

The EWEB Board Consent Calendar Request

For Contract Awards, Renewals, and Increases

The Board is being asked to approve a new Contract with **National Metering & Technical Services, LLC** for **Meter Technician Services**.

Board Meeting Date: 11/2/2021
Project Name/Contract #: Meter Technician Services / 21-180-SC
Primary Contact: Karen Kelley Ext. 7153

Contract Amount:

Original Contract Amount: \$448,000
Additional \$ Previously Approved: \$0
Invoices over last approval: \$0
Percentage over last approval: 0%
Amount this Request: \$448,000
Resulting Cumulative Total: **\$448,000**

Contracting Method:

Method of Solicitation: Formal Invitation to Bid (ITB)
If applicable, basis for exemption: N/A
Term of Agreement: Term is 1 year
Option to Renew? Yes, annually up to 5 years total
Approval for purchases "as needed"
for the life of the Contract: Yes No
Proposals/Bids Received (Range): 1
Selection Basis: Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder
Narrative:

Operational Requirement and Alignment with Strategic Plan

EWEB requires the services of a journeyman electric meter technician to supplement internal resources as needed to support EWEB's Internal CIP and O&M projects for the purpose of maintaining project schedules and workflow. The services are also used to mitigate meter shop staff vacancies, where repeated recruitments have been unsuccessful, as well as mitigating effects on project schedules when emergent work and peaks are experienced. This contract will also help with auditing and field meter testing which has been on hold because of staff vacancies.

Contracted Goods or Services

Contractor will provide one journeyman meter technician that is capable of performing up to 2,000 hours of work that shall include, but is not limited to, supporting regular and specialized meter installation and maintenance activities.

Purchasing Process

In August 2021, EWEB issued a formal Invitation to Bid for meter technician services. The solicitation was publicly

advertised on OregonBuys. One bid was received from National Metering & Technical Services, LLC, and was deemed responsive and responsible.

Bids Received

Vendor Name	City, State	Offered Price	Ranking (for RFPs)
National Metering & Technical Services, LLC	East Wenatchee, WA	\$448,000	NA

Competitive Fair Price

The pricing is based on a loaded hourly rate that includes labor, equipment (including vehicle and fuel), work tools, safety equipment, consumables, and overhead required to perform the services for up to 2,000 hours. Staff compared the hourly rate to the time-and-material rate provided by our AMI mass deployment Contractor for a single-phase meter technician and found it to be 50% higher. On average, journeyman electric meter technicians make 50% more than single phase meter technicians due to their journeyman status (based upon completion of a 3-year apprenticeship) and ability to work on three-phase services.

Prior Contract Activities

EWEB has not previously contracted with National Metering & Technical Services, LLC for long term services but has issued Purchase Orders (primarily under \$5,000) for annual meter board certifications, and various on-site trainings for meter staff. During those engagements National Metering & Technical Services, LLC has been a successful Contractor, meeting EWEB’s product quality and service requirements.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Management requests the Board approve a new Contract with National Metering & Technical Services, LLC for meter technician services. Approximately \$500,000 will be planned for these services in the upcoming 2022 Electric O&M budget with a to-be-determined amount allotted for Capital related work pending AMI meter availability. Some O&M costs may be offset by the Contractor’s involvement in Customer or AMI related Capital work. Variances will be managed within the budget process and Board policy.