

February 18, 2021

Mr. Vincent Burke, Director
Indian River County Department of Utility Services
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

RE: **Indian River County North County Water & Sewer System Phase 2**
Construction Contract Recommendation of Award
Bid No. 2021019; UCP #3556
Our File # 1422-2

Dear Mr. Burke:

Bids were received for the referenced project and opened on January 29, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Ten (10) General Contractors submitted bids, which varied from a low of \$3,726,644⁰⁰ to a high of \$5,337,094⁰⁰ with two (2) of the contractors' bids being disqualified. The Engineer's Estimate for the project was \$4,400,000⁰⁰. The low bidder is Southern Underground Industries, Inc. of Pompano Beach, Florida.

Our office has reviewed each of the eligible eight (8) submitted bids for correctness and completeness of the bid form and the lowest three submitted bids for correctness and completeness of bid package. We have found the low bidder's bid documents to be complete and in order.

The following is a summary of the bid submittals:

<u>Name & Location</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>	<u>Bid Package</u>
1. Southern Underground Industries, Inc. (Pompano Beach, FL)	\$3,726,644.00	Complete
2. Centerline, Inc. (Palm City, FL)	\$3,881,269.00	Complete
3. DP Development, LLC (Palm Springs, FL)	\$4,118,951.00* <i>Corrected from \$4,123,951.00</i>	Complete
4. Timothy Rose Contracting, Inc. (Vero Beach, FL)	\$4,131,255.39	Bid Form Complete
5. Ric-Man Construction Florida, Inc. (Deerfield Beach, FL)	\$4,427,965.40* <i>Corrected from \$4,32,965.40</i>	Bid Form Complete
6. Lanzo Construction Co., Florida (Deerfield Beach, FL)	\$4,831,457.54	Bid Form Complete
7. Giannetti Contracting Corporation (Pompano Beach, FL)	\$4,841,740.00	Bid Form Complete
8. Prime Construction Group, Inc. (Orlando, FL)	\$5,337,094.00	Bid Form Complete

* Mobilization exceeds amount specified in Section 01025 (\$120,000.00 allowed; \$125,000.00 submitted); however, even with the corrected amount, they are still not the low bidder.

After checking the submitted previous project references, we are not satisfied that Southern Underground Industries, Inc. are qualified or appears to be capable of successfully undertaking this project. Sean C. Green, E.I., of Masteller & Moler, Inc., initially contacted three (3) of the submitted references for previous projects most similar to the work proposed with Bid No. 2021019 and received two (2) favorable reviews and recommendations and one (1) negative review and a recommendation to not contract with Southern Underground Industries, Inc. for the proposed work.

Following the initial three (3) phone interviews, and given the nature of the negative review received, additional references were requested from Southern Underground Industries, Inc. for projects specific to gravity sewer installation and roadway restoration. An additional phone interview was conducted with a reference for a project in the City of Arcadia, Florida for the installation of 8" PVC gravity sewer and related sewer laterals, manholes, and roadway restoration. Additionally, the project consisted of water main installation and related appurtenances, and is representative of the works proposed under Bid No. 2021019. This follow-up interview also resulted in a negative review and recommendation to not contract with Southern Underground Industries, Inc. for the proposed work.

Reference forms were sent to the Project Managers to be completed and are attached herewith in Appendix A, "Southern Underground Industries, Inc. Reference Forms". Julie L. Karleskint, PE, City of Arcadia provided a negative review of Southern Underground Industries, Inc. during the phone interview, but did not return the Reference Form. The Town of Palm Beach, who provided the other negative review, returned an incomplete Reference Form and stated that a written referral would not be provided.

As a result of the negative reviews and recommendation to not proceed with Southern Underground Industries, our firm proceeded with contacting references listed for the next lowest correct bidder, Centerline, Inc. of Palm City. Sean C. Green, E.I., of Masteller & Moler, Inc. telephone interviewed three (3) references given by the Centerline, Inc. and received favorable comments. In addition, our office has had experience with Centerline, Inc. on several of our utility projects and has been pleased with their performance. Reference forms were also sent to the Project Managers for the past projects performed by Centerline, Inc. and are attached herewith in Appendix B, "Centerline Inc. Reference Forms". All three (3) references provided completed reference forms.

Based on the bid package and references, and contingent upon approval of their bid package by the County Attorney, I am hereby recommending award of the contract for Indian River County Bid # 2021019 to, Centerline, Inc. of Palm City, Florida in the amount of \$3,881,269.00.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,
MASTELLER & MOLER, INC.

Earl H. Masteller, PE, BCEE
President

EHM/cab
cc: John Boyer, PE, Utilities

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