

## RFB# 8383 – Digester No. 9 Cleaning Response to Questions

1. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$500,000. What will the District do if bids are greater than the estimate?
  - a. The engineer's estimate is provided as a reference, not a limit. The award will ultimately be made to the lowest responsible bidder.
2. What is the actual budget for the project?
  - a. The total project budget includes administration cost that are not useful to the contractor and thus the reason the engineer's estimate is provided. The District will be able to meet its financial obligations once a contract is signed.
3. Does the District already have an agreement with a landfill to accept other dewatered solids for disposal? If so, which landfill?
  - a. Yes, the facility's screenings and grit have historically been disposed at the Kiefer Landfill.
4. Should fuel prices escalate beyond 10% as of the bid date will the District work with the contractor regarding a fuel surcharge for affected cost items (diesel equipment on-site, sludge hauling, landfill disposal)?
  - a. Regional San does not adjust for escalation in prices therefore the Contractors should plan their exposure accordingly.
5. How many dry tons of sludge were removed during the last cleaning project?

The following information on the latest digester cleaning projects is provided **for information only**. Quantities can vary depending on the digester size and time since prior cleaning.

  - a. Digester 6
    - i. Dry Tons = 302.57 Tons
    - ii. Trash Screening = 37.78 tons
    - iii. Volume = 594,248 gallons
    - iv. Approximate Liquid Elevation = 104.00 feet
  - b. Digester 7
    - i. Dry Tons = 619.11Tons
    - ii. Trash Screening = 109.90 tons
    - iii. Volume = 512,363 gallons
    - iv. Approximate Liquid Elevation = 103.00 feet
6. How many days were required to clean the last digester?
  - a. The contract for the digester cleaning listed in question 5 provided 30 days per digester.

7. Did it have 800,000 gallons inside when it was turned over to the contractor?
  - a. Please see information under response to Question 5. The District will drain as much liquid as possible, but we have found that once liquid starts getting to Elevation 104 feet the drain pump starts to plug up. The 870,000 gallons in RFB #8383, Item 2 assumes an Elevation of approximately 108 feet because operationally Regional San is comfortable being able to reach it. Elevations any lower than 108 feet is just a flip of a coin because rags can plug the drain pump and draining via the drain pump is done.
8. How many tons of screenings were removed from the last digester?
  - a. Please see information under response to Question 5.
9. Who cleaned the last digester?
  - a. Synagro WWT Inc. performed the cleaning of Digesters 6 & 7 last.
10. Are there any total weight restrictions or point restrictions (PSI) on the floating lid for equipment?
  - a. Yes, however we have been able to overcome restrictions by working together with contractors on various ways to minimize the impact on the structures. Equipment weight will be evaluated on a case by case basis once an Access Request (AR) is submitted.
11. Can you provide the weight restrictions on the plant road west of Digester No. 9 because of the gallery below?
  - a. H-20 loads are acceptable for non-stationary loads.
12. Are there any weight restrictions on the plant road east of Digester No. 9?
  - a. H-20 loads are acceptable for non-stationary loads. It may be possible to allow higher loads but we will evaluate when the AR is submitted.
13. Please confirm an agreement with the local fire department for confined space rescue is acceptable as stated at the site walk?
  - a. An agreement with the CFD has been acceptable in past projects when coordinated properly; however, the contractor shall confirm with CFD.
14. Which fire department was used on the last project and referred to as acceptable at the site walk that can be contacted?
  - a. Cosumnes CSD Fire.
15. What landfill were the dewatered solids disposed of on the last project?
  - a. Republic Services and Silva
16. Were odors from the previous digester cleaning project a problem?
  - a. No complains from neighbors were received.
17. Were odor control measures required? If so, what was used to control the odors?
  - a. Odors have not been a problem on past projects and thus no odor testing or odor control measures have been used.

18. Was scaffolding required to complete the cleaning project last time? If so, did the whole tank have to have the scaffolding?
  - a. I do not recall the contractor using scaffolding. They used a ladder to go in/out with appropriate fall protection.
  
19. Would a movable scaffolding be acceptable?
  - a. The use of scaffolding is a means and methods and may be considered as long as it is properly designed and installed on a sloped floor. A scaffolding submittal will need to be submitted for review and NO anchors will be permitted to hold the scaffold.
  
20. Please confirm if truck drivers that do not do any work on-site except drive a truck on-site are required to be paid prevailing wages for all of their drive time to and from the disposal location?
  - a. Hauling refuse off the job-site is considered as "public works", and individuals performing this activity are subject to prevailing wage requirements. This is considered under the on/off hauling requirements.
  
21. Will the contractor be allowed to be on site 12 hours and operate 10 hours per day?
  - a. In the past we have allow contractors to work extended hours if the District believes the contractor will expedite completion of the work, Regional San staff is available to supervise the work, or other reasonable justification. Contractor is to provide a request with the justification for approval.
  
22. Can Regional San confirm the elevation of the digester material when the digester is handed off to the contractor?
  - a. Digester 9 was cleaned last in 2013 but elevation was not recorded. Please refer to responses to Questions 5 and 7 with information of our most recent digester cleaning.
  
23. In light of the fact this is going to landfill for disposal, will Regional San consider deleting the screening requirement? Landfills do not require this material to be screened for disposal since this material cannot be used for alternative daily cover due to implementation of SB1383.
  - a. Please bid the job as requested.
  
24. If the screening requirement cannot be removed, Is a 3/8 screen acceptable
  - a. Current requirement is 4/16 screen. Please bid the job as specified.
  
25. The bid specification requires less than 20% total solids. What were the solids achieved during the last cleaning?
  - a. The specifications state... "Sludge shall be dewatered to meet requirements dictated by the landfill disposal site, but to no less than 20% total solids." Previous cleaning project was able to achieve this requirement easily.
  
26. The Contractor shall furnish, install, and remove adequate scaffolding, special rigging, ventilation, lighting, and required temporary power and wiring in accordance with local, state and federal regulations and codes, and as required to complete the cleaning operation. Is scaffolding required?
  - a. It is up to the contractor due to means and methods.

27. The contractor must have a designated rescue team readily available. Will non-entry rescue comply utilizing a retrieval? If so, does the contractor have to utilize a designated non-entry rescue team?
- Due to the configuration of the tank and scaffolding, I don't know how a "non entry rescue" would work. The contractor could certainly submit a plan for review.
28. The flow of vehicular traffic shall not be impeded at any time during cleaning. Construction work being done on other digester or vicinity shall not be impeded by the cleaning operation. Will other construction activities be occurring in area?
- Other construction activities are not expected in the area of the cleaning operation unless there is a need to perform emergency repairs on operating digesters (very unusual).
29. Site layout in the bid specifications shows loading of the trailer on Solids way road. If this set up does not impede construction or emergency fire services, will this setup be allowed?
- The District expects to receive a final equipment layout from the contractor during the Access Request (AR) approval process. A layout of equipment that will not impede the free flow of normal operations, construction or emergency equipment will be acceptable in principle.
30. The contractor shall provide blower-induced ventilation to the digester in sufficient quantity to meet applicable requirements. Blowers must be always in operation when employees are in the digester. Will onsite power (110V) be available for blower operation?
- Existing 120V outlets will not be available to the contractor. Temporary Utilities section of the RFB indicates the only power available will be via the 480-V, 3-phase, 60-amp welding receptacles using District provided GFI protection (see Photo A). The District may provide a small step down transformer (see Photo B) with 120V outlets the contractor could use. 480V power connection will require a special connector shown on Photos C and D.
31. In the event an odor problem arises, because of digester cleaning, the contractor shall take all action necessary to abate nuisance odors. Regional San defines odor to be a nuisance when it is detectable at the plant boundary. Have odors been detectable during prior cleaning activities?
- Prior cleaning activities did not generate an odor nuisance at the plant boundary.
32. B. INTERRUPTION OF POWER, CONTROLS, INSTRUMENTATION "1. The number and duration of outages of existing power, control and instrumentation systems will be limited. Work shall be completed in a minimum of time. Alternate power sources or generators may be required. Only one power source to a substation may be de-energized at a time. Power, control and instrumentation systems shall be returned to service at the end of each day. Work that prevents returning a power, control or instrumentation system to service at the end of the shift shall be pursued to completion utilizing overtime and additional workers. 2. Regional San will isolate, de-energize, and re-energize existing power, control and instrumentation systems." How many 60 amp 480 3 phase plugs will be provided? Please provide pictures of plug.
- Two welding receptacles were identified during the mandatory job walk. GFIs will be provided for the contractor to power equipment (See Photo A). Contractor shall not connect equipment to the welding receptacles without the used of a District provided GFI. 480V power connection will require a special connector shown on Photos C and D.

33. Will an access request be required for any of the digester cleaning activities?
- a. A minimum of two (2) Access Requests (AR) may be acceptable if they properly identify all the activities such as, mobilization, laydown of equipment, expected loads on the roads or roof, power, drainage of screen water, start and stop times, demobilization, etc. Any major activity will need to be identified on an AR.
34. For Section # 17 on Force Majeure, will Regional San agree to amend this section to mirror the below language?
- a. Proposed language is not acceptable. Please refer to the Sacramento County Standard Specifications for additional language on unavoidable delays when applicable.

**Relief for Force Majeure/Uncontrollable Circumstances; Change in Law**

Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party for breach or for failure or delay in the performance of its obligations hereunder caused by any act or occurrence beyond its reasonable control, including, but not limited to: fires; floods; strikes (except any strikes involving a Party's personnel); a change in Federal, State, or local law or ordinance; orders or judgments of any Federal, State or local court, administrative agency or governmental body; change in permit conditions or requirements; accidents; extreme weather conditions including, for example, hurricanes, tornadoes, unusually high amounts of precipitation, unusual extremes of temperature or wind, or unusually extended periods of adverse weather conditions; acts of war, aggression or terrorism (foreign or domestic); equipment failure (other than due to the inadequate maintenance thereof); and acts of God. It is specifically understood that, without limitation, none of the following acts, events or circumstances shall constitute an act or occurrence beyond a Party's reasonable control: (i) reasonably anticipated weather conditions normal for the region in which the work is performed or (ii) any failure to pay any sums in accordance with the terms of this Contract. Whenever the provisions of this Section are believed to apply, the Party relying thereon shall give prompt notice to the other Party of the circumstances, the basis for applicability of this Section and the time required to cure such breach or delay. Contractor shall promptly provide notice of the need, if any, for additional compensation or for renegotiation of terms in order to mitigate the effects of such event or to comply with a change in law or regulation or interpretation thereof. Contractor shall be entitled to additional time and compensation if such event delays performance into a season different from that assumed when this Contract was executed. Contractor and City shall use reasonable best efforts to agree on appropriate mitigating actions under the circumstances.

## Photos



**Photo A** – 480V GFI that will be connected to field welding receptacles



**Photo B** – Step down transformer from 480V to 120V



**Photo C** – 480V male connector to the GFI



**Photo D** – Male connector to the GFI