

April 16, 2025

Via email

Amin Nazarinia
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SUBJECT: S-2025-669BD, Safety Shower and Eyewash Stations Inspections and
Testing Award Recommendation Protest Determination

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) received an official protest statement from Zeco, Inc. to the subject specification on April 2, 2025. OC San has reviewed the protest document and has denied the claims for the following reasons:

First, the letter states “per the contract documents, particularly the Contractor’s License and Registration Declaration (Exhibit I) and the Instructions to Bidders, all bidders are required to hold a valid California contractor’s license at the time of bid submission.” Exhibit I is a standard template combining DIR and Contractors license requirements, however, this particular project does not call for a contractor’s license, and therefore bidders are not required to hold a California Contractors license.

Second, the letter states that “This contract clearly involves field inspection and testing work that meets the definition of contracting, as described in California law.” This is a service contract, not a public works contract, so a contractor’s license would not be required. The proposed work is to conduct safety shower and eyewash inspections as a regulatory compliance obligation, not to construct or alter those facilities.

Thirdly, the letter states “Additionally, we raise serious concerns about the feasibility of the awarded pricing.” OC San has verified and confirmed that Haws Corporation’s pricing was submitted with the applicable Prevailing Wage rates as required for the project.

After further review of the protest documents, OC San has determined the protest to be without merit and shall proceed with the intent to award Safety Shower and Eyewash Stations Inspections and Testing Contract to Haws Corporation.

All affected parties shall be notified in writing of OC San’s determination of the protest.

Should Zeco, Inc. wish to appeal this notice of determination of its award protest, Zeco, Inc. may submit a written appeal to Wally Ritchie, Director of Finance, and Riaz Moinuddin, Director of Operations and Maintenance, in accordance with the procedures listed in Exhibit "D" Section B.4. The appeal must be submitted to Purchasing@ocsan.gov no later than 4:00 P.M. within seven (7) days of this notice.


Kevin Work (Apr 17, 2025 06:52 PDT)

Kevin Work
Contracts and Purchasing Manager

Attachments: Award Recommendation Protest Letter – Zeco, Inc, April 2, 2025.