



133 V Street
Eureka, CA 95501

A Public Entity Serving Humboldt County Since 1976

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TO: Chair Arroyo
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Seth Beres, Project Manager

DATE: October 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Project 24-01 Maintenance Bay Retrofit Project Invitation for Bid: Response to Submitted Bids

A component of the TIRCP Cycle 5 grant is the retrofit of three of our existing maintenance bays to support fuel cell electric buses (FCEBs). This includes moving and upgrading electrical infrastructure that exists within 18" of the interior ceiling, installing hydrogen gas detectors, bringing fire suppression infrastructure up to existing code requirements, tying in fire suppression and hydrogen detection into central alarm systems, installing upgraded space heating and ventilation systems, installing diesel exhaust gas vent reels, and adding a new fire hydrant and fire service line. This also involves the installation of a new fire hydrant on 2nd Street.

LDA Partners, LLP was procured as the design architect and engineer in winter of 2024. The full construction package was completed and a building permit secured in June of 2025. On April 8, 2026, the Board approved the release of the IFB.

Bids were due at 3:00 pm on September 29, 2026. HTA received four (4) bids from McKeever Energy & Electric Inc. ("McKeever"), Adams Commercial General Contracting Inc. ("ACGC"), Sequoia Specialties Inc, and Hilbers Inc. The results of the submitted bids are provided in the table below.

The lowest bid (submitted by McKeever) contains substantive irregularities in the Bid Bond which caused staff to determine that this bid is nonresponsive. Specifically:

1. The form of the submitted Bid Bond is not substantially similar to the Bid Bond form HTA required. It omits important risk protections for HTA.
2. In addition to submitting a Bid Bond using the wrong form, McKeever conflictingly also submitted the HTA required form attempting to bind Vickers Insurance Agency as the surety, even though the insurance agency is not a duly admitted California surety.

The second lowest bid (submitted by ACGC) contains minor deviations from the IFB requirements, which staff believes are inconsequential and can be waived. In particular, in ACGC's bid:

1. No Department of Industrial Regulations ("DIR") Number was provided; however, staff has verified that ACGC is actively registered with the DIR.
2. The ACGC Bid Bond, submitted on the required bond form, properly binds ACGC and a duly admitted Surety to HTA even though the notary made a clerical error on the acknowledgment by dating the acknowledgement of the Surety's attorney-in-fact "2-23-26," rather than 9-23-26,



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the date of the Power of Attorney and the Bid Bond. This error does not impact the ACGC and the Surety's obligations to HTA under the Bid Bond.

HTA staff provided advance notice to bidders of the presumptive rejection of the McKeever bid as nonresponsive and recommendation of contract award to ACGC. McKeever submitted a formal protest of the presumptive recommendation within the allowed timelines, which precipitated a series of communications from McKeever and ACGC. These communications are provided in a separate handout.

Staff recommends that the Board 1) reject the McKeever bid as nonresponsive due to significant irregularities in the Bid Bond; and 2) award the Project 24-01 Maintenance Bay Retrofit Project to ACGC in the total amount of \$772,835.00, waiving ACGC's minor deviations from the bid requirements.

Staff additionally recommends that the Board approve a contingency budget in the amount of \$150,000 in the event of unexpected cost overruns. For example, the City of Eureka has recently identified the need to install a fire hydrant at an estimated cost of approximately \$50,000.

HTA has funds available under the TIRCP Cycle 5 Grant for contract award and contingency budget.

Table 1: Bids Received

Bidder	Base Bid Amount	Add/Alt Amount	Total Amount	Responsiveness
McKeever	\$599,948.71	\$99,958.71	\$699,907.42	Not responsive due to Bid Bond irregularities
ACGC	\$716,970.00	\$55,865.00	\$772,835.00	Responsive; presumptive awardee
Sequoia Construction	\$806,988.00	\$42,000.00	\$848,988.00	-
Hilbers	\$1,269,840.00	\$87,283.00	\$1,357,123.00	-

Action Recommended: 1) Reject McKeever's bid and bid protest 2) Waive inconsequential irregularities in ACGC's bid and award the contract for Project 24-01 Maintenance Bay Retrofit to Adams Commercial General Contracting Inc. in the amount of \$772,835 and authorize the General Manager to execute the contract. 3) Approve \$150,000 contingency budget for overages including fire hydrant installation by the City of Eureka, which is already estimated at \$50,000.