

# Committee Report

Environment Committee



**Committee meeting date:** June 10, 2025

**For the Metropolitan Council:** June 25, 2025

## Business Item: 2025-132

Sludge Disposal Contract, Contract 25P021

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P021 with SKB Environmental to provide sludge disposal at MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$5,779,000.

### Summary of Environment Committee discussion/questions

- CM Wulff: Are we no longer land applying biosolids from Empire?
- Staff responded: We have decided to temporarily pause our program for the 2025 season to ensure we are ready and have the time to develop any changes in evolving regulation landscape.
- CM Carter asked: Characteristically how have our biosolids changed in the past 5-10 years?
- Staff responded: Overall they haven't changed to much regarding the chemical composition.
- CM Lindstrom asked: How many tons are we hauling away and where is the landfill located?
- Staff responded: Metro hauls on an as needed basis. Empire typically hauls twice a year, which generates 30,000 tons of biosolids in Rosemount.
- CM Lee asked: Do we move sewage by barge and are their risks if we do?
- Staff responded: We do not haul any sewage by barge.
- CM Cederberg asked: The amount provided covers the transportation and the landfill cost?
- Staff responded: It covers both.

Motion by CM Wulff, seconded by CM Morales. Motion carried.

# Business Item

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<b>District(s), member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/legal reference:</b>	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
<b>Staff prepared/presented:</b>	Kelsey Hogan, Senior Engineer, Process Engineering, R&D, and Air Quality, 651-602-8726
<b>Division/department:</b>	MCES, Operational Support Services

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to award and execute contract 25P021 with SKB Environmental to provide sludge disposal at MCES Wastewater Treatment Plants in an amount not to exceed \$5,779,000.

### Background

Biosolids or sludge is a byproduct of wastewater treatment. The solids or sludge is what is left of the treatment process once water has been treated. Sludge disposal is required from the Empire and Metro wastewater treatment plants and disposal will take place at a landfill.

An Invitation for Bids was advertised on April 3, 2025. Council staff facilitated a public pre-bid meeting that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries.

There were written thirteen registered plan holders, six prime bidders, four subcontractors, three plan rooms and five plan holders identified as woman, minority, small, veteran or disadvantaged business enterprises.

Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on May 8, 2025, and received three bids. Bids ranged from \$5,300,000 to \$7,193,350. SKB Environmental was determined to be the low, responsive, responsible bidder and is being recommended for award.

### Rationale

The execution of a goods contract exceeding \$500,000 requires Council approval.

### Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this action advances the outcome of stewardship. Public financial resources will be invested efficiently and effectively to maintain proper operation of the Metropolitan Disposal System which protects the region's natural resources.

## **Funding**

Funds are available in the Empire and Metro operating budgets.

## **Small business inclusion**

The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity (OEEO) assigned a Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business (MCUB) goal of 2% for this solicitation. OEEO determined that the firm being recommended for award has met the MCUB requirements of this contract.

