



RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER

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STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: March 19, 2024 **REPORT:** 24-032
FROM: Capital Projects – Water/Sewer **FILE:** 5330-14-1003
SUBJECT: WATER AND SEWER VALVE AND FITTING REPLACEMENT CONTRACT
AWARD

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council award the contract for the Water and Sewer Valve and Fitting Replacement Project in the amount of \$1,828,906 (exclusive of GST) to Coastal Mountain Excavations Ltd. in accordance with their tender proposal dated February 21, 2024 and as recommended by ISL Engineering and Land Services attached as Appendix A of Administrative Report No. 24-032.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the status of the Water and Sewer Valve and Fitting Replacement Project (Project) and procurement process, and to request approval to proceed with the contract award for the construction work to implement the Project in the amount of \$1,828,906 (exclusive of GST).

Information Report

Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) is taking proactive steps to safeguard our vital water and sewer infrastructure. Following recent corrosion-related failures, the RMOW is replacing and upgrading aging fitting clusters in high-priority areas. This initiative aims to prevent unplanned service disruptions and costly repairs associated with sudden infrastructure breakdowns.

Our underground infrastructure faces a double threat from corrosion, both internally and externally:

- **Internal Corrosion:** Studies, like the 2015 Water Distribution Corrosion Study, show that some of Whistler's water sources cause wear and tear on unlined metal and asbestos cement pipes. While this indicates a possibility of some existing internal pipe corrosion within the distribution system, significant steps have been taken to mitigate these concerns. This includes proactively replacing nearly all asbestos cement pipes, unlined ductile iron and cast-iron pipes. Additionally,

the implementation of pH correction is underway as part of ongoing source water quality controls. While the study highlights a potential issue, the proactive approach significantly reduces risks and demonstrates a commitment to providing safe drinking water.

- **External Corrosion:** The local soil is inherently corrosive, particularly to iron fittings. This was highlighted in the 2014 Water Rehabilitation Study, which identified the presence of vulnerable, uncoated ferrous fittings in many watermains constructed in the mid-1990s.

Recent observations, documented in the 2022 and 2023 Fixtures and Fittings Corrosion Observation Report (Appendix B), confirm these concerns and extend them to the sewer collection system. While newer pipes utilize corrosion-resistant materials, many older fitting clusters remain susceptible.

By proactively replacing these aging fittings, the RMOW can significantly bolster the reliability and longevity of our essential water and sewer infrastructure, ensuring continued service. The Project is part of a multi-year initiative to address these concerns throughout the municipality. The 2024 portion of the Project focuses on the Spruce Grove neighborhood, and spans from the entrance of the Spruce Grove baseball fields to Fitzsimmons Road North. The Project will involve replacing a total of 26 valve and fitting clusters – 12 within the water distribution system and 14 within the sewer collections system.

In 2023, upgrades to the sewer collection system resulted in replacement of six clusters of valves and fittings along Northlands Boulevard and Valley Trail, paralleling the Sea to Sky Highway across from Whistler Cay Drive. Additionally, nine water distribution system clusters were upgraded along Northlands Boulevard and the private trail behind Granite Court Condominiums (4405 Blackcomb Way).

Analysis

The RMOW received two qualified tenders for the 2024 Water and Sewer Valve and Fitting Replacement Project. The Invitation to Tender was posted to the RMOW bid opportunities page and BC Bid between January 25, 2024 and February 21, 2024.

Following a comprehensive evaluation, staff recommend awarding the contract to Coastal Mountain Excavations Ltd. Their competitive bid, demonstrating their understanding of project requirements and market pricing, coupled with their relevant experience and expertise, solidified their suitability for the project.

The tender process ensured a fair and transparent selection, ultimately prioritizing value for the RMOW while selecting a qualified contractor.

Results from two bidders are listed in Table 1 – Tenderer's Submissions:

TENDERER		TOTAL PRICE (EXCLUDING GST)	VARIANCE TO ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE (%)
1	Coastal Mountain Excavations Ltd.	\$ 1,828,906	-10
2	Drake Excavating (2016) Ltd.	\$ 2,629,000	29
	Engineer's Estimate (ISL Engineering and Land Services)	\$ 2,042,000	

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Relevant Council Authority/Previous Decisions

Council Policy F-29: Procurement Policy and Administrative Procedure D-1: Procurement requires Council approval for any contracts over the value of \$500,000.

2023-2026 Strategic Plan

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan outlines the high-level direction of the RMOW to help shape community progress during this term of Council. The Strategic Plan contains four priority areas with various associated initiatives that support them. This section identifies how this report links to the Strategic Plan.

Strategic Priorities

Housing

Expedite the delivery of and longer-term planning for employee housing

Climate Action

Mobilize municipal resources toward the implementation of the Big Moves Climate Action Plan

Community Engagement

Strive to connect locals to each other and to the RMOW

Smart Tourism

Preserve and protect Whistler's unique culture, natural assets and infrastructure

Not Applicable

Aligns with core municipal work that falls outside the strategic priorities but improves, maintains, updates and/or protects existing and essential community infrastructure or programs

Community Vision and Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP. The Project directly aligns with key goals and objectives outlined in OCP Chapter 12 – Infrastructure.

Goal 12.1: Safe Drinking Water and Reliable Water Supplies

The Project directly supports Objective 12.1.1 and Policy 12.1.1.1 by proactively replacing aging infrastructure critical to maintaining a reliable and high-quality water supply system. By addressing potential corrosion issues before they lead to failures, the project helps ensure sufficient water quantities and quality that meet or exceed Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines, fulfilling the requirements set by the Local Health Authority.

Goal 12.2: Sustainable and Reliable Sewer Systems

The Project also aligns with Goal 12.2, specifically Objective 12.2.1 and Policies 12.2.1.1 and 12.2.1.4. Replacing susceptible fittings proactively addresses known corrosion concerns within the sewer system. This aligns with the OCP's focus on maintaining reliable sewer infrastructure while minimizing environmental impacts. By preventing potential failures and the need for reactive repairs, the project contributes to cost-effectiveness and long-term sustainability, supporting Whistler's move towards a sustainable future. Additionally, focusing on proactive maintenance aligns with Policy 12.2.1.4, which prioritizes water conservation and preventative measures over expanding treatment capacity.

The Project demonstrates the RMOW's commitment to upholding the core principles of the OCP by ensuring the safety, reliability, and sustainability of Whistler's essential water and sewer infrastructure.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The Project utilizes Agresso codes E205-08 for water main upgrades and E320-06 for sewer main upgrades. Refer to Table 2 for a detailed breakdown of the low bid from Coastal Mountain Excavations Ltd. and its comparison to the budget. The low bid received came in under the allocated budgets for 2024.

Table 2 – 2024 Estimated Total Project Cost and Total Project Budget

BUDGET CODE NUMBER AND NAME	2024 PROJECT COST – COASTAL MOUNTAIN EXCAVATIONS LTD.	ESTIMATED 2024 PROJECT MGMT (PM) COST	TOTAL 2024 ESTIMATED PROJECT COST (TENDER PLUS PM)	ESTIMATED VARIANCE TOTAL PROJECT TO BUDGET (%)	TOTAL 2024 BUDGET
E20508 Water main repairs	\$ 625,221	\$ 72,000	\$ 697,221	-30	\$ 1,000,000
E32006 Sewer main repairs	\$ 1,203,685	\$ 112,000	\$ 1,315,685	-12	\$ 1,500,000
Total	\$1,828,906	\$ 184,000	\$ 2,012,906	-19	\$ 2,500,000

LÍLWAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Líl'wat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy.

There are no specific considerations to include in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

- Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

This report outlines the RMOW's plan to keep the community informed throughout the Project. We will utilize a multi-pronged approach to ensure residents are aware of project details and potential impacts:

- **Social Media:** Regular updates will be posted on the RMOW's social media channels, providing project information and timelines.
- **Project Signs:** On-site signage will be displayed at project locations, detailing the work being done and estimated durations.
- **Letters to Impacted Residents:** Residents directly affected by construction will receive personalized letters outlining the project scope and potential disruptions.

This approach adheres to the "**Inform**" level of public participation as defined by the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2).

REFERENCES

Appendix A – E205-E320 Tender Award Recommendation

Appendix B – ISL Fixtures and Fittings Corrosion Observations 2022 & 2023

SUMMARY

Whistler staff recommend awarding the contract in the amount of \$1,828,906 (excluding GST) for the Water and Sewer Valve and Fitting Replacement Project to Coastal Mountain Excavations Ltd. due to their competitive bid and strong qualifications. The Project aligns with the RMOW's long-term infrastructure plans and addresses potential corrosion issues by replacing 12 water valve and fitting clusters and 14 sewer valve and fitting clusters, enhancing overall reliability and sustainability of these critical systems.

SIGN-OFFS

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Reviewed by:

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