**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**
**HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA**
**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**
**Contract No. 26-RFP01188/AP**

THIS AGREEMENT made and entered into this _____ day of _____, 2026, by and between HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 15470 Flight Path Drive, Brooksville, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, hereinafter called the COUNTY and Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC, whose address is 13340 NW 8th Ave, Newberry, FL 32669 duly authorized to conduct business in the State of Florida, hereinafter called the PROFESSIONAL (together "the Parties").

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, the PROFESSIONAL has reviewed the consulting services required pursuant to this Agreement and is qualified, willing and able to provide and perform all such services in accordance with its terms.

WHEREAS, the COUNTY does hereby retain the PROFESSIONAL to furnish certain services in connection with:

**Leachate Treatment System**

NOW, THEREFORE, the COUNTY and the PROFESSIONAL, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, agree as follows:

**SECTION 1. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.** The PROFESSIONAL and the COUNTY shall furnish, each to the other, the respective services, information and terms as described in Exhibit "A" (Scope of Services), attached hereto and made a part hereof.

**SECTION 2. MODIFICATIONS.** This Agreement may only be amended or modified by mutual consent of the Parties, in writing, through the issuance of a modification to this Agreement or purchase order as appropriate.

**SECTION 3. TERM.** The services indicated in Exhibit "A" ("the Services") to be rendered by the PROFESSIONAL shall be commenced, subsequent to the execution of this Agreement, and the initial term is sixty (60) months.

This Agreement may be unilaterally renewed for two (2) additional twelve (12) month periods at the same prices, terms, and conditions contained herein. The County alone will determine whether or not this renewal option will be exercised based on its convenience and its best interest. The County will notify the PROFESSIONAL in writing no later than thirty (30) days prior to expiration of this Agreement of its decision to exercise this renewal option or options.

**SECTION 4. COMPENSATION AND PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL'S SERVICES.** The COUNTY shall pay the PROFESSIONAL compensation as detailed in Exhibit "B" (Compensation and Payment Method), attached hereto and made a part hereof. No additional fees or expenses will be paid.

A. Adjustment of compensation and contract time because of any major changes in the Services that may become necessary, or desirable shall be left to the absolute discretion of the COUNTY and supplemental agreements for same shall be entered into by the Parties in accordance herewith.

B. Any fee schedule adjustment requests will be submitted by Professional in writing to the County annually by November 1st each calendar year of the Agreement. Any increased price adjustment(s) must be accompanied by written justification attesting that the request is a bonafide cost increase to the Vendor/Contractor. Upon acceptance by the Chief Procurement Officer, the fee schedule adjustments will be effective on January 1st of each calendar year following the request and shall be accomplished by written amendment to this contract. The fee schedule increases will be based upon the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Items, Not Seasonally Adjusted (CPI-U) for the South Region (https://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast/news-release/consumerpriceindex_south.htm).

C. Other fee schedule increases due to circumstances beyond Professional's control shall be considered by the County if Professional provides justification for the increased costs.

D. The COUNTY shall pay the PROFESSIONAL in accordance with the Local Government Prompt Payment Act, §218.70, et seq., F.S., upon receipt of the PROFESSIONAL's invoice and written approval of same by the County Administrator or designee indicating that Services have been rendered in conformity with this Agreement.

**SECTION 5. DELAYS.** In the event there are delays on the part of the COUNTY as to the approval of any of the materials submitted by the PROFESSIONAL, or if there are delays occasioned by circumstances beyond the control of the PROFESSIONAL which delay the project schedule completion date, the COUNTY shall grant to the PROFESSIONAL, by "Letter of Time Extension," an extension of the contract time, equal to the aforementioned delays, provided there are no changes in compensation or scope of work except those changes that may be agreed upon between the parties hereto.

A. ***It shall be the responsibility of the PROFESSIONAL to ensure at all times that sufficient contract time remains within which to complete all services on the project.*** **In the event there have been delays that would affect the project completion date, the PROFESSIONAL shall submit a written request to the COUNTY that identifies the reasons for the delay and the amount of time related to each reason.** The COUNTY shall timely review the request and determine whether to grant all or part of the requested extension.

B. In the event the contract time expires, and the PROFESSIONAL has not requested, or if the COUNTY has denied an extension of the completion date, partial progress payments will be stopped on the date the contract time expires. No further payment for the project will be made until a time extension is granted or all work has been completed and accepted by the COUNTY.

**SECTION 6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROFESSIONAL.**

A. The PROFESSIONAL shall provide Project Schedule progress reports in a format acceptable to the COUNTY, either monthly or at intervals established by the COUNTY. The COUNTY is entitled at all times to be advised, at its request, of the status and details of the PROFESSIONAL's work. Coordination shall be maintained by the PROFESSIONAL with representatives of the COUNTY. Either party to the Agreement may request and be granted a conference.

