

COMMISSION FILE NO: 26-012-1 **DATE INTRODUCED:** January 12, 2026

INTRODUCED BY: Executive Director (Signature on File in the Office of the Commission)

REFERRED BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON TO: Operations Committee

RELATING TO: Award of Contract J04057C01, Dryer Exhaust Duct Header and Damper Replacement at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

SUMMARY:

The Commission is requested to award and to direct the Executive Director to execute on behalf of the District Contract J04057C01, Dryer Exhaust Duct Header and Damper Replacement at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility (JIWRF) to J.F. Ahern Company, Inc., (Ahern) in the amount of \$8,275,000. Ahern was the lowest responsible, responsive bidder among three bids received.

The JIWRF Dewatering and Dryer (D&D) Facility has been in service since 1994. The D&D Facility converts sludge to Milorganite® product. The Milorganite® production process includes 12 rotary sludge dryers used to heat dry dewatered biosolids, producing Milorganite®. The facility includes numerous mechanical components and ductwork for the transport of exhaust fumes from the dryers. Exhaust gas passes from the 12 dryers through 12 air pollutant removal systems, then are conveyed and combined through the dryer exhaust duct system, ultimately leading to the JIWRF main stack and releasing to the atmosphere.

The dryer exhaust duct system consists of two stainless steel duct headers located on the seventh floor of the D&D Facility. The duct increases in size from 36 inches to 96 inches in diameter as it combines the exhaust from all 12 dryers. These two ducts combine at a box shaped air plenum located on the seventh floor and extending down to the fifth floor. From there, a 168-inch circular duct conveys the exhaust gases out of the building and ultimately to the main JIWRF stack. The total length of the duct system up to the air plenum is approximately 400 feet. The focus of this project is the duct system up to and including the air plenum.

ATTACHMENTS: **BACKGROUND** ☐ **KEY ISSUES** ☐ **RESOLUTION** ☒
FISCAL NOTE ☒ **S/W/MBE** ☒ **OTHER** ☐ _____

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COMMITTEE ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

COMMISSION ACTION: _____ **DATE:** _____

SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Award of Contract J04057C01, Dryer Exhaust Duct Header and Damper Replacement at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

Each dryer has two dampers (24 total dampers for 12 dryers), which are used to isolate the dryer pollutant removal equipment from the duct headers. Furthermore, there are two additional baghouse dampers, which isolate the dryer area baghouse exhaust from the duct header system.

The exhaust ducts and dampers are original to the building (over 30 years old). Both the duct and dampers are in poor condition. The exhaust duct has extensive internal corrosion issues and condensate leaks onto the floor. This creates safety risks and damage to equipment below it and has resulted in the need for multiple repairs. Furthermore, the dampers are corroded, worn, obsolete, and fail to seal properly.

The purpose of this project is to ensure reliable operation of the D&D dryer exhaust duct, by providing a new duct with an expected life of at least 20 years and reduce the safety and operational risks associated with the existing duct.

Under this proposed contract, Ahern will:

- Replace the dryer exhaust duct with a new stainless steel system that includes condensation drainage features to reduce corrosion.
- Remove the existing dampers and install 26 new dampers supplied under a separate contract.
- Replace associated electrical equipment and instrumentation and controls.
- Modify the air plenum to improve air flow, reduce energy consumption, and limit solids deposition.

Due to the long lead time required to fabricate the 26 dampers, the District separately contracted with Process Equipment, Inc., (PEI) to supply the dampers. PEI is currently fabricating the dampers, and they will be furnished to Ahern for installation.

The duration of this contract is 700 days.

Staff will decrease the total project cost for Project J04057, Milorganite® Dryer Exhaust Header and Damper Replacement, by \$3,109,000, because the low bid is less than budgeted.

RESOLUTION

Award of Contract J04057C01, Dryer Exhaust Duct Header and Damper Replacement
at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility

RESOLVED, by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage Commission, that Contract J04057C01, Dryer Exhaust Duct Header and Damper Replacement at Jones Island Water Reclamation Facility, is awarded to J.F. Ahern Company, Inc., in the amount of \$8,275,000, and that the Executive Director is directed to execute a contract on behalf of the District.