



Date: March 18th, 2025

To: City Council and Administration

From: Carl R. Ray, Water and Wastewater Director

Re: Award Recommendation for North Clarifier Rehabilitation

The North Clarifier at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is in need of structural repairs and paint recoating. The project is budgeted in 2025 for \$250,000. The bid documents were prepared, the bid advertised, and documents released starting on February 12th, 2025. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held at the Wastewater Treatment Plant on February 20th, 2025 with six attendees. Questions and concerns brought up at the pre-bid meeting and subsequently were addressed in addenda. Bids were opened and read aloud on March 6th, 2025 at 11:00. Two bids were received. One from Coblaco Services, Inc. in the amount of \$162,427.00 for the base bid + alternate and one from WBS Coatings, Inc. in the amount of \$243,367.00 for the base bid + alternate.

Our engineering teamed, Westen Water Solutions, reviewed the bids and checked references. Our team had some concerns after the reference check and followed up with some additional questions. The final recommendation from the engineering team is for Coblaco Services, Inc. in the amount of \$162,417.00 for the base bid + alternate.

We are in agreement with the engineer's recommendation. We have worked with Coblaco Services, Inc. on past projects and their work has been satisfactory.



March 17, 2025

Carl Ray
Water & Wastewater Director
City of Craig
300 W 4th Street
Craig, Colorado 81625

RE: Bid Review and Contractor Recommendation – City of Craig North Clarifier Rehabilitation Project

Dear Carl,

Western Water Solutions (WWS) has completed the bid review for the City of Craig North Clarifier Rehabilitation Project. The project was publicly advertised on February 12th, 19th, and 26th, 2025, and a mandatory pre-bid meeting was held onsite on February 20, 2025, with six attendees.

By the bid deadline of March 6, 2025, at 11:00 AM, two bids were received from qualified contractors:

- Coblaco Services, Inc. (Henderson, CO)
 - Base Bid: \$154,927.00
 - Base Bid + Alternate: \$162,427.00
- WBS Coatings, Inc. (Grand Junction, CO)
 - Base Bid: \$224,267.00
 - Base Bid + Alternate: \$243,367.00

A detailed bid tabulation is attached for reference.

Bid Review Summary

Upon initial review, two primary concerns were identified with Coblaco's bid:

1. Project Schedule – Coblaco's bid proposes completing the full scope of work in 18 days, significantly shorter than the 6 to 8-week duration anticipated based on prior project experience.
2. Pricing for Non-Immersed Steel Components – A significant difference in pricing was noted between the two bids, raising questions about scope assumptions.

Reference Check Summary

WWS conducted reference checks for Coblaco, reaching out to five past project contacts. A summary of their feedback is attached, with the key takeaways outlined below:

- Quality of work varies depending on the assigned crew. Multiple references noted inconsistencies between project teams.
- Scheduling and responsiveness concerns were cited by several project managers, particularly regarding delays in response time and project coordination.
- Positive reputation for correcting mistakes—Coblaco was recognized for addressing issues when they arose and taking corrective action.
- Containment practices are inconsistent—some projects had well-executed containment, while others resulted in overspray and cleanup issues.

Given this feedback, WWS determined that further clarification from Coblaco was necessary before making a final recommendation.

Follow-Up Questions and Contractor Response

WWS prepared questions and the City submitted a formal request for clarification to Coblaco, which included the following key questions:

1. Project Schedule
 - Justification for the 18-day project schedule versus the anticipated 6 to 8 weeks.
 - Confirmation that surface preparation inspections, stripe coat inspections, and submittal reviews are accounted for.



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- Assurance that the bid reflects the full project scope.
2. Containment & Overspray Control
 - Plan for containing blast media and controlling overspray, per Addendum 1 requirements.
 3. Project Crew & Qualifications
 - Names and qualifications of crew members assigned to the project.
 4. Quality Control & Reporting
 - Quality control procedures and daily reporting documentation.

