


**STAFF SUMMARY**

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director   
**DATE:** September 16, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Rehabilitation of WASM 3 Sections W11/W12/W16/51 (Medford, Somerville, and Arlington)  
 Albanese D&S, Inc.  
 Contract 6544

**COMMITTEE:** Water Policy & Oversight

     INFORMATION

  X   VOTE



Michele S. Gillen

Director of Administration

John Colbert, P.E., Chief Engineer  
Mike Rivard, P.E., Program Manager  
 Preparer/Title



David W. Coppes, P.E.

Chief Operating Officer

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve the award of Contract 6544, Rehabilitation of WASM 3 Sections W11/W12/W16/51 Water Mains (Medford, Somerville and Arlington), to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder, Albanese D&S, Inc. and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in the bid amount of \$19,487,850 for a contract term of 1383 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

**DISCUSSION:**

MWRA's Weston Aqueduct Supply Main 3 consists of approximately 10 miles of steel pipe installed in the 1920s and 1930s. The pipe is a critical supply to over 250,000 customers in the Northern High, Northern Extra High and Intermediate High supply systems serving Waltham, Watertown, Belmont, Lexington, Bedford, Arlington, Somerville and Medford. It also can provide emergency supply to the Gillis Pump Station serving communities of the North Shore and Northern Intermediate High communities if the City Tunnel were to fail. The attached Figure 1 shows the full extent of the WASM 3 pipeline.

This first construction contract includes rehabilitation of approximately 13,800 feet of 56-inch and 60-inch diameter water main in Arlington, Somerville and Medford. The rehabilitation will consist of cleaning and internal cement mortar lining the pipe and adding valves for better operational flexibility. In addition, two old 36-inch valves are being removed to eliminate reduced sections of pipe.

The work is restricted to low water demand months from September 15 to May 15, which necessitates three construction phases during the duration of the contract and a longer construction period than originally anticipated. This work restriction is necessary to ensure the main is

operational during high summer demand periods. Additional time was also provided to ensure submittals could be processed and materials obtained prior to the start of work, which is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2021. Staff are evaluating the impact of the additional time on engineering services during construction in a separate staff summary being presented at this Board meeting.

### **Procurement Process**

Contract 6544 was advertised in the Central Register, Boston Herald, Banner Publication, El Mundo and COMMBUYS and competitively bid in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30. Four bids were received and opened on July 8, 2020 with the following results:

<u>Bidders</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Albanese D&S, Inc.	\$19,487,850
P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc.	\$20,820,000
R. Zoppo Corp.	\$21,896,000
RJV Construction Corp.	\$25,295,000
<i>Engineers Estimate</i>	<i>\$13,992,000</i>

The three lowest bids are within 12.4% of each other, an indication that the three low bids are reflective of the cost for the work to be completed. The second lowest bidder, P. Gioioso & Sons' bid is \$1,332,150 (6.8%) higher than the low bid. The lowest bid from Albanese D&S is \$5,495,850 (39.3%) higher than the Engineer's Estimate.

Due to a three-phased approach, the project coordination is complex and is believed to have impacted the bid prices. Comparison of Albanese D&S's bid with the Engineer's Estimate showed several key differences. Albanese D&S's bid carried additional costs of approximately \$3 million for cleaning and lining work whereas the Engineer's Estimate included lower costs for such work. Also, the Engineer's Estimate did not account for as many work restrictions including weather delays and the availability of fewer access pits. The Engineer's Estimate did not include a labor and materials inflation of \$1.7 million for the longer construction schedule, or the cost of the emergency rescue crew of \$500,000. Finally, it is believed COVID-19-related requirements had some impact on production rates. After meeting with representatives from Albanese D&S and reviewing the Engineer's Estimate, staff are of the opinion that the proposed cost by Albanese D&S is reasonable.

Qualifications and references for Albanese D&S, were checked. Albanese D&S has successfully completed several water and sewer projects for MWRA including the three Northern Intermediate High Pipeline projects in Stoneham, Wakefield and Reading. The recent project included large diameter pipe construction. Albanese D&S's performance on these projects was good. Staff also checked references for other non-MWRA projects, which were favorable.

Staff have concluded that Albanese D&S possesses the skill, ability and integrity necessary to perform the work under this contract and is qualified to do so. Staff have determined that the bid price is reasonable, complete and includes the payment of prevailing wage rates, as required. Therefore, staff recommend the award of this contract to Albanese D&S, Inc. as the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

**BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:**

The FY21 CIP includes a budget of \$13,000,000 for Contract 6544. The contract award amount is \$19,487,850 or \$6,487,850 greater than budget. This amount will be absorbed within the 5-year CIP spending cap. It should be noted that Contract 6544 will receive funding through the DEP Clean Water State Revolving Fund, of which the DEP has indicated that an amount of \$19,382,850 is eligible for loan participation. In addition, the Town of Arlington will reimburse the Authority for \$105,000 per the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement between MWRA and the Town of Arlington for the Broadway Plaza restoration. This MOA was approved by the Board of Directors at the March 18, 2020 meeting.

**MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION:**

Contract 6544 will receive Clean Water State Revolving Fund funding from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The D/MBE and D/WBE participation requirements for this project were established by the Department of Environmental Protection at 4.2% and 4.5%, respectively. Albanese D&S has provided the requested D/MBE and D/WBE participation of 4.2% and 4.5% in its bid.

**ATTACHMENT:**

Figure 1 – WASM 3 Rehabilitation Project Map

