



BID NO. SUB-02C PROCUREMENT OF TWO GROUNDING TRANSFORMERS WITH NIAGARA POWER TRANSFORMER OF BUFFALO, NEW YORK FOR THE WILDERNESS SUBSTATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,762,537

Riverside Public Utilities

Board of Public Utilities

April 13, 2026

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1

BACKGROUND

1. Riverside Transmission Reliability Project (RTRP) is a critical project that provides a second connection to the state electric transmission grid.
2. The second connection will be established by constructing the new Wilderness Substation, which will connect to Southern California Edison (SCE) via the proposed Wildlife Substation.
3. The Wildlife Substation will then link to the existing SCE Mira Loma Substation, creating a robust and reliable connection to the transmission grid.



2

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2

BACKGROUND

4. The Wilderness Substation will be the only 220 kV substation in the City of Riverside, serving RPU's west system. Meanwhile, the SCE Vista Substation will continue to supply power to RPU's east system.
5. The Wilderness substation will include two 220kV power transformers, two grounding transformers and six 66kV transmission lines.



3

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3

SCOPE OF WORK

1. The procurement of two new 66kV grounding transformers (long-lead equipment)
2. Grounding transformers create a neutral reference point and help the system detect and clear ground faults.
3. Any additional procurements of materials or construction activities will be addressed in subsequent phases.



4

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4

DISCUSSION – BID RESULTS

1. RPU requested quotes for two 66 kV grounding transformers under Bid No. SUB-02C.
2. Three vendors submitted bids. Staff evaluated all bids for price and conformance with the RFB requirements, including acceptance of the terms and conditions and the required 120-day bid validity/price-hold period.
3. The apparent low bidder (Waukesha) conditioned its offer on a 30-day price-hold period and took exceptions to the terms and conditions; the bid was deemed non-responsive.



5

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5

DISCUSSION – BID RESULTS

4. Niagara Power Transformer (Buffalo, NY) was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Niagara's bid price was within the engineering estimate.

| Vendors | City Location | Bid Amount | Rank |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Niagara | New York | \$2,762,537.00 | 1 |
| Howard Power Solutions | Mississippi | \$2,829,951.45 | 2 |
| Waukesha | Wisconsin | \$2,749,330.28 | Non-responsive |

Engineer's Estimate

\$3,000,000



6

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6

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board of Public Utilities:

1. Award Bid No. SUB-02C for the procurement of two 66kV Grounding Transformers for Wilderness Substation with Niagara Power Transformer, of Buffalo, New York, in the amount of \$2,762,537, with a change order authority of 10% in the amount of \$276,253, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$3,038,790; and
2. 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.



7

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