B. The PROFESSIONAL shall maintain an adequate and competent professional staff within the State of Florida and may associate with specialists, sub-professionals, or other professionals, for the purpose

of its services hereunder, without additional cost to the COUNTY. Should the PROFESSIONAL desire to utilize other specialists, sub-professionals, or professionals in the performance of the work, the PROFESSIONAL shall be responsible for satisfactory completion of all Services, and the services provided by such specialists, sub-professionals, or other professionals in furtherance of the performance of this Agreement. The PROFESSIONAL may not assign or transfer work under this Agreement to other specialists, sub-professionals, or professionals prior written approval of the COUNTY. Only specialists, sub-professionals, or other professionals that have been pre-approved by an authorized representative of the COUNTY will be used by the PROFESSIONAL.

C. All final specifications documents, reports, studies, and other data prepared by the PROFESSIONAL shall bear the endorsement of a person in the full employ of the PROFESSIONAL and duly registered in the appropriate professional category.

D. The PROFESSIONAL shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work or payment therefor, and shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in the performance of this Agreement.

E. The PROFESSIONAL is employed to render a professional service only and payments the COUNTY makes to the PROFESSIONAL are compensation solely for such services rendered and recommendations made in carrying out the work. The PROFESSIONAL shall perform and complete all work in a workmanlike manner to the best of its abilities.

**SECTION 7. OWNERSHIP OF WORK PRODUCTS.** Subject to Section 456.057, Florida Statutes and applicable exemptions under Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, all reports prepared by the PROFESSIONAL or its specialists, sub-professionals or professionals under this Agreement shall be considered works made for hire and shall become the property of the COUNTY restricted to the terms of section 6 above; and the PROFESSIONAL shall provide to the COUNTY reproducible copies upon request, at direct printing costs, at any time during the period of this Agreement. The COUNTY has the right to visit the site for inspection of the reports of the PROFESSIONAL at any time. Unless changed by written agreement of the Parties, said site shall be the address of the firm. Records of costs incurred in the performance of this Agreement shall be maintained and made available upon request of the COUNTY at all times during the period of this Agreement and for five (5) years after final payment is made. The PROFESSIONAL shall furnish copies of these documents and records to the COUNTY upon request at direct printing cost.

A. Records of costs incurred include the PROFESSIONAL project accounting records, together with supporting documents and records of the PROFESSIONAL and all specialists, sub-professionals, and other professionals performing the Services, and all other records of the PROFESSIONAL and specialists, sub-professionals, and other professionals the COUNTY considers necessary for a proper audit of project costs.

B. The PROFESSIONAL shall furnish to the COUNTY at direct printing cost all final work documents, papers and letters, or any other such materials which may be subject to the provisions of Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, made or received by the PROFESSIONAL in conjunction with this Agreement. Failure by the PROFESSIONAL to provide such records shall be grounds for the County's immediate unilateral termination of the Agreement.

C. Professional will own and operate the leachate treatment system, and storage tanks and other equipment supplied by the Professional. Professional will maintain the ownership of the leachate treatment system, and storage tanks and other equipment supplied by the Professional at the end of the contract. Professional will demobilize the system and storage tanks and other equipment supplied by the Professional at the end of the contract at no cost to the County.

**SECTION 8. TERMINATION.** The COUNTY may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part at any time the interest of the COUNTY requires such termination.

1) If the COUNTY reasonably determines that the performance of the PROFESSIONAL is not satisfactory or that the PROFESSIONAL has violated any portion of this Agreement, the COUNTY shall have the option of:

   a) immediately terminating this Agreement and paying the PROFESSIONAL for work reasonably satisfactorily performed hereunder through the date of termination;

   b) notify the PROFESSIONAL of the deficiency or the violation, with a requirement that the deficiency be corrected within a specified time the COUNTY alone determines is reasonable, otherwise the Agreement will be so terminated at the end of such time, and the PROFESSIONAL shall be paid for work satisfactorily completed to such specified date.

2) If the COUNTY requires termination of this Agreement for reasons other than the PROFESSIONAL's unsatisfactory performance or violation of this Agreement, the COUNTY shall notify the PROFESSIONAL of such termination and specify the state of work at which time this Agreement is to be terminated, and the PROFESSIONAL shall be entitled to receive payment for all work reasonably satisfactorily performed hereunder through the date of termination. An allowance for satisfactory work in progress but not yet completed shall be made.

3) The PROFESSIONAL agrees to maintain all required licenses and permits for its operation in accordance with Local, State, and Federal laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. Should such licenses be revoked by the State, this Agreement shall terminate on the effective date of such revocation or ineligibility.

**SECTION 9.** All words used herein in the singular form shall extend to and include the plural. All words used in the plural form shall extend to and include the singular. All words used in any gender shall extend to and include all genders.

**SECTION 10.** The PROFESSIONAL shall procure and maintain professional liability insurance for protection from claims arising out of performance of professional services caused by a negligent error, omission, or act for which the insured is legally liable; such professional liability insurance will provide coverage in the amount of $1,000,000.00 /$3,000,000.00 min. per claim and in the aggregate. The PROFESSIONAL shall provide to the COUNTY proof of such insurance upon execution of this Agreement.

The professional shall provide proof of Excess/Umbrella Liability coverage with minimum limits of $1,000,000.00. Limits can be increased, based on contract.

