

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
PURCHASING DIVISION**

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**DATE:** January 11, 2024

**TO:** BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**THROUGH:** John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator  
Kristin Daniels, Director, Office of Management and Budget

**FROM:** Jennifer Hyde, Purchasing Manager

**SUBJECT:** Award of Bid 2024024 for Upper Floridian Aquifer South Well No. 1 Replacement

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**BACKGROUND:**

On August 15, 2023, the Board rejected responses received for Bid 202303, and authorized staff to rebid, due to prices significantly higher than the engineer's opinion of probable construction cost ("OPCC"). The higher prices were suspected to be driven by a compressed project timeline to avoid conflict with Scrub Jay mating season (March through June), and overall saturation of ongoing construction work leading to limited availability.

A new invitation to bid, number 2024024, was issued for the construction of a new well to a depth of approximately 835 feet below surface, and an additive alternate option to complete exploratory borehole drilling and testing to 1,500 feet below surface.

**BID RESULTS:**

Advertising Date: November 12, 2023  
Bid Opening Date: December 13, 2023  
DemandStar Broadcast to: 986 Subscribers  
Bid Documents Requested by: 15 Firms  
Replies: 3 Firms

<b>Bidder</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Base Bid</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<i>Layne Christensen Company*</i>	<i>Fort Myers</i>	<i>\$1,769,788.89</i>	<i>\$613,075.00</i>
Florida Design Drilling, Inc.	West Palm Beach	\$1,931,250.00	\$510,875.00
A.C. Schultes of FL, Inc.	Gibsonton	\$2,015,375.00	\$613,075.00

\*Bid non-responsive for submitting bid security for a different municipality and project (DQ)

**DISCUSSION:**

The Department’s design consultant, Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (“KHA”), reviewed the bids, and has recommended award of the base bid (excluding the alternate) to Florida Design Drilling, Inc., as the lowest, responsive, responsible bidder. The engineer’s OPCC for the base bid, including contingency was \$1,411,375. The previous lowest, responsive, responsible bid for the rejected bid 2023030 was \$1,798,720, submitted by Layne Christensen, and price for the alternate \$524,948. As noted in the table above, Layne Christensen was disqualified due to them submitting a bid bond for the wrong project and a different municipality.

Staff concurs with KHA’s recommendation of award to Florida Design Drilling, Inc., and to omit the alternate work from the project, as it is not cost effective, funds for the alternate are not available, and time to request and execute a budget amendment could delay the project.

Florida Design Drilling, Inc. has completed several well investigation, maintenance, and rehabilitation projects for the County in the past few years, and was noted by KHA as having recent experience in the successful construction of Floridan aquifer well projects in Martin and Palm Beach Counties.

**FUNDING:**

Upon approval of the CIE, funding, in the amount of \$1,931,250, will come from the Utilities/Work In Progress/South WTP Well S1 account, number 471-169000-22503. Operating funds are derived from water and sewer sales.

<b>Account Description</b>	<b>GL</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Utilities/ Work in Progress/ South WTP Well S1	471-169000-22503	\$1,931,250.00

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board award bid 2024024 to Florida Design Drilling, Inc., approve the sample agreement, and authorize the Chairman to execute it after review and approval of the agreement and required Public Construction Bond as to form and legal sufficiency by the Assistant County Attorney.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Sample Agreement