

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Contract Award for Rutan Facility Hydrogen Retrofit Project #2024-06

FROM: Jennifer Yeamans, Senior Grants & Management Specialist

DATE: October 7, 2024

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**Action Requested**

The Finance & Administration Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 27-2024, authorizing the award of an Agreement between LAVTA and Reliable Monitoring Services (dba RMS Construction dba RMS Life Safety), to perform the installation of equipment and related work necessary to carry out the Rutan Facility Hydrogen Retrofit Project, and that the Board authorize the LAVTA Executive Director to finalize all details and execute said Agreement between LAVTA and Reliable Monitoring Services.

**Background**

In April 2022, the Board of Directors adopted LAVTA’s Zero Emission Bus Rollout Plan, which identified specific fleet and facility projects necessary to support the agency’s transition to a 100% hydrogen fuel-cell electric bus (FCEB) fleet by 2040, in accordance with California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations adopted in 2018. While the Plan identified LAVTA’s partially-completed Atlantis operations and maintenance facility as the long-term fueling and maintenance home of LAVTA’s future FCEB fleet, the Plan also identified contingent need to retrofit two bus bays the Rutan facility to support maintenance of LAVTA’s initial FCEB deliveries (currently scheduled for 2026), should the Atlantis maintenance building not yet be completed by that time. Necessary modifications to the Rutan facility identified in the Plan include new hydrogen gas detection, alarms and ventilation/exhaust equipment aimed at accommodating the safety needs presented when working with hydrogen in an enclosed space.

The project is included in LAVTA’s FY2025 Capital Budget, funded by a combination of state and federal funding sources to support zero-emission transit transition goals. State funding from the Low Carbon Transportation Operations Program (LCTOP) originally programmed in 2019 to support LAVTA’s initial zero-emission bus purchase is set to expire at the end of this calendar year unless LAVTA begins to spend the funds before then. In 2023, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission programmed additional Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula funds for the project, which FTA obligated in July.

**Discussion**

LAVTA’s Procurement Policy including applicable requirements for Federally funded projects, mandates the Authority follow a competitive procurement process for award of significant construction contracts, and award such contracts to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

On July 16, LAVTA released an Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the Rutan Facility Hydrogen Retrofit Project #2024-06, for qualified contractors to bid on the project plans and specifications developed by LAVTA’s project engineer, Gannett Fleming. The project was posted on LAVTA’s Bonfire online procurement portal, emailed directly to Bay Area and Northern California plan rooms as well as a list of vendors including Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms understood to engage in work related to LAVTA’s project, and publicly advertised in both *Transit Talent* and the *East Bay Times*. An optional pre-bid conference and job walk was held at the Authority’s Rutan maintenance shop on August 8 at 10:00 a.m, which was attended by three firms. Written Questions or Requests for Clarification were due on August 15 at 4:00 p.m., and one Addendum was issued on August 22, with answers to questions received. Sealed bids in response to the IFB were due via Bonfire on September 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Following 52 days of advertisement, three bids were received prior to the deadline established in the IFB. The responding firms were:

<b>Company Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Grand Total Amount</b>
Reliable Monitoring Services	Signal Hill, CA	\$673,526.00
Blocka Construction	Pleasanton, CA	\$714,900.00
Saboo Inc.	Brentwood, CA	\$837,000.00

The lowest bid was submitted by Reliable Monitoring Services (dba RMS Construction dba RMS Life Safety) and was found to be responsive and responsible by LAVTA’s Legal Counsel and staff. The firm represented proper qualifications to do the work and their references for similar specialized work recently completed for other California transit agencies adapting facilities for hydrogen fuel-cell bus operations were highly satisfied. The low bidder is a certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and certifies that 91% of the bid amount will count toward LAVTA’s established DBE goal in accordance with LAVTA’s adopted DBE Program. Furthermore, approximately a quarter of the work is slated to be subcontracted to local firms located in Livermore.

**Fiscal Impact**

Staff conducted a price analysis and determined that the low bid is both reasonable and fair. The engineer’s estimate for the project including contingency was \$933,567. The project budget is \$774,555 and consists of the contract award of \$673,526 plus a 15% project contingency of \$101,028.90. Funding for this project is included in LAVTA’s FY24-25 capital budget.

**Next Steps**

Upon execution of the Agreement with Reliable Monitoring Services, LAVTA will issue the Notice to Proceed (NTP). The project is due to be completed within 180 calendar days from LAVTA’s issuance of the NTP. The project’s specifications require the contractor to coordinate work around the active operations taking place at the facility, ensuring bus operations are not impeded or delayed in any way.

**Recommendation**

The Finance & Administration Committee recommends that the Board of Directors approve Resolution 27-2024 to (1) award a contract to Reliable Monitoring Services dba RMS Construction dba RMS Life Safety, the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the LAVTA Rutan Facility Hydrogen Retrofit Project #2024-06, for a total contract award of \$673,526.00; (2) authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract and issue an NTP to RMS Construction; and (3) approve a 15% project contingency of \$101,028.90 to be used at the discretion of the Executive Director.

**Attachments:**

1. Resolution 27-2024
2. Rutan Maintenance Area Photos

**RESOLUTION NO. 27-2024**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE LIVERMORE AMADOR VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE RUTAN FACILITY HYDROGEN  
RETROFIT PROJECT TO RELIABLE MONITORING SERVICES DBA RMS  
CONSTRUCTION DBA RMS LIFE SAFETY**

WHEREAS, the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA) requires the services of a third-party contractor to perform the installation of equipment and related work necessary to carry out the Rutan Facility Hydrogen Retrofit Project as described in LAVTA Invitation for Bids (IFB) #2024-06; and

WHEREAS, staff released IFB #2024-06 to solicit bids for the project; and

WHEREAS, three bids were received, all of which were deemed responsive to the requirements set forth in the IFB, and Reliable Monitoring Services dba RMS Construction dba RMS Life Safety was determined to be the lowest responsive and responsible bidder based on their submitted bid in the amount of \$673,526.00; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends that the Board of Directors award the contract for the installation of equipment and related work necessary to carry out the Rutan Facility Hydrogen Retrofit Project to Reliable Monitoring Services dba RMS Construction dba RMS Life Safety in the not-to-exceed amount of \$673,526.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby awards the contract for the installation of equipment and related work necessary to carry out the Rutan Facility Hydrogen Retrofit Project to Reliable Monitoring Services dba RMS Construction dba RMS Life Safety in the not-to-exceed amount of \$673,526.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director is authorized to execute a contract with Reliable Monitoring Services dba RMS Construction dba RMS Life Safety, in a form approved by LAVTA's Legal Counsel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director to expend a 15% contingency amount not to exceed \$101,028.90.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

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Evan Branning, Chair

ATTEST:

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Christy Wegener, Executive Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Michael Conneran, Legal Counsel

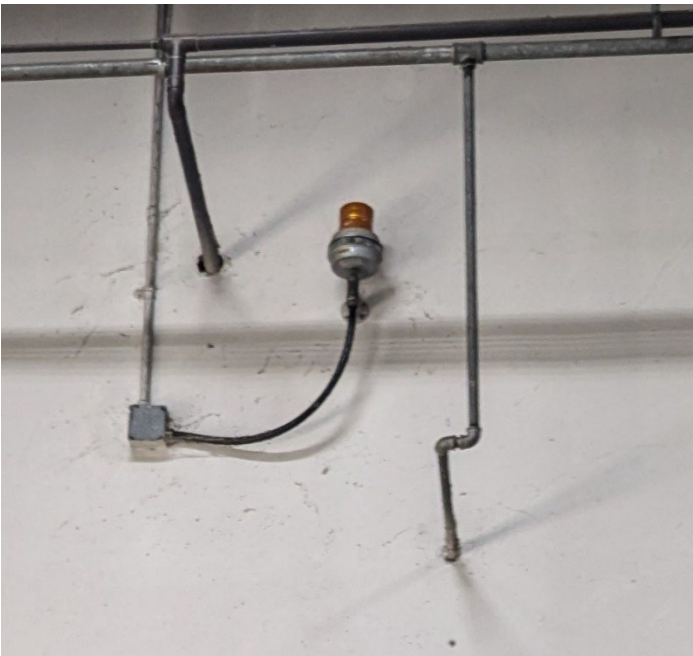
## LAVTA Rutan Maintenance Area



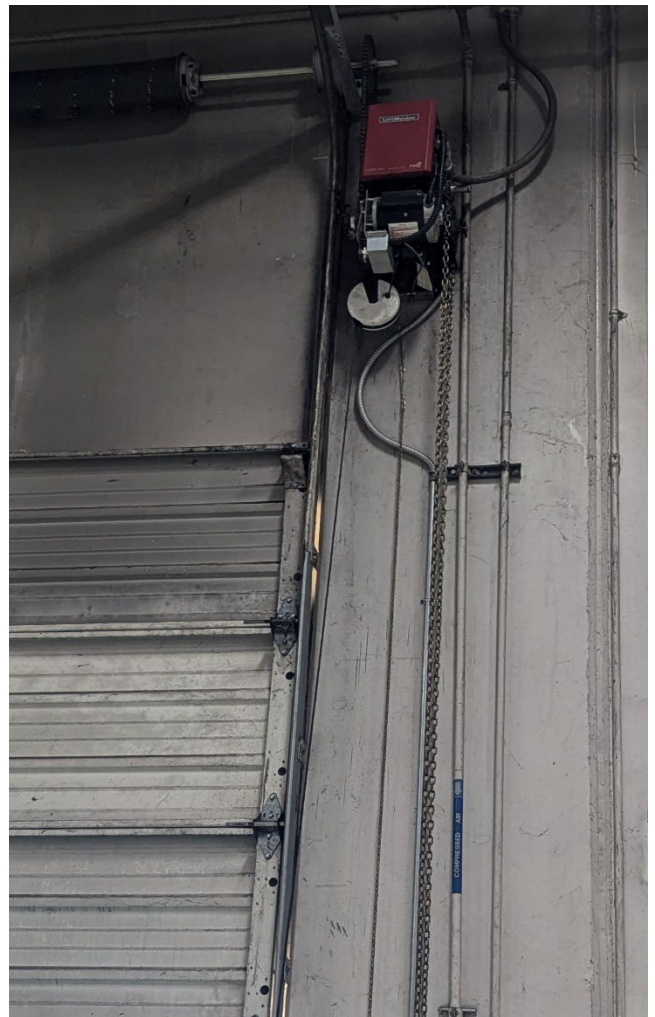
1. Current roof mounted exhaust fan - to be replaced



2. Fire suppression sprinkler - to be replaced



3. Fire alarm - to be replaced



4. Shop door motor - to be replaced