

EXHIBIT A

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March 9, 2026

Mayor Johnny Magee
 401 N. 5th Avenue
 Laurel, MS 39440
 Phone (601) 428-6401

Re: Recommendation to Award the Contract with H2O Innovation Operation & Maintenance, LLC for the Operations and Maintenance of the Water, Sewer, and Utility Billing Systems and To Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Contract

Dear Mayor Magee:

On February 19, 2026, the City of Laurel accepted proposals from privatization contractors. Two (2) proposals were received. Attached is a copy of the price tabulations. A review committee, selected by the Mayor, evaluated and scored the price proposals, qualification packages, and interviews. The table below represents the points assessed in accordance with the grading criteria as stated in the RFP. The total possible score is 500.

Contractor	Price	Customer Satisfaction	Experience	Stability & Solvency	Interview	APWA	Special Expertise	Existing Contracts In MS	Total
H2O Innovation	200	72	48	48	50	25	30	15	488
Clearwater Solutions	167.5	70	46.5	45.5	45	24	31	13	442.5

Based on the grading criteria as presented, the selection committee has selected H2O Innovation as the lowest and best overall bid and contractor.

Some of the improvements are listed below.

- 1) Benchmarks
- 2) Follow Up Letter to the Customer
- 3) Satisfaction Survey
- 4) Performance Criteria for Completing Service Requests
- 5) Inventory and maps for water system, sewer system, water wells, sewer lift stations, fire hydrants, water treatment plants, and sewer treatment plants.

- 6) Job Descriptions and Position Requirements
- 7) Equipment Usage
- 8) Standard Operating Procedures
- 9) Service Request Statistics

H2O Innovation has also indicated that they will donate **\$25,000** for enhancements for offices and facilities which will be approved by the Mayor. We have also moved the responsibility for the sludge removal to be paid for directly by the City of Laurel which will save the City an additional pass-through cost to the Contractor. The Water, Sewer, and Utility Billing privatization contract is set up to include changes to streamline the services. H2O Innovation is very involved with the American Public Works Association.

The total base bid cost of H2O Innovation Operation and Maintenance, LLC. submitted is \$4,724,554.00. The next lowest price for the same scope of work was from Clearwater Solutions at \$5,494,465.00. The difference in the two prices was \$769,911.00.

The current contact amount paid to Veolia was \$5,399,209.30.

The new contract with H2O Innovation, LLC. will commence on May 1, 2026.

Therefore, based on the recommendation of the review committee and the current budget, I recommend to Award the contract to the lowest and best bid which is H2O Innovation Operation and Maintenance, LLC. for Maintenance and Operations of the Water, Sewer, and Utility Billing Systems, and Authorize the Mayor to Execute the Contract, and to begin the new contract May 1, 2026.

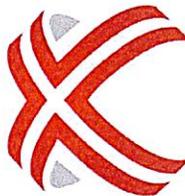
Please place this item on the March 17, 2026 Council Agenda. Attached is a copy of the Contract as well as the Proposal submitted by H2O Innovation.

If you need any further information or have any questions, please contact me at (228) 518-2980 or kris@engineeringxcellece.com.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Riemann, P.E.
President/Owner
Engineering Xcellence, PLLC



- Attachments:
1. Price Tabulations
 2. H2O Innovation Proposal
 3. Contract

TABULATION OF PRICE PROPOSALS
 ENGINEERING XCELLENCE WITH KRIS RIEMANN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC



CITY OF LAUREL
 PROJECT NUMBER: 21-0003
 COUNTY: JONES
 PROJECT DESCRIPTION: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WATER, SEWER, AND UTILITY PAVING SYSTEMS

CERTIFICATE OF RESPONSIBILITY	H2O INNOVATION OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, LLC 1710 23RD AVENUE GULFPORT, MS 39501 19086-MC	CLEARWATER SOLUTIONS 117 WELBORN STREET GREENVILLE, SC 29601 20029-MC
ADDENDUM NO. 1 RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED	YES	YES
ADDENDUM NO. 2 RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED	YES	YES
ADDENDUM NO. 3 RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED	YES	YES
BASE PRICE	\$ 4,724,554.00	\$ 5,494,465.00
ALTERNATE 1	\$ 283,098.00	\$ 317,199.00
ALTERNATE 2	\$ 209,150.00	\$ 247,409.00

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THIS IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TABULATION OF PRICE PROPOSALS
 TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF
 FOR THE OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WATER, SEWER, AND UTILITY BILLING SYSTEMS THAT WERE
 RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF LAUREL ON FEBRUARY 19, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M.

CERTIFIED BY:

ROBERT K. RIEMANN, P.E.
 ENGINEERING XCELLENCE WITH KRIS RIEMANN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC.

