



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF UTILITY SERVICES**

Date: October 19, 2018
To: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
From: Vincent Burke, P.E., Director of Utility Services
Through: Jennifer Hyde, Purchasing Manager
Prepared By: Sean McFarland, Assistant Utility Operations Manager
Subject: Valve Machine/Trailer Unit

BACKGROUND/ ANALYSIS:

The Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) owns and operates an approved Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) potable water distribution and wastewater collection system. The existing potable water and wastewater collection system consist of 1,407 miles of underground piping, 17,435 valves, and 4,373 fire hydrants. For the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/2019 budget, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) authorized the purchase of one Valve Machine.

Purchase of the valve maintenance machine/trailer unit will assist IRCDUS staff in maintaining compliance with Florida Administrative Code (FAC) 62-555.350 (2) concerning the flushing of “Dead-End Water Mains at least quarterly” as well as with American Water Works Association (AWWA) guidelines. It will also help in keeping staff safe while working on the valves by reducing/eliminating the likelihood of repetitive motion injuries. Additionally, the unit will be used for the valve maintenance program. Valve maintenance includes cleaning of the valve box, if necessary, to access the valve nut, opening and closing the valve to ensure its ability to properly isolate a pipe section for repairs or taps, which in turn will minimize customer outages/interruptions. A valve-nut replacement kit has also been added to the purchase request, which allows for the repair of a valve nut without damaging the asphalt. On a final note, the valve maintenance trailer data logging equipment will have the ability to work with our mapping system to mark the location of the valve and to data log additional information such as the location of the valve, the size of the valve, and the number of turns.

As part of the Capital Outlay budget, \$69,500.00 for the equipment purchase was approved for FY 2018/2019. IRCDUS staff requests permission to waive the requirement for bids and purchase the equipment from E.H. Wachs, which holds several patents for equipment that are advantageous to use. They are: Patent Number (PN) 9,188,240 positioning system for valve operating machine, PN 9,038,667 – Dual arm valve operating machine, and PN 9,523,443 - position locking system for valve operating machine.

The health and safety of the residents of Indian River County is of the utmost importance. If the equipment is not purchased, maintaining compliance with said FAC will be difficult. Also, proper operation of the valves, in the linear assets, is critical to IRCDUS during pipe material failure, damaged hydrants, or contractors accidentally damaging underground water distribution and/or wastewater pipe.

FUNDING:

Funds for this project are in the capital account in the operating fund. Operating funds are derived from water and sewer sales.

Description	Account Number	Amount
Valve Machine	47126936-066400	\$69,500.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners waives the requirement to bid and authorize the Purchasing Division to issue a purchase order for the purchase of the valve maintenance machine/trailer unit as well as any ongoing repairs or replacement parts through E.H. Wachs.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Wachs Valve Machine Quote
2. Wachs Sole Source Letter
3. Valve Nut RX Datasheet