

# RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

## Board Memorandum

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

**DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2021**

**SUBJECT: BID NO. 7861 FOR SIX 15KV AUTOMATIC ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT RECLOSERS WITH G&W ELECTRIC COMPANY, FOR \$275,922.68**

**ISSUES:**

Consider awarding Bid No. 7861 to G&W Electric Company for six 15kV three-phase Pole Mounted Automatic Electronic Circuit Reclosers, in the amount of \$275,922.68; and deem bid submitted by Anixter, Inc. as non-responsive.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Award Bid No. RPU-7861 to G&W Electric Company of Bolingbrook, Illinois, in the amount of \$275,922.68, for six 15kV three-phase Pole Mounted Automatic Electronic Circuit Reclosers;
2. Deem bid submitted by Anixter, Inc. of Corona, California, in the amount of \$182,195.75 as non-responsive; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute any documents necessary to effectuate the procurement described herein, as well as the ability to make minor non-substantive changes in alignment with all purchasing policies.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2014, Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) approved a Distribution Reliability Improvement Plan for electric distribution circuits. Implementing Distribution Automation (DA) has been outlined as a critical component for reducing outages' duration and the number of customers impacted. RPU is incorporating new technology to help improve the overall electric system reliability, and part of the efforts to deliver reliable power to our customers, is to maintain healthy reliability indices. These indices include System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI). High numbers of these indices give a low rating to the utility's reliability.

RPU has experienced numerous circuit outages where the substation breaker trips, affecting the entire circuit. When this occurs, the SAIDI clock starts counting until the circuit is completely restored. In order to minimize the SAIDI index, these outages must be contained downstream

from the substation breaker. This can be achieved by installing electronic reclosers in our electric system.

Circuit reclosers are automatic high-voltage electric switches. These devices are similar to household circuit breakers since they shut off power to the loads when trouble is present in the lines. The reclosers automatically test for issues in the high-voltage lines to determine if the cause has been removed. If the event was only temporary, the recloser will automatically reset itself and restore power to the electric line. With overhead electric lines, a large majority of power disturbances are temporary due to lightning, windblown tree branches, birds, and other critters, that in general may only impact the line temporary.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The reclosers are strategically installed on a circuit downstream from the substation. Their main purpose is to isolate faults downstream from the recloser and to keep customers energized, upstream of the recloser. In addition, these devices have the ability to test the fault downstream to verify when cleared. This feature is very important for intermittent faults caused by palm fronds, abundant in Riverside. The recloser makes three attempts to clear the fault before locking out due to a permanent fault, all while the substation circuit breaker is still closed and customers upstream from the recloser are still energized. This feature helps reduce the time and number of customers affected by the outage and does not affect the SAIDI or SAIFI. RPU is currently seeking approval to purchase six (6) of these electronic reclosers to be installed in key areas where reliability can be improved. Future orders for these reclosers will be made through Central Stores and will be store stock items.

Bid No. 7861 for six 15kV three-phase Pole Mounted Automatic Electronic Circuit Reclosers was posted on the City's Online Bid System on July 19, 2021 and closed August 2, 2021. Two vendors submitted bids for the specified reclosers. Staff evaluated the bids and deemed G&W Electric Company of Bolingbrook, Illinois to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. The bid submitted by Anixter, Inc. was deemed non-responsive per engineering evaluation; alternative item proposed in the bid does not meet qualifications of Spec.1-3.81 Rev 3, per bid specifications. The bids are summarized in the table below:

Vendors	City Location	Bid Amount	Rank
G&W Electric Company	Bolingbrook, IL	\$275,922.68	1
Anixter, Inc.	Corona, CA	\$182,195.75	Non-Responsive

The Purchasing Manager concurs that the recommended actions are in compliance with Purchasing Resolution No. 23256.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 6 Infrastructure, Mobility and Connectivity and Goal No. 6.2 – Maintain, protect, and improve assets and infrastructure within the City's built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.

This item aligns with EACH of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The implementation of distribution automation critical components such as the automatic electronic circuit reclosers will improve safety and reliability of the electric system, which helps build community trust and results in the greater public good.
2. **Equity** – The automatic electronic circuit reclosers will be installed based on engineering planning and operational criteria, with equitable distribution of services to ensure every member of the community has equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The automatic electronic circuit reclosers will isolate outages downstream from the recloser, keeping customers upstream of the recloser energized allowing electric field personnel to repair the fault more efficiently & reduce costs.
4. **Innovation** – This is an element to modernize the grid through “smart” devices and the use of cutting-edge technologies, equipment and automation systems that communicate together to deliver reliable and efficient electric power.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – RPU is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City’s capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike. RPU is preparing for the goals set by the City to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and to ensure that new system upgrades provide grid operators the ability to monitor and respond to system disturbances in a more safe and timely manner, especially during potential wildfire events where field equipment may have to be operated from remote locations to keep critical infrastructure safe.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total fiscal impact is \$275,922.68. Sufficient funds are available in Public Utilities Electric Capital Account No. 6130000-470655.

Prepared by:	Daniel E. Garcia, Utilities Deputy General Manager
Approved by:	Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager
Approved by:	Kris Martinez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

Certifies availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
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#### **Attachments:**

1. Bid Award Recommendation
2. Presentation