabling for the extension of fiber services at each site.

On July 9, 2025, the City received three (3) bids from contractors with the apparent lowest bidder being NorthStar Electrical Contractors, Inc. at \$206,000

The bids were reviewed by the City of Sandy's IT Director Greg Brewster and design drawings were developed by K&B.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Funds for the construction of the Fiber Optic Cabling Project are identified in the water capital appropriations for the FY23\_25 budget as part of the Alder Creek WTP Improvements project. This project will be financed from the City's Special Public Works Fund Loan, B24002.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with NorthStar Electrical Contractors, Inc. for a maximum total fee of \$206,000.

**SUGGESTED MOTION LANGUAGE:**

"I move to authorize the City Manager to execute a construction contract with NorthStar Electrical Contractors, Inc. for the installation of fiber optic cabling at the Alder Creek, Terra Fern, and Sandercock sites, for a maximum total fee of \$206,000 with terms substantially similar to those included in the meeting packet."

**LIST OF ATTACHMENTS / EXHIBITS:**

- A) NorthStar Electrical Contractors, Inc. Bid
- B) Draft Contract Documents