



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Action Item for the City Council Meeting of December 9th, 2025

DATE: December 9th, 2025

TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager

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Construction Contract Award

Choke Canyon Dam Sluice Gate #3 Replacement & Improvements

CAPTION:

Motion awarding a construction contract to H&S Constructors, of Corpus Christi, Texas for Choke Canyon Dam – Sluice Gate #3 Replacement & Improvements, in an amount not to exceed \$1,730,000 for the Total Base Bid plus Additive Alternate No. 1, with FY 2026 funding available from the Raw Water Capital Fund.

SUMMARY:

The motion approves a construction contract for the Choke Canyon Dam – Sluice Gate #3 Replacement and Improvements to install a new cast iron sluice gate (6x8) located at the outlet tower, replacement stem nuts on the gate actuators on gates 3 & 4 located on the outlet tower, replacement of hoist brakes and brake motors for all seven (7) gates; along with installing new encoders and limit switches for each spillway gate hoists, installment of heat shields for all seven (7) gate hoist control panels, and blasting and recoating of stoplog guides at spillway gates.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) owns the Choke Canyon Dam, but it is operated by the city of Corpus Christi. The dam was designed and constructed by the USBR and was completed in 1982. The gated system at Choke Canyon Dam has been in service for over 40 years and the reservoir holds up 695,271 acre-feet of water and at normal pool elevation reaching 221 feet above sea level.

The dam is composed of seven tainter (sluice) gates, an outlet works structure located near the center of the dam embankment and intake structure. It is a 3.5-mile zoned earthen embankment with a 368-foot-wide reinforced concrete spillway.

The USBR provides the City of Corpus Christi with broad oversight of operations, including comprehensive and thorough reviews every 5-6 years. These reviews are conducted to investigate the reservoir and report any subsequent maintenance issues, required rehabilitation, and/or the need for improvements. The evaluations and conditions are to report unsafe specifications, and if any components are deemed inoperable or unreliable. The sole purpose of these investigations and reports is to establish recommendations that help extend the service life of the dam and ensure compliance with USBR and TCEQ regulations and specifications.

The project is a continuation from a previous project conducted in 2022. The project scope for this contract includes the replacement of Sluice Gate #3 and its required components. The scope also includes new stem nuts and actuators for Sluice Gate #4, seven brakes and brake motors, installment of heat shields, installation of limit switches and encoders and the recoating of stoplog guides throughout the seven gate bays.

PROJECT TIMELINE:

2024-2025	2025	2026-2027
AUG - JUNE	July - DEC	FEB - JULY
Design	Bid / Award	Construction

Projected Schedule reflects City Council award in December 2025. Construction is anticipated to begin in February 2026 with a duration of 440 days and completion in July 2027.

COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION PROCESS:

On July 13, 2025, the Contracts and Procurement Department issued a Request for Bids (RFB #6686) for the Choke Canyon Dam – Sluice Gate #3 Replacement and Improvements project.

On August 22, 2025, the City received three bids. The City analyzed the bids according to the contract documents and determined that H&S Constructors was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. As the lowest bid received was within the acceptable range of the Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, the City has elected to proceed with the project.

The Base Bid provides for the Choke Canyon Dam – Sluice Gate #3 Replacement and Improvements. Additive Alternate No. 1 provides for the Sluice Gate #4 Upper Stem Replacement and allowances. Staff is recommending awarding the Total Base Bid plus Additive Alternate No. 1 to the lowest bidder.

A summary of the bids is provided below:

BID SUMMARY			
CONTRACTOR	BASE BID	Alternate No.1	BASE BID + Alternate No.1
H&S Constructors, Corpus Christi, TX	\$1,500,000.00	\$230,000.00	\$1,730,000.00
Associated Construction Partners, Ltd., Boerne, TX	\$2,023,795.00	\$250,000.00	\$2,273,795.00
Zachry Construction Corporation, San Antonio, TX	\$2,700,660.00	\$212,680.00	\$2,913,340.00
<i>Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost</i>	\$1,337,699.00	\$12,600.00	\$1,350,299.00

H&S Constructors, Inc., has successfully completed City projects, including Wesley Seale Dam Sluice Gate Improvements, Choke Canyon Dam Infrastructure Improvements, Mary Rhodes Pipeline Phase I. The contractor has also conducted and completed construction projects for the Port of Corpus Christi.

Recent projects completed by H&S Constructors, include the following

- Mary Rhodes Pipeline Phase I, Woodsboro, Texas: \$14,029,172.00 - Project addressed replacement and upgrade of various outdated system components, including, but not limited to electrical, instrumentation, mechanical, structural, and HVAC at Woodsboro and Bloomington Pump Stations.
- Choke Canyon Dam Infrastructure Improvements, Live Oak / McMullen Counties, Texas \$5,657,8555.00 - Project provided various repairs and improvements identified by City and Bureau of Reclamation including, but not limited to crane repairs, soil erosion, electrical system repairs, spill way operator motor brake realign, instrumentation repairs and other miscellaneous improvements.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Choke Canyon Dam will not be in compliance with the USBR and TCEQ dam safety guidelines for operation and maintenance of high hazard dams. The proposed improvements are needed to maintain proper functioning of the dam. Not awarding the construction contract will delay necessary improvements to the Choke Canyon Dam and may affect the ability to meet the safety, operational and regulatory requirements recommended in Choke Canyon Dam annual evaluation reports as well as jeopardizing the reliability of the City's water supply.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact in FY 2026 for Corpus Christi Water is an amount not to exceed \$1,730,000 with funding available from the Raw Water Capital Fund. The project has a funding of \$2,500,000.00 available for construction, with \$1,730,000.00 earmarked for this item based off the bids. The remaining project funds of \$770,000.00 will be transferred to the fund reserve upon project close out and warranty expiration.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund:	Raw Water Fund (4481)
Department:	Water (45)
Org:	Grants and Capital Projects (89)
Account:	Construction Contract (550910)
Activity:	25015
Amount	\$1,730,000.00

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends awarding the construction contract for the Choke Canyon Dam – Sluice Gate #3 Replacement and Improvements project to H&S Constructors in the amount of \$1,730,000. The construction phase is planned to begin in February 2026 with completion estimated 15 months after notice to proceed.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Location and Vicinity Maps
PowerPoint Presentation
CIP Page
Bid Tabulation