

June 28, 2019

Curtis J. Cassidy, P.E., CFM
City Engineer
City of Mesquite
1515 N Galloway Ave
Mesquite, Texas 75149

**Re: Palos Verdes Dam Modifications & Park Improvements (Contract No. 2019-083)
Recommendation of Award**

Dear Mr. Cassidy:

Freese and Nichols, Inc. (FNI) reviewed the bidder's qualification information submitted by McMahon Contracting, L.P. (McMahon) as the low bidder for the base bid plus alternate bid for the above referenced project. McMahon has a history of performing paving, drainage, and utility work. The list of reference projects submitted by McMahon does not include projects with major components consisting of heavy-civil earthwork, excavation, dams, cofferdams, dewatering, or care of water, all aspects associated with the proposed dam modifications.

For this reason, I reached out to Will Mee with McMahon in order to get a better understanding of their capabilities related to such work and to obtain either additional project references that better relate to the dam component of the Palos Verdes project or additional details on the projects submitted that better related to this type of work. I obtained additional details and input on their work experience in this regard that is not obvious from the project descriptions provided. I also obtained additional contact information for the designer on these projects. The additional details received from Will Mee via email are summarized below. These are not new reference projects in addition to those provided with their qualification information, but only additional details to help describe the nature of the work performed.

- Palace Parkway (17-048) for the City of Grand Prairie
 - Project "required care of water, shoring and large fill over a cast in place culvert out falling into the West Fork of the Trinity river."
 - Designer: David Burkett, P.E. with Halff Associates
- City Hall Fish Pond (17-031) for the City of Carrollton
 - Project "required water control, earthwork in an aqueous environment, with no detrimental impact on fish or offensive impact to the public who used an adjacent area."
 - Designer: Designed in-house by the City
- SH 199 Emergency Wall Repair (16-021) for TxDOT
 - Project "required controlled structural excavation, structural back fill, and shoring."
 - Designer: TxDOT

FNI was able to obtain feedback on the projects listed below. Input was obtained from owners and design engineers, when available. Attempts were made to reach additional references; however, direct contact was not made.

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Contractor Reference Checks

- City of Grand Prairie: Drainage Improvement PT. 1 (17-028)
- City of Grand Prairie: Palace Parkway (17-048)
- City of Rockwall: Boydstun Ave. (17-039)
- City of Rockwall: County Line Road (18-030)
- DFW International Airport: DFW Terminal B (15-019)

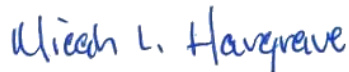
Reviews were mostly favorable. Some concerns related to communication, the need for more field oversight and guidance, and some difficulties on follow-up work were noted. Additionally, some concerns were raised regarding documentation and lack of submittals with formal requests by a superintendent who is no longer with McMahon. Qualifications by experience, work quality, expertise, and skilled workforce all ranked high based on the feedback we were able to obtain.

Award of the contract for the Palos Verdes Dam Modifications & Park Improvements project is based on competitive bids and evidence of practical knowledge and experience of the particular work. Although, McMahon does not have an extensive work history related specifically to dams, I feel they are capable of completing the work based on their experiences from previous projects with components similar to the nature of this project. I do recommend that the construction be managed very closely with frequent inspections, appropriate construction and materials testing, and oversight, especially during the critical period of construction when the embankment is opened up and protection of the work site is paramount. Since FNI only has a limited general representation role during construction, we recommend the City plan for increased construction oversight as compared to a typical paving or utilities project.

Based on the information provided and reviewed, and feedback from references, FNI recommends that the City of Mesquite award the construction contract for the project to McMahon in the amount of \$1,438,565.33 (base bid and alternate bid).

Please contact me at (817) 735-7547 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Micah Hargrave, P.E.
Freese and Nichols, Inc.