Coblaco provided responses by COB Friday, March 14, 2025, as requested. Their responses are attached. While WWS maintains some concerns about crew variation, Coblaco adequately addressed schedule, containment, and quality control procedures. Currently, they are unable to confirm the specific crew members or site supervisors for the project.

Recommendation

Coblaco has submitted a complete and responsive bid, and their responses have confirmed that they understand and have accounted for the full project scope.

The significant cost difference between the two bids—\$69,340.00 for the base bid and \$80,940.00 for the base bid with alternates—is noteworthy. While WBS Coatings' bid aligns more closely with the City's \$250,000 project budget, WWS cannot justify rejecting Coblaco's bid based on the information available.

Given the crew variability concerns raised by references, WWS strongly recommends that the City contract with Fusion Inspections and Consultants for third-party surface preparation and coating inspections. WWS has already reached out to Amanda Whimple, owner of Fusion Inspections, to request a proposal. Additionally, Certified Welding Inspections (CWI) and Kevin Klecker have been utilized by the City for previous welding inspections and could be considered for this project.

Please review and if the City wishes to discuss this recommendation further, WWS is happy to provide additional insights. We appreciate the opportunity to support the City of Craig on this important project.

Sincerely,

Theresa Weidmann

Theresa Weidmann, P.E.
Western Water Solutions

Attachments:

Bid Tabulation
Reference Check Summary
Response to Bid Questions

North Clarifier Rehabilitation Project - Bid Tab							
Company	Mobilization/ Demobilization/ Bonds	Steel Components Immersed	Steel Components Non-Immersed	Bridge Assembly Supports	*Concrete Jack Injection	Total Cost	Total Cost w/Alternate Items
Coblaco	\$5,000.00	\$80,340.00	\$45,587.00	\$24,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$162,427.00	\$162,427.00
WBS Coatings	\$10,950.00	\$80,308.00	\$116,609.00	\$16,400.00	\$19,100.00	\$224,267.00	\$243,367.00

* Alternate Bid Item

Reference Check Summary – Coblaco Services, Inc.

Western Water Solutions reached out to multiple references provided in Coblaco Services, Inc.'s bid dated March 6, 2025 for the City of Craig North Clarifier Rehabilitation Project. The following summarizes the feedback received:

Project: Cortez Clarifier Rehabilitation

- **Project Owner:** City of Cortez
- **Project Engineer:** Catherine Carrella – SGM
- **Date of Contact:** March 7, 2025
- **Scope:** Surface preparation and coatings above and below the waterline, including welding repairs on corroded and through-thickness damaged weir troughs.
- **Performance Feedback:**
 - Surface preparation and coatings were well-executed.
 - Inspector Abe Whittaker performed quality inspections throughout the project.
 - No holiday testing was performed but is scheduled for the one-year anniversary.
 - Project started on October 31, 2024, and reached substantial completion on March 7, 2025.
 - Crew worked efficiently but was in and out throughout the project.
 - **Negative Feedback:** No containment was installed, leading to overspray on seven vehicles.
 - **Positive Feedback:** Site superintendent Ivan Enfanta-Ramos managed the project well.

Project: Boulder Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation

- **Project Owner:** City of Boulder
- **Construction Manager:** Kyle Curtis – Garney Construction
- **Date of Contact:** March 7, 2025
- **Scope:** Coating rehabilitation of secondary clarifiers.
- **Performance Feedback:**
 - Project went well overall.
 - Full containment was installed.
 - Completed in one month, with an additional two weeks required for touch-ups.

- Garney Construction has completed multiple projects with Coblaco and has had good experiences.

Project: Wes Brown Water Treatment Plant Tube Settler Rehabilitation

- **Project Owner:** City of Thornton
- **Construction Manager:** Heath Brooks – Garney Construction
- **Date of Contact:** March 7, 2025
- **Scope:** Tube settler rehabilitation, including coatings and surface preparation.
- **Performance Feedback:**
 - Garney Construction has worked with Coblaco on multiple projects.
 - Project required consistent follow-up with both the project manager and crews regarding schedule.
 - If a start date was missed, the project was often delayed by another week.
 - Warranty work was handled well.
 - Project duration was from November through March, with an additional two weeks for warranty work.
 - **Positive Feedback:** Leadership by Jason Becker was good.
 - **Negative Feedback:** Crew quality varied significantly; some performed well, while others did not.

