



January 20, 2022

Mr. Himanshu H. Mehta, PE  
Managing Director  
Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District  
1325 74<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW  
Vero Beach, Florida 32968

**RE:** Bid No. 2022011 – Landfill Household Hazardous Waste and Recycling Transfer Facility  
Review of Bids and Recommendation

Dear Mr. Mehta:

On December 17, 2021, Indian River County (County) received two bids in response to the subject solicitation. W&J Construction Corporation (W&J) and Ahrens Enterprises, Inc. (Ahrens) submitted bids that met the deadline for submittal. Each of the bidders appropriately acknowledged receipt of Addendum No. 1 (October 18, 2021), Addendum 2 (November 18, 2021) and Addendum 3 (December 2, 2021). The County’s Bid Tabulation (prepared by the Purchasing Division) indicated that each bidders’ submittal included the necessary attachments. Kimley-Horn’s review of the bids is limited to the Bid Tabulation. No representation is made as to the sufficiency of the forms or attachments submitted with the bid for completeness or accuracy. No references were contacted for either bidder.

Kimley-Horn has completed a review of both bids, whose totals are summarized as follows:

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Base Bid (with Contingency)</b>	<b>Base Bid (with Contingency and Alternates)</b>
W&J Corporation	\$5,263,790	\$5,290,790
Ahrens Enterprises, Inc.	\$5,948,101	\$6,008,101

The apparent low bidder is W&J. In reviewing the Bid form (00310) as amended via the above-referenced Addenda, the following items were noted.

1. Several line items in the bid had drastic differences between the two bidders. For example, Bid Item No. 1 included a nearly \$200,000 difference between the bids. This is potentially indicative of an inaccurate assumption or an omission by one (or both) of the bidders.
2. The bid documents clearly state that the bidder is to complete all blanks on the bid form in either ink or via typewriter. Each line item is required to contain a dollar amount or the words, “No Bid,” “No Change,” or “Not Applicable.”
3. Ahrens completed each Bid Item line, indicating \$0 for three items (which meets the bid document requirement); however, two of the three lines for which \$0 was entered are, in Kimley-Horn’s opinion, necessary (50 – Carpentry and 51 – Millwork).

4. The low bidder left Bid Items 38 through 44 blank, with the exception of Item 39. With these blanks, there is a nearly \$465,000 difference between the low bidder and the second bidder for these items (with the low bidder being lower). The bid form simply included dash marks in the blank cells, rather than the required text noted in Item 2. It is Kimley-Horn's opinion that the blank items are considered necessary for the completion of the project, with the exception of Item 45 (miscellaneous concrete, which the bidder may have deemed unnecessary). By leaving the remaining, required items blank, this bid may be considered unresponsive.
5. The low bidder also left Bid Item 51 (Millwork) blank.
6. For both bidders, the Contractor's General Conditions (bonds/insurance, mobilization, general conditions and MOT) are substantially higher than the engineer's opinion of probable cost (OPC), at 14 and 15 percent (OPC anticipated 5%).
7. The alternate items for both bidders are considered reasonable, with no notable disparity in value.

Kimley-Horn prepared an OPC based upon the bid documents, which, at the time exceeded the County's budgeted amount for this project. The County opted to proceed with the bidding process and acknowledged that the additional amount in the estimate was due to market conditions, material prices, and additional items requested by the County for incorporation into the project scope of work after the budget amount was established.

The low bidder's base bid (with contingency, excluding alternates) was approximately 12 percent over the OPC. Given the disparity in numerous line items between the two bidders, the non-response by the low bidder on key line items, and the County's overall budget vs. low bid total, Kimley-Horn recommends that the County consider rejecting both bids at this time.

The County may wish to proceed with a design review to identify project components that could be omitted from the design to be constructed at a later date, when budget allows, and readvertise the project once the redesign is complete.

Please contact me at (305) 535-7712 or [barton.fye@kimley-horn.com](mailto:barton.fye@kimley-horn.com) should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Barton Fye, PE  
Project Manager