

CH2M HILL Hires Minority Firm, KAI, as Construction Management Subconsultant

As part of CSO Program efforts to enhance diversity, CH2M HILL solicited proposals in 2013 from three minority businesses (KAI Design & Build in St. Louis, Infrastructure Engineering in Chicago, and WR&J in Atlanta) to provide a Quality Assurance Representative (QAR) and an Administrative Assistant (AA) for CH2M HILL's construction management effort associated with Schedule B1 of the Missouri River Wastewater Treatment Plant (MRWWTP) Improvements Project.

Proposals were received from all three firms, and were evaluated based on the experience of the firms providing similar services, commitment to opening a local office, staffing plan (preference for hiring local staff), and thoughts regarding value-added services to promote diversity/inclusiveness and opportunities in economically challenged areas of the City.

Based on the proposal evaluation, KAI and WR&J were shortlisted for telephone interviews. Following this process, the consensus of those evaluating was to move forward with KAI. A subcontract between CH2M HILL and KAI was executed on February 19, 2014.

Through placement of recruitment advertisements in the Omaha Star and networking within the community, KAI was able to identify two high potential local candidates to fill the QAR and AA construction support positions. Frank Allen is providing QAR support and Joan Marion is providing AA support. From the beginning, both Frank and Joan have continued to receive high praises from the Construction Manager, Project Manager and others within CH2M HILL and the City for their work.

KAI is currently under contract with CH2M HILL for nearly \$500,000 to support construction of Schedule B1, and to provide value-added services through 2014. The intent is to amend KAI's subcontract on an annual basis, based on performance. Construction of Schedule B1 is scheduled to be completed in late 2016; however, a separate construction contract at the MRWWTP, Schedule B2, is anticipated to start in early 2016 and extend into the latter half of 2018. It is the current intent to involve KAI in that work in addition to Schedule B1.

As a result of the contract with CH2M HILL, along with a desire to expand their local presence, KAI has opened an Omaha office, located at 3915 Cuming Street. They continue to pursue additional opportunities within, and outside of, the CSO Program to further grow their local office.

KAI has been actively networking within the community to promote their business and to support the development and implementation of a Diversity Action Plan. The purpose of this plan is to promote diversity/inclusiveness on the CSO Program, and to create a legacy of achievements for the greater good of the City.

Attached are two related items: 1) Press Release for the Omaha World Herald; 2) Daily Record article published on 7/30/14.