Additionally, the PROFESSIONAL shall procure and maintain Commercial General Liability insurance in the

amount of $1,000,000/$2,000,000; $1,000,000 for Auto; and statutory amounts for Worker's Compensation coverage whenever PROFESSIONAL enters County property.

The PROFESSIONAL shall also cause specialists, sub-professionals and other professionals retained by PROFESSIONAL for performance of this Agreement to procure and maintain comparable insurance coverage. Before commencing the work, the PROFESSIONAL shall furnish the COUNTY a certificate(s) showing compliance with this paragraph. *Said certificate(s) shall provide that policy(ies) shall not be changed or canceled until 30 days prior written notice has been given to the COUNTY; per policy provisions and per the standard ISO ACORD insurance form; the PROFESSIONAL, specialists, sub-professionals and other professionals shall name Hernando County as additional insured as to general liability, including a waiver of subrogation and Certificate Holder must read: Hernando County Board of County Commissioners.*

**SECTION 11.** The PROFESSIONAL warrants that he has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the PROFESSIONAL, to solicit or secure this Agreement, and that he has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration, contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. It is understood and agreed that the term "fee" shall also include brokerage fee, however denoted. For the breach of violation of this section the COUNTY shall have the right to terminate this Agreement without liability and, at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift, or consideration.

**SECTION 12.** Unless otherwise required by law or judicial order, the PROFESSIONAL agrees that it shall make no statements, press releases, or publicity releases concerning this Agreement or its subject matter or otherwise disclose or permit to be disclosed any of the data or other information obtained or furnished in compliance with this Agreement, or any particulars thereof, during the period of this Agreement, without prior written approval by the COUNTY. Only data generated by PROFESSIONAL for work under this Agreement shall be the property of the COUNTY, subject to section 6 above.

**SECTION 13. Standards of Conduct - Conflict of Interest** - The PROFESSIONAL covenants and agrees that it and its employees shall be bound by the standards of conduct provided in Section 112.313, Florida Statutes as it relates to Services performed under this Agreement, which standards are hereby incorporated and made a part of this Agreement as though set forth in full. The PROFESSIONAL agrees to incorporate the provisions of this section in any subcontract into which it might enter in furtherance of performance under this Agreement.

**SECTION 14.** The COUNTY reserves the right to suspend, cancel, or terminate this Agreement without penalty in the event one or more of the PROFESSIONAL'S corporate officers is indicted or has a direct information issued against him for any crime arising out of or in conjunction with any Services being performed by the PROFESSIONAL for or on behalf of the COUNTY under this Agreement. The COUNTY further reserves the right to suspend the qualifications of the PROFESSIONAL to do business with the COUNTY upon any such indictment or direct information. In the event that any such person against whom any such indictment or direct information is brought shall have indictment or direct information dismissed or be found not guilty, such suspension on account hereof shall be immediately lifted by the County Administrator. The COUNTY also reserves the right to terminate or cancel this Agreement in the event the PROFESSIONAL shall be placed in either voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy or an assignment be made for the benefit of creditors. In the event of termination under this section, PROFESSIONAL shall immediately turn over to the COUNTY reproducible copies of all contemplated in section 6 above. The COUNTY shall compensate the PROFESSIONAL for its services rendered up to the time of any such termination in accordance with section 8 hereof.

**SECTION 15.** PROFESSIONAL shall indemnify and hold harmless the COUNTY and its authorized agents and employees from liabilities, damages, losses, and costs, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees, to the extent caused by the negligence, recklessness, or intentionally wrongful conduct of PROFESSIONAL and other persons employed or utilized by PROFESSIONAL in the performance of this Agreement.

This section shall survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to affect in any way the County's rights, privileges, and immunities as set forth in the Section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

**SECTION 16.** NOTICES. All notices given by one party to the other party under this Agreement must be delivered to the receiving party's address set forth on this Agreement either by hand, qualified courier, or e-mail and will be deemed received the day after it is transmitted. If the County is the recipient, the notice must be addressed to Chief Procurement Officer, Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, 15470 Flight Path Drive, Brooksville, FL 34604 or emailed to crossiter-smith@hernando.co.fl.us.

**SECTION 17.** The COUNTY reserves the right to audit the PROFESSIONAL's records that relate to equipment, treated leachate product or services provided and costs incurred in performance of this Agreement. Such records include, but are not limited to: all books, records, and memoranda of every description, pertaining to performance of this Agreement. The COUNTY further reserves the right to reproduce any of the aforementioned documents.

