

Keri O'Brien

From: Dr. M.P. Crosby <mcrosby@mote.org>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 12:44 PM
To: Mayor E-Mail; District I; District II; District III; District IV; District V; District VI; City Manager; Kendal Harden; Keri O'Brien
Cc: Kevin Claridge; Emily Hall; Donna Basso
Subject: [EXTERNAL] mote key west water quality rfp 25-004

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Dear Mayor Henriquez and City of Key West Commissioners,

Organized in the State of Florida in 1955, Mote Marine Laboratory has eight campuses stretching from Anna Maria Island to Key West. Five Mote campuses are in the Florida Keys where we have had research facilities conducting diverse research and monitoring for over 32 years, and anchored by our International Center for Coral Reef Research and Restoration (IC2R3) on the Mote Summerland Key campus where we have ~35 of our over 50 full-time Keys based staff.

Mote is committed to providing services to our communities in the Florida Keys. Therefore, we appreciated the opportunity to submit a proposal to the City of Key West to serve as its water quality monitoring program provider, in response to RFP 25-004.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of the City's water quality monitoring program RFP review and scoring committee. Key conclusions of the review and scoring committee are that:

- 2 of 5 reviewers ranked Mote as #1.
- 2 of 5 reviewers rank RES #1.
- 1 of 5 reviewers ranked Stantec as #1.
- Of these three #1 ranked applicants, Mote was ~20% lower in cost (~\$21,600 lower than RES and ~\$26,300 lower than Stantec).

In addition, and given no statistical difference in final total scores between Mote and RES, we respectfully wish to bring to the City's attention several concerns/irregularities we perceive in the review and scoring outcomes.

- Reviewer M. McCleary gave Mote ZERO points for local preference but also checked that Mote had the local vendor certification, and as a result Mote should have received a positive score in this category (especially given Mote's over 32 years of research and monitoring operations and facilities in the Keys as noted above).
- Reviewer S. Kruger's notes were not included in public packet – if there is a record of these review notes, we would appreciate receiving them.
- Reviewer S. McCoy gave a point (+1) above the allowed range (-5 to 0) to RES for city forms.
- Reviewer A. Higgins' math appears to incorrectly indicate a score of 86 for Mote. Her total score for Mote should be 89 or 92 dependent on whether her score applied the 15 or 18 she wrote for Criteria 3 (Project Approach).

From the information provided to applicants in the City RFP announcement, our understanding of the final selection process is that: 1) the review and scoring committee will submit their tabulated scores and firm/individual ranking to the City Commission for their consideration; 2) the City Commission may accept the ranking recommendations of the committee or may amend rankings; 3) the City Commission may in its discretion waive any informalities and irregularities contained in a proposal or in the manner of its submittal; and 4) the City Commission will make the final selection.

Again, Mote appreciates the opportunity to provide our bid for this important water quality monitoring program, and we remain committed to providing services to our communities in Key West and throughout the Florida Keys.

Thank you

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