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July 30, 2026

SANTA FE COUNTY
RFP No. 2026-0064-PW/DK
Water Reclamation Facility Expansion - Design-Build Project
ADDENDUM NO. 7

Dear Proponents,

This addendum is issued to reflect the following immediately. It shall be the responsibility of interested Offerors to adhere to any changes or revisions to the RFP as identified in this Addendum No. 7. This documentation shall become permanent and made part of the departmental files.

Clarification: The aerobic digester is hereby removed from the Phase II Scope of Work. Offerors shall not include an aerobic digester in their Phase II design, technical proposal, or cost proposal. This clarification supersedes any previous RFP or addendum language requiring an aerobic digester as part of Phase II. All other requirements remain unchanged.

Question No. 1: Follow up to Addendum 6 Question 5:

- a. The current Phase 1 facility does not contain an aerobic digester and is incapable of producing Class B biosolids. Is it the intent to provide a separate aerobic digester to produce Class B biosolids for Phase 2 only (0.5 MGD) or Phase 1 and 2 (1.0 MGD)?

Answer No. 1: An aerobic digester is not required as part of the Phase II Scope of Work.

Question No. 2: Follow up to Addendum 6 Question 5:

- a. The County indicates aerobic digesters are required to provide Class B biosolids in conformance to 40 CFR Part 503 Sewage Sludge Regulations. Please note that this has multiple requirements. Pathogen reduction requirements for aerobic digesters would be met by time and temperature, using the following formula, $D=50,700,000/10^{(0.14 \cdot T)}$ with D being detention time in days and T being operating temperature in C. If 15°C could be maintained in the aerobic digesters (most likely it can't be maintained in the winter months) then 60 days of detention time are required. Since no thickening is included in the project, then the solids wasted from the MBR at 9,000 mg/L would be

wasted to the digester and held for 60 days minimum to meet this requirement. Assuming the digester is to process biosolids for Phase 1 and Phase 2, at 1.0 MGD and with an influent of 500 mg/l of BOD, we expect the typical wasting requirement to be 37,380 gallons per day. To have 60 days of retention time, the aerobic digester size will be 2.243 MG. The existing process trains plus the new process trains, 4 total trains, equals 0.573 MG. Thus, the aerobic digesters will be 4 times larger than the new and existing process tanks combined, and it will require about 6,000 scfm in aeration to keep it aerobic and mixed (20scfm/1000ft³ of volume). This will require about 300 hp of additional blower capacity which is more power than the rest of the plant. Some thickening could be achieved with some extra operational effort and decanter gates, but the temperature in the winter will require more than 60 days of retention time, so the volume is still about 2.2 MG. We estimate it will require about 2,500 cy of concrete to build these aerobic digester basins, and they will exceed \$10 million in extra costs. Also please note that the digesters do not guarantee Class B biosolids and testing will also be required to verify pathogen reduction and also to demonstrate vector attraction reduction (VAR). VAR will most likely be done by testing the SOUR in the lab. Aerobic digesters will add substantial cost to the project if done with the intent of meeting Class B biosolids and the plant will use more power to aerate and mix these tanks than the rest of the treatment process. **Should the aerobic digester be eliminated from the project requirements?**

Answer No. 2: Yes. The aerobic digester is removed from the Phase II Project requirements.

Question No. 3: Follow up to Addendum 6 Question 6:

- a. We want to confirm that Phase 1 and Phase 2's biological process will both contain anoxic basins, aeration basins, and RAS pumps. For solids handling, if required, Phase 2 will contain an aerobic digester separate from the basins and RAS pumps. Follow up to Addendum No. 4 Question 1: Since the design scope does not include modifications to the old facility, is the County and not the Designer responsible for the blended effluent quality to comply with the Groundwater Discharge Permit?

Answer No. 3: The aerobic digester is removed from the Phase II Scope of Work. All other RFP requirements and prior addendum responses remain unchanged.

Shortlisted Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of this Addendum No. 7 with their Phase II Proposal submission. This Addendum shall become part of the RFP documents and any resulting contract documents. All terms and conditions of the RFP, including any prior and future addenda, not modified by this Addendum shall remain in full force and effect. Responders are reminded that any questions or need for clarification must be addressed to Dani Koussa, Procurement Specialist Senior at dkoussa@santafecountynm.gov.