



AGENDA REPORT

City Council Meeting

TODAY'S DATE: June 24, 2025

MEETING DATE: July 1, 2026

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Holly Ellis, Public Works Director

SUBJECT: Construction Contract Award to Apollo, Inc. for the WWTP Screw Press Improvements Project

BACKGROUND:

The City of Sandpoint Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) solids handling equipment has reached the end of its useful life and presents increasing operational and reliability concerns. The existing belt press dewatering system has experienced ongoing maintenance issues, creating operational risk and potential compliance exposure.

During a recent compliance audit, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) identified the condition of the existing solids handling equipment as a deficiency and indicated that replacement is necessary to ensure reliable treatment performance and regulatory compliance. DEQ's findings further reinforce the need to proceed with replacement of the aging dewatering system.

To address these concerns, the City initiated design for installation of two Huber Q-Press screw presses within the existing Solids Handling Building. The screw press technology was selected following evaluation of alternatives and pilot testing conducted at the Sandpoint WWTP. Due to the dimensional and structural constraints of the existing Solids Handling Building, Huber Technology, Inc. was determined to be the only manufacturer able to provide equipment that met the space, loading, and operational requirements while successfully completing pilot testing at the facility.

On September 3, 2025, City Council declared Huber Technology, Inc. a sole source vendor for procurement of two Q-Press screw presses and associated parts for the City's WWTP, finding that competitive bidding was impractical under Idaho Code § 67-2808. The City subsequently published the required Advertisement for Sole Source Procurement in compliance with Idaho Code.

On September 3, 2025, City Council also retained Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. under the first amendment to Agreement No. A25-3257-2 to complete preliminary and final design services for the screw press installation. Engineering Services During Construction are being authorized separately to support submittal review, RFI responses, construction observation, startup, commissioning, and record drawings.

The construction project includes installation of the two City-procured Huber Q-Press screw presses and associated improvements within the existing Solids Handling Building. Work generally includes demolition of existing equipment, installation of the new screw presses, structural and mechanical modifications, piping, valves, electrical and controls work, startup, testing, commissioning, and related improvements necessary for a complete and operational solids dewatering system.

Because the project is being constructed within the existing Solids Handling Building, the work will require careful sequencing to maintain WWTP operations during construction. The contract documents include requirements intended to minimize operational disruption, including maintaining one belt press in service until the first screw press has been installed, started up, and successfully operated before the second existing belt press is removed. The work also includes coordination with the City, Engineer, and equipment manufacturer during startup and commissioning to ensure the new dewatering system is fully operational before final acceptance.

On May 6, 2026, the project, Bid No. 26-3257-2 was bid in accordance with Idaho Code § 67-2805 and the City of Sandpoint procurement requirements. Bids were opened on June 11, 2026. A total of six bids were received. After evaluation of the bids, Apollo, Inc. was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, with a total bid of \$2,729,575. The bid results are attached.

The screw press improvements are intended to serve as a bridge improvement until the WWTP is reconstructed. Replacing the existing dewatering system will reduce operational risk, improve reliability, support continued permit compliance, and protect the City's ability to manage biosolids through the interim period before full plant reconstruction.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends contract award to Apollo, Inc. in the total amount of \$2,729,575 for the WWTP Screw Press Improvements Project.

ACTION:

Staff recommends contract award to Apollo, Inc. in the total amount of \$2,729,575 for the WWTP Screw Press Improvements Project.

WILL THERE BE ANY FINANCIAL IMPACT? Yes **HAS THIS ITEM BEEN BUDGETED?** Yes, within FY 26 budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Bid Summary
3. Contract Documents – WWTP Screw Press Improvements Project