Project: Avon Wastewater Treatment Facility

- **Project Owner:** Eagle River Water and Sanitation District
- **Project Manager:** Dan Duerr
- **Date of Contact:** March 7, 2025
- **Scope:** Clarifier rehabilitation.
- **Performance Feedback:**
 - The District has experienced inconsistent quality from large coating contractors.
 - **Crew Performance:**
 - Clarifier crew performed well.
 - Secondary clarifier crew was significantly below expectations.
 - **Negative Feedback:**

- Media containment and cleanup were poorly handled.
- Project managers were difficult to reach, with long response times.
- Communication with project manager Jason Becker was poor.
- Delays in schedules, pricing, and submittals.

Project: Widefield Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation

- **Project Owner:** Fountain Valley Authority
- **Project Engineer:** Kevin – Matrix Engineering
- **Date of Contact:** March 7, 2025
- **Scope:** Rehabilitation of a water storage tank.
- **Performance Feedback:**
 - **Positive Feedback:**
 - Good working relationship with project manager Jack O’Dell.
 - Matrix Engineering has completed multiple projects with Coblaco.
 - **Negative Feedback:**
 - Some projects went smoothly, while others had significant issues.
 - Quality concerns were dependent on the crew assigned to the project.
 - Issues arose during the final three months of the project.
 - Coblaco took responsibility for quality issues and worked to resolve them.
 - Additional crew was brought in toward the end of the project to address outstanding issues.

General Takeaways

- Quality of work varies depending on the assigned crew. Multiple references noted inconsistencies in performance between different project teams.
- Scheduling and responsiveness concerns. Several project managers mentioned difficulty in reaching Coblaco’s management and staying on schedule.
- Positive reputation for correcting mistakes. Despite challenges, Coblaco was noted for addressing issues and following through on corrective actions.
- Containment practices are inconsistent. Some projects had well-executed containment, while others resulted in overspray and cleanup issues.

Based on this feedback, further discussions with Coblaco regarding their approach to containment, project scheduling, and crew assignments may be warranted before awarding the project.


Re: BID - North Clarifier Rehabilitation Project - Coblaco Services, Inc.

From Jack O'Dell <jack@coblaco.com>

Date Fri 3/14/2025 2:41 PM

To kcarmony@ci.craig.co.us <kcarmony@ci.craig.co.us>

Cc CRAY@ci.craig.co.us <CRAY@ci.craig.co.us>; Theresa Weidmann <Theresa@westwtrsoln.com>; Jason Becker <jason@coblaco.com>; Marcie Thorpe <marcie@coblaco.com>; Greg Smith <greg@coblaco.com>

 4 attachments (2 MB)

Coblaco Services QP1.pdf; 01 DWL-DCIR.pdf; DFT.pdf; Quality Manual Rev 7.1.pdf;

Hi Katie,

Thank you for your consideration of Coblaco for the North Clarifier Rehab Project. Jason Becker is currently out of the office so I am stepping in to address your questions. Please see our underlined responses below. If you have any additional questions, please let me know and we would be happy to discuss further.

Thank you

Jack O'Dell

Operations Manager

 303 690 7148

 303 908 0342

COBLACO.com

From: Kathleen Carmody <kcarmony@ci.craig.co.us>

Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 3:24 PM

To: Marcie Thorpe <marcie@coblaco.com>

Cc: Jason Becker <jason@coblaco.com>; Carl Ray <CRAY@ci.craig.co.us>; Theresa Weidmann <Theresa@westwtrsoln.com>

Subject: BID - North Clarifier Rehabilitation Project - Coblaco Services, Inc.

Hi Marcie,

Thank you for submitting your bid for the City of Craig North Clarifier Rehabilitation Project on March 7, 2025. We have reviewed your proposal and would appreciate clarification on the following items:

1. Project Schedule:

- Your bid indicates that the full scope of work will be completed within 18 days. Based on prior project experience, we anticipated a schedule of 6 to 8 weeks. Please provide a narrative explaining the assumptions that allowed for your accelerated

schedule. Confirm that you have accounted for the necessary surface preparation inspections, stripe coat inspections, and submittal reviews.

- We did not project any potential delays in our schedule. These could include delays for weather, 3rd party inspection or general schedule creep/float due to any unforeseen issues or decreased efficiency. We do anticipate being able to perform several preliminary scopes simultaneously, which has allowed us to compress the schedule by a few weeks. We have worked on 10 clarifier rehabilitations in the last 18 months of varying sizes and this experience helped inform our production rates and schedule for this project. In reviewing the schedule provided in our proposal, there should have been 1-week of float included to account for any of the potential delays noted above. Even with an allowance for delays, we believe with the utmost confidence that this project can be completed well ahead of the contractual completion date.
- Please clarify that your bid fully accounts for the complete scope of work.
- Our proposal includes the full scope of work as summarized by Spec Section 01 11 00 and Addendum No. 1.

1. Containment & Overspray Control:

- As required by Addendum 1, the contractor must contain and control all blast media within the North Clarifier and manage overspray control. Please provide your specific plan for containment and how you intend to control overspray and blast media.
- Prior to abrasive blast cleaning, we will wrap the work area in reinforced plastic. This will be done using temporary supports built using scaffolding and wood to elevate the plastic above the non-immersed beams, handrail, etc. To minimize strain on the containment, it will be constructed in sections. The containment will be ventilated with a 20,000 CFM dust collector. This will improve visibility inside the containment during surface prep and will ensure that spent blast media does not migrate outside of the containment. The same containment and equipment will be used during coating application to eliminate any possibility of overspray.

2. Project Crew & Qualifications:

- Based on feedback from references, the quality of past projects appears to be influenced by the specific crews assigned. Please provide the names and qualifications of the crew members who will be assigned to this project.
- Are you expressing concern with the quality of our completed work? In the references provided, we are not aware of any quality issues on any of the projects provided as references. It seems your concern may be more related to project pacing and schedule. In our 45 year history Coblaco has never been assessed Liquidated Damages, nor have we ever had a contract canceled for cause. We are a preferred vendor for numerous general contractors, municipalities, engineers and owners throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. We have a workforce of 50+ technicians, who are trained in Coblaco's safety and quality policies and procedures. Our supervisors have extensive training and experience and all are well qualified to run projects of this complexity. Jason Becker and the rest of our project management team is well qualified to work with our onsite team to efficiently resolve any issues that may arise.

At this time, we cannot provide information on specific crew members or site supervisors. The resume for our resource manager, Jaime Rangel, was provided in our proposal. It is ultimately his responsibility to assign the correct crew to the project, to monitor their progress and to adjust personnel and equipment as needed to complete the project on time. Should there be any concern during the project about quality, safety, pace, etc. we have a team at the ready to quickly address any improvements needed, and we have the technicians and in-house equipment fleet to make rapid corrections.

3. Quality Control & Reporting:


- o Please provide your quality control plan and daily reporting documentation procedures for this project.
A project specific quality control plan can be completed upon project award. We hold a QP1 certificate from AMPP (formerly SSPC). Here is a [link to more information about the QP program](#). Our quality program is built around the requirements and expectations of this AMPP program and we are audited yearly for our adherence to these program requirements.
Attached is our quality manual, coating inspection reports, dry film thickness reports and our current QP-1 certification.



Katie Carmody

City Clerk / HR Director

 [300 W. 4th Street, Craig, CO 81625](#)

 [970.826.2008](tel:970.826.2008)

 kcarmody@cityofcraig.org

 www.cityofcraig.org



WE'RE HIRING!