



City of Wheatland
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September 15, 2026

Via Email: jra@mge-ca.com

Marques General Engineering, Inc.
Jason Anderson – Vice President, Estimating
200 S Harding Blvd.
Roseville, CA 95678

Attn: Jason Anderson – Vice President, Estimating

Re: Response to Letter of Bid Protest for the Wheatland Regional Sewer Pipeline Project

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The City of Wheatland is in receipt of a letter from Marques General Engineering (MGE) dated September 1, 2026, which protests the bid received by RCI General Engineering (RCI), the apparent low bidder ("Protest Letter") for the above mentioned project.

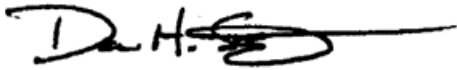
City Staff, including legal counsel, have reviewed the Protest Letter which asserts that RCI failed to provide certain requisite information with their bid. The City provides the following responses to the five alleged irregularities contained in the Protest Letter:

1. **Corporate Seal** – The Protest Letter alleges that RCI's bid lacked a corporate seal. While the corporate seal did not appear on the electronically scanned (PDF) file that was provided to MGE by the City, the City Clerk physically examined the original document in question and has verified that an embossed corporate seal is present on the original document.
2. **Acknowledgment of Bidders Bond** – The Protest Letter contends that the Bidder's Bond "does not have an acknowledgement of the Principal's or Contractor's signature". A notarized acknowledgement of the signature of the bidder on the bond is not a requirement stated in the bid documents. Section 00 40 10 only requires the Principal's signature, printed name, and business address which were provided. In addition, the signatory's signature is duly and properly acknowledged by notary as required elsewhere in the bid package submitted.
3. **Fused HDPE Pipeline Experience** – The Protest Letter alleges that "none of the provided projects specifically indicate" that RCI meets the fused-HDPE/HDD experience threshold. As part of the City's review of bids submitted, the RCI's experience claimed on various required in Section 00 40 45 was reviewed and validated by City Staff.
4. **Written Consent of Bonding Company** – The Protest Letter alleges "the Written Consent document outlines signatory authority for "Bonds from Interwest", however, the bid bond submitted and signed is from Western Surety". The City has reviewed the documents provided

and determined that Interwest is an authorized bonding agent for Western Surety and that the bond presented is valid.

5. **Written Consent of RCI General Engineering** – The Protest Letter alleges “the Written Consent document is for RCI General Engineering, however the signatory portion indicates Richter Construction, Incorporated”. The City has reviewed the documents provided and determined that Mr. Mendez is in fact duly authorized by RCI’s Board of Directors to execute bid documents on behalf of RCI.

In conclusion, City Staff has determined that assertions made in the protest letter are not valid and do not constitute rejecting the bid submitted by the apparent low bidder. Accordingly, City Staff has recommended to the City Council that they reject the protest made by MGE and award the Schedule A-Pipelines construction contract to RCI General Engineering at their September 22, 2026, City Council meeting.



Dane H. Schilling, PE
City Engineer
City of Wheatland

CC: Sean Grayson – City Manager
Gavin Ralphs – Assistant City Attorney