**SECTION 18.** Unless otherwise required by law, this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida. Venue for any dispute arising from this Agreement shall be litigated in the appropriate court in Hernando County, Florida, or the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida. IN ANY LITIGATION ARISING FROM THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES SHALL BEAR THEIR OWN COSTS AND ATTORNEYS' FEES AT ALL LEVELS OF THE LITIGATION. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, THE PARTIES HEREBY WAIVE THEIR RESPECTIVE RIGHTS TO A JURY TRIAL IN ANY LEGAL DISPUTE ARISING UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

**SECTION 19. E-VERIFY**- PROFESSIONAL and its agents must have a legally Authorized Workforce.

PROFESSIONAL is advised that the COUNTY has entered into an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) wherein the COUNTY will, in part, seek to promote the principles of ethical business conduct, prevent the knowing hiring of unauthorized workers through self-governance, and encourage voluntary reporting of the discovery of unauthorized workers to ICE (the IMAGE Agreement). Accordingly, by entering into this Agreement, PROFESSIONAL represents and warrants (a) that the PROFESSIONAL is in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including, but not limited to, the laws related to the requirement of an employer to verify an employee's eligibility to work in the United States, (b) that all of the PROFESSIONAL employees are legally eligible to work in the United States, and (c) that the PROFESSIONAL has actively and affirmatively verified such eligibility utilizing the Federal Government's Employment Verification Eligibility Form (I-9 Form).

A mere allegation of PROFESSIONAL's intent to use and/or current use of unauthorized workers may not be a basis to delay the COUNTY'S award of a contract to the PROFESSIONAL unless such an allegation has been determined to be factual by ICE pursuant to an investigation conducted by ICE prior to the date the contract is scheduled to be awarded by the COUNTY.

Legitimate claims of the PROFESSIONAL's use of unauthorized workers must be reported to both of the following agencies:

(i) The COUNTY'S Procurement Department at (352) 754-4020: and
(ii) ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE

In the event it is discovered that the PROFESSIONAL's employees are not legally eligible to work in the United States, the COUNTY may, in its sole discretion, demand that the PROFESSIONAL cure this deficiency within a specified time frame, and/or immediately terminate the contract without any cost or penalty to the COUNTY, and/or debar the PROFESSIONAL from bidding on all COUNTY contracts for a period up to twenty-four (24) months, and/or take any and all legal action deemed necessary and appropriate.

PROFESSIONAL is required to incorporate the following IMAGE Best Practices into its business and, when practicable, incorporate verification requirements into its agreements with subcontractors:

1. Use the Department of Homeland Security employment eligibility verification program (E-Verify) to verify the employment eligibility of all new hires.
2. Use the Social Security Number Verification Service and make good faith effort to correct and verify the names and Social SECURITY numbers of the current workforce.
3. Establish a written hiring and employment eligibility verification policy.
4. Establish an internal compliance and training program related to the hiring and employment verification process, to include, but not limited to, completion of Form I-9, how to detect fraudulent use of documents in the verification process, and how to use E-Verify and the Social Security Number Verification Service.
5. Require the Form I-9 and E-Verify process to be conducted only by individuals who received appropriate training and include secondary review as to each employee's verification to minimize the potential for a single individual to subvert the process.
6. Arrange for annual Form I-9 audits by an external auditing firm or a trained employee not otherwise involved in the Form I-9 process.
7. Establish a procedure to report to ICE credible information of suspected criminal misconduct in the employment eligibility verification process.
8. Establish a program to assess subcontractors' compliance with employment eligibility verification requirements. Encourage contractors to incorporate the IMAGE Best Practices contained in this Article and, when practicable, incorporate the verification requirements in subcontractor agreements.
9. Establish a protocol for responding to letters received from Federal and State government agencies indicating that there is a discrepancy between the agency's information and the information provided by the employer or employee; for example, "no match" letters received from the Social Security Administration.
10. Establish a tip line mechanism (inbox, e-mail, etc.) for employees to report activity relating to the employment of unauthorized workers, and a protocol for responding to employee tips.
11. Establish and maintain appropriate policies, practices, and safeguards against use of the verification process for unlawful discrimination, and to ensure that U.S. Citizens and authorized workers do not face discrimination with respect to hiring, firing, recruitment or referral for a fee because of citizenship status or national origin.
12. Maintain copies of any documents accepted as proof of identify and/or employment authorization for all new hires.

**SECTION 20. INTERPRETATION**

This Agreement shall not be construed for or against any party hereto, regardless of which party is wholly or partly responsible for its drafting.

**SECTION 21. SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS; ASSIGNMENT.** - The COUNTY and the PROFESSIONAL each binds itself and its partners, successors, executors, administrators and assigns to the other party and to the partners, successors, executors, administrators and assigns of such other party, in respect to all covenants of this Agreement. Except as above, neither the COUNTY nor the PROFESSIONAL shall assign, sublet, convey or transfer its interest in this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other.

**Section 22. TRAVEL.** No travel or per diem reimbursement expenses will be paid unless expressly authorized in this Agreement and approved by the COUNTY in writing in advance. All bills for any authorized travel expenses will be submitted and paid in accordance with the rates and procedures specified in Section 112.061, Florida Statutes, and in compliance with the COUNTY's policy for travel expenses.

**Section 23. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** The PROFESSIONAL shall be legally considered an independent contractor and neither the PROFESSIONAL, its servants, agents, employees, sub-contractors or sub-professionals shall, under any circumstances, be considered servants, agents, employees, sub-contractors or sub-professionals of the COUNTY; and the COUNTY shall at no time be responsible for any negligence or other wrongdoing by the PROFESSIONAL, its servants, agents, employees, subcontractors or sub-professionals.

**Section 24. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Agreement is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion will be deemed stricken, and such holding will not affect the validity of the remaining portion thereof.

**Section 25. WAIVER.** The delay or failure by either Party to exercise or enforce any of its rights under this Agreement will not constitute or be deemed a waiver of the Party's right thereafter to enforce those rights, nor will any single or partial exercise of any such right preclude any other or further exercise of that or any other right.

**Section 26. NO WARRANTY BY THE COUNTY.** Approval by the COUNTY of any of the PROFESSIONAL's work, including but not limited to written reports, or any work products furnished hereunder, shall not relieve the PROFESSIONAL of responsibility for the technical accuracy and adequacy of work under this Agreement. Neither the COUNTY's approval or acceptance, or payment for any services furnished under this Agreement shall be construed to operate as a waiver of any rights under this Agreement or any cause of action arising out of the performance of this Agreement.

**SECTION 27. USE OF CONTRACT BY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.**

A. At the option of the Vendor/Contractor, the use of this Contract may be extended to other governmental agencies, including the State of Florida, its agencies, political subdivisions, counties, and cities.
B. Each governmental agency allowed by the Vendor/Contractor to use this Contract shall do so independent of any other governmental entity. Each agency shall be responsible for its own purchases and shall be liable only for goods or services it ordered, received, and accepted. No

agency incurs any liability by virtue of any other government entity using this Contract.

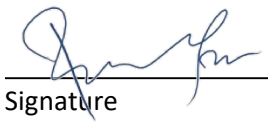
**SECTION 27.** This Agreement, including its Exhibits (Exhibit "A" Scope of Services; Exhibit "B" Compensation and Method of Payment; Exhibit "C" Anti-Human Trafficking Affidavit; Exhibit "D" Foreign Countries of Concern), attached hereto, and COUNTY Purchase Orders, all incorporated herein, represent the entire agreement between COUNTY and the PROFESSIONAL with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements, negotiations, or understandings between the Parties in any way relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

In the event of conflicts or inconsistencies, the documents shall be given precedence in the following order:

Agreement
Attachments:
Exhibit "A" Solicitation
Exhibit "B" Proposal
Exhibit "C" Compensation and Method of Payment
Exhibit "D" Anti-Human Trafficking Affidavit
Exhibit "E" Foreign Countries of Concern

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these present to be executed, the day and year first above written.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA



Signature

Jerry Campbell
Chairman

Pradeep Jain, President
Printed Name and Title

Date

Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC
Firm Name

Attest: Douglas A. Chorvat, Jr.

Title: Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

June 10, 2026
Date

EXHIBIT A - Solicitation

# LEACHATE TREATMENT SYSTEM

## 26-RFP01188/AP

County of Hernando

15470 Flight Path Drive

Brooksville, FL 34604

# County of Hernando
# Leachate Treatment System



Attachments:

A - 5 yr Leachate Generation Data (2020-2024)

B - App_I._Site_Layout

C - App_III._Leachate_Quality_Data

D - HCUD Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Policy Manual, Instructions & Application

E - Professional Services Agreement 11 6 25

F - Analytical Sample Results Jan 2026

G - Leachate Generated and Transported 2025

# 1. SOLICITATION

**ISSUED BY:**

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

Jerry Campbell, Chairman

Ryan Amsler, Vice Chairman

Steve Champion, Second Vice Chairman

John Allocco

Brian Hawkins

**SUBMIT BID OFFER TO:**

HERNANDO COUNTY

PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

via Hernando County's ePocurement Portal

Carla Rossiter-Smith

Chief Procurement Officer

SEALED OFFERS, FOR FURNISHING THE SERVICES, SUPPLIES OR EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED HEREIN WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT, VIA THE COUNTY'S ePocurement Portal UNTIL 10:00 a.m., LOCAL TIME ON Monday, April 13, 2026. NO BID OFFERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE ABOVE STIPULATED DATE AND TIME. THIS IS AN ADVERTISED SOLICITATION AND THE RESPONDING BIDDERS WILL BE PUBLICLY READ AT 15470 FLIGHT PATH DRIVE BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604 IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 10:00 a.m. ON Monday, April 13, 2026. PURSUANT TO FS 119.071 SEALED BIDS, PROPOSALS, OR REPLIES RECEIVED BY AN AGENCY PURSUANT TO A COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION ARE EXEMPT FROM INSPECTION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE AGENCY PROVIDES NOTICE OF AN INTENDED DECISION OR UNTIL THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER OPENING THE BIDS, PROPOSALS, OR FINAL REPLIES, WHICHEVER IS EARLIER.

Procurement Contact Information:

Alisa Pike, Procurement Manager, Special Projects & Vendor Relations

(352) 754-4020

alisap@co.hernando.fl.us

# 2. INTRODUCTION

## 2.1. ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida, is accepting Bids for:

SOLICITATION # 26-RFP01188/AP

FOR

Leachate Treatment System

Hernando County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting Vendors/Contractors that are active in installation, operation, and maintenance of leachate treatment system on County-owned landfill property.

Offers for furnishing the above will be received and accepted up to 10:00 a.m. (local time), Monday, April 13, 2026, via Hernando County's eProcurement Portal. Only electronic submittals through the eProcurement Portal shall be accepted by the County.

The Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County, Florida reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received in accordance with the bid documents and the Hernando County Procurement Ordinance.

Interested firms may secure the bid documents and plans and drawings and all other pertinent information by visiting the County's eProcurement Portal. For additional project information, please visit the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners Procurement Department at www.hernandocounty.us, or by submitting a question via the Q&A Tab in the County's eProcurement Portal.

Ex Parte Communication: Please note that to ensure proper and fair evaluation of a submittal, the County prohibits ex parte communication (i.e. unsolicited) initiated by the Proposer to the County Official or Employee prior to the time a Proposal decision has been made. Communication between Proposer and the County will be initiated by the appropriate County Official or Employee in order to obtain information or clarification needed to develop a proper and accurate evaluation of the Proposal. Ex Parte communication may be grounds for disqualifying the offending Proposer from consideration or award of the Proposal then in evaluation or any future Proposal.

All firms are hereby placed on formal notice that neither the County Commissioners nor candidates for County Commission, nor any employees from the Hernando County Government, Hernando County staff members, nor any members of the Professional Services Review Committee are to be lobbied, either

individually or collectively, concerning this project. Firms and their agents who intend to submit qualifications, or have submitted qualifications, for this project are hereby placed on formal notice that they are not to contact County personnel for such purposes as holding meetings of introduction, meals, or meetings relating to the selection process outside of those specifically scheduled by the County. Any such lobbying activities may cause immediate disqualification for this project.

The Procurement Department will post addenda on the County's ePROCUREMENT PORTAL to all questions in accordance with the Solicitation Instructions. It is the responsibility of prospective proposers to visit the ePROCUREMENT PORTAL to ensure that they are aware of all addenda issued relative to this solicitation.

**Pursuant to Florida Statutes 119.071 sealed bids, proposals, or replies received by an agency pursuant to a competitive solicitation are exempt from inspection until such time as the agency provides notice of an intended decision or until thirty (30) days after opening the bids, proposals, or final replies whichever is earlier.**

NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

To ensure that your bid is responsive, you are urged to request clarification or guidance on any issues involving this solicitation before submission of your response. Your point-of-contact for this solicitation is Alisa Pike Procurement Manager, Special Projects & Vendor Relations, Procurement Department, via the County's ePROCUREMENT PORTAL.

## 2.2. NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE SITE VISIT

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE:

A. A Non-Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held Monday, December 29, 2025 at 9:00 am at the NW Landfill located at 14450 Landfill Rd Brooksville, FL 34614. Representatives of Owner will be present to discuss the project. Bidders are recommended to attend and participate in the conference. **THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ONLY ONCE.**

B. A Site Visit will immediately follow the Pre-Bid Conference.

# 3. AWARD

UPON AWARD, PLEASE SUBMIT INVOICES TO:

Hernando County

Solid Waste

14450 Landfill Rd.

Brooksville, FL 34614

# 4. DEFINITIONS

## 4.1. DEFINITIONS

A. **"Addenda"** means a written or graphic instrument issued by the County prior to the execution of the Agreement which modify or interpret the Request for Proposals by additions, deletions, clarifications, corrections or other type of modifications. Addenda will become part of the Contract Documents when the Agreement is executed.

B. **"Agreement"** means a legal document, executed by the County and the Successful Proposer, which supersedes all prior negotiations, representations, or agreements, either written or oral. The Agreement, as amended from time to time, forms the Contract between County and the Successful Proposer setting forth the roles, responsibilities and obligations of the parties including, but not limited to, the performance of the Services and the basis of payment.

C. **"CFR"** means Code of Federal Regulations.

D. **"Contract Documents"** means the Request for Proposal, including Addenda to such, the Agreement, including Addenda to such, Proposer's Proposal, Scope of Services, Certificate(s) of Insurance, Notice of Intent to Award, Notice of Award, Proposer's Representation and Certification Form, Proposer's Hold Harmless Agreement, and any other documents mailed, e-mailed or otherwise transmitted to the Proposer prior to or after the submittal of their Proposal, and prior to or after Award, all of which are all to be treated as one in the form of the Contract Documents.

E. **"Contractor"** means the Successful Proposer, in the context of the Request for Proposals. In the context of the Contract Documents, Contractor means any company, firm, partnership, corporation, association, joint venture, or other legal entity permitted by law to perform the Services in the State of Florida. Such legal entity shall be the entity that enters into a written Agreement with the County to perform the Services for the Project described in the Contract Documents. The Contractor will have sole responsibility for the performance of the Services covered under an Agreement that is awarded in conjunction with this Request for Proposals.

F. **"County"** means Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, its officers, employees, agents and volunteers.

G. **"DEP"** means Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

H. **"F.A.C."** means Florida Administrative Code.

I. "**F.S**." means the Florida Statutes, the version in effect on the effective date of the Agreement, unless otherwise indicated.

J. **"GAC"** means Granular Activated Carbon.

K. **"Minor Irregularity"** means a variation from the Request for Proposals terms and conditions which does not affect the price or give the Proposer an advantage or benefit not enjoyed by the other Proposers or does not adversely impact the interests of the County.

L. **"Notice of Award"** means a written notice submitted by the County notifying the Successful Proposer that they have been awarded the project.

M. **"Notice of Intent to Award"** means a written notice submitted by the County notifying the Successful Proposer that the County intends to award the project to them contingent upon the Successful Proposer executing the Agreement and submitting any outstanding documents.

N. **"Notice to Proceed"** means a written notice issued by the County to the Successful Proposer fixing the date on which the Successful Proposer shall start the performance of the Services and the length of time for the completion of the Services, in accordance with the Contract Documents.

O. **"NPDES"** means National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

P. **"Owner"** means Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, its officers, employees, agents, and volunteers.

Q. **"Payment and Performance Bonds"** means the approved forms of security furnished by the Vendor/Contractor and his surety as a guaranty on the part of the Vendor/Contractor to execute the work in accordance with the terms of the contract and to pay all obligations associated with the project.

R. **"Pre-Proposal Meeting"** a meeting at which all Proposers gather to obtain additional information as to the scope of Services required under the Request for Proposals.

S. **"Proposal"** means the response to the Request for Proposals submitted by the Proposer.

T. **"Proposer"** means the entity that submits a Proposal to the County in response to the Request for Proposals. "Proposer" is used interchangeably with "Bidder" in this Request for Proposals.

U. **"Public Opening"** means the opening of the Proposals and the announcing of the Proposers who submitted a Proposal in response to the Request for Proposals in the presence of the public.

V. **"Recommendation of Award"** means a written notification sent by way of facsimile or electronic e-mail to those who submitted a Proposal in response to this Request for Proposals advising them of the County's decision for its selection of the Successful Proposer and its intent to award to that Proposer.

W. **"Procurement Selection Committee (PSC)"** is interchangeable with **"Evaluation Team"** and means County employees selected to evaluate and score the Proposals and Oral Presentation (if applicable) and recommend to the Board the Successful Proposer for an award.

X. **"Request for Qualifications"** or **"Request for Proposal"** means the contents of this solicitation and all supporting documents including Addendum to such, or other related information transmitted to Proposers.

Y. **"Responsible Proposer"** means a Proposer who shows that they have the capability in all respects to perform fully the Services outlined in the Request for Proposals, and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance.

Z. **"Responsive"** means a Proposal that conforms in all material respects to the Request for Proposals requirements.

AA. **"SCADA"** means Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition.

BB. **"Services"** means all supervision, labor, materials, equipment, supplies, Sub-Contractors, and incidental expenses required by the Proposer to execute and complete the requirements of the Services outlined in the Contract Documents, including those prescribed or implied.

CC. **"Sub-Contractor"** means an entity having a direct Contract with the Successful Proposer or with any other Sub- Contractor of the Successful Proposer who will provide product(s) or Services(s) for the performance of a part of the Services required under the Contract Documents under the sole control and direction of the Contractor.

DD. **"Successful Proposer"** means the Proposer who the County awards an agreement to based on County's evaluation of the Proposers' qualifications and pricing as hereinafter provided.

EE. **”Surety”** means any person, firm or corporation which is bound by Public Construction Bond and Payment Bond with and for the Vendor/Contractor and which engages to be responsible for his acceptable performance of the work and for payment of all debts pertaining thereto.

FF. **"Timeline"** means the list of critical dates and actions involved in the Request for Proposals.

GG. **"TSS"** means Total Suspended Solids.

# 5. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## 5.1. INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS:

A. It is the intent and purpose of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (County) that this Request for Proposals promotes competitive Proposals. It shall be the Proposer's responsibility to advise the Procurement Department, if any language, requirements, etc., or any combination thereof, inadvertently restricts or limits the requirements stated in this Request for Proposals to a single source. Such notification must be submitted in writing and must be received by the Procurement Department not later than ten (10) days prior to the Proposal due date.

B. All Proposals will be publicly announced and only the names of all Proposers shall be read aloud.

C. The Hernando County Board of County Commissioners is not responsible for expenses incurred prior to award. Hernando County officially distributes solicitation documents through the County's eProcurement Portal. Solicitation documents may be downloaded at NO COST using this electronic website. Copies of solicitation documents obtained from other sources are not considered official and must not be relied upon. Hernando County is not responsible for solicitation documents obtained from sources other than the County's eProcurement Portal via the Procurement Department. Only Consultant/Proposers who properly register and follow the project directly from the County's eProcurement Portal will receive addenda and other important information if issued.

D. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals, with or without cause, to waive technicalities, or to accept the Proposal which, in its sole judgment, best serves the interest of the County, or to award a Contract to the next most qualified Proposer if a successful Proposer does not execute a Contract within thirty (30) days after approval of the selection by the Board of County Commissioners or other competent authority.

E. Hernando County reserves the right, and the Chief Procurement Officer has absolute and sole discretion, to cancel a solicitation at any time prior to approval of the award by the Board of County Commissioners when such approval is required. The decision to cancel a solicitation cannot be the basis for a protest pursuant to the Hernando County Procurement Ordinance.

F. Any Proposal may be withdrawn until the date and time set above for the submission of the Proposals. Any Proposals not so withdrawn shall constitute an irrevocable offer, for a period of one hundred eighty (180) days, to provide to the County the services set forth in this Request for Proposals, or until one (1) or more of the Proposals have been awarded.

G. Costs of preparation of a response to this Request for Proposals are solely those of the Proposer. The County assumes no responsibility for any such costs incurred by the Proposer. The Proposer also agrees that the County bears no responsibility for any costs associated with any administrative or judicial proceedings resulting from the solicitation process.

H. Bidders/Proposers are hereby notified of the provisions of section 287.05701, Florida Statutes, as amended, that the County or the County's Board will not request documentation of or consider a Bidder's/Proposer's social, political, or ideological interests when determining if the Bidder/Proposer is responsible and may not give preference to a Bidder/Proposer based on the Bidder's/Proposer's social, political, or ideological interests.

## 5.2. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP:

A. Proposers shall not direct any queries or statements concerning their Proposal to the Hernando County Procurement Review Committee or County staff during the selection process, from the time of submission of a Proposal until the execution of a Contract. Any Proposer who initiates any discussions with staff in any manner other than that described below is subject to disqualification from this procurement.

B. All questions or concerns regarding this Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing, via the County's eProcurement Portal no later than December 31, 2025. When required the Procurement Department will issue an addendum to the Request for Proposals. The addendum will be available on the eProcurement portal for access by potential Proposers. Proposers are instructed not to contact the initiating division directly. No oral interpretation of this Request for Proposals shall be considered binding. The County shall be bound by information and statements only when such statements are written and executed under the authority of the Chief Procurement Officer.

C. This provision exists solely for the convenience and administrative efficiency of Hernando County. No Proposer or other third party gains any rights by virtue of this provision or the application thereof, nor shall any Proposer or third party have any standing to sue or cause of action arising therefrom.

D. If any Proposer contemplating submitting a Proposal for this solicitation is in doubt as to the true meaning of the terms, conditions, specifications or other solicitation documents or any part thereof, he may submit a request for clarification via the County's eProcurement Portal. Any interpretation of the terms, conditions and/or specifications, if made, will be only by Addendum duly issued. A copy of such Addendum will be posted to the County's eProcurement Portal. The COUNTY will not be responsible for any other explanation or interpretation of the proposed solicitation made or given prior to the award of the Contract.

E. Receipt of an Addendum to this solicitation by an Proposer must be acknowledged via the County's eProcurement Portal.

## 5.3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING PROPOSALS, REQUIREMENTS AND RULES FOR PROPOSALS:

A. The Proposal must name all persons or entities interested in the Proposal as principals. The Proposal must declare that it is made without collusion with any other person or entity submitting a Proposal pursuant to this RFP.

B. Sub-Contractors/Sub-Consultants: The Hernando County BOCC reserves the right to approve all Sub-Contractors and/or Sub-Consultants for this Contract. If Sub-Contractors are to be utilized, their names and references must be included within this initial Proposal. Responsibility for the performance of the Contract remains with the awarded Contractor exclusively. Sub-Contractors may be added to this Contract during the Contract period only with PRIOR WRITTEN PERMISSION from the Hernando County BOCC.

C. Proposer shall identify any work for this project that will be performed outside the United States of America. The company to perform the work, the country in which the work will be done, and the entity responsible for Quality Assurance/Quality Control for that work shall be identified.

D. Pricing shall be firm for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days or until award is made, whichever occurs first. Pricing shall include such amounts, as Proposer deems proper, for all labor, materials, equipment, Sub-Contractors, suppliers, insurance, overhead, profit and any other costs to provide the Services as noted in this Request for Proposals. Pricing shall include any sales or use taxes, if applicable.

E. Miscellaneous Requirements:

1. The Proposer/Contractor shall possess all the appropriate licenses, permits and tariffs required by various governmental agencies having jurisdiction over such services. A copy of all the required licenses will be required prior to award of a Contract, including certification of a Florida certified professional engineer.

2. The Hernando County BOCC or its authorized representative reserves the right to obtain all documentation deemed appropriate to verify the Contractor is meeting all regulations and specification requirements.

3. Any damage to facilities, equipment or property, due to purposeful actions, incompetence or negligence of the Contractor's personnel including Sub-Contractors that occurs, shall be responsibility of the Contractor. The Contractor shall reimburse the owner of the damaged facility, equipment or property for any cost to repair damage, beyond reasonable wear, caused by the Contractor.

4. The Provider's and their Sub-Contractor's personnel who perform the work in connection with this Contract shall meet the requirements of the Hernando County BOCC drug policy.

## 5.4. PROPOSAL FORMAT:

Proposals should be prepared as simply as possible and provide a straightforward, concise description of the proposed products and services to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. Attention should be given to accuracy, completeness, relevance, and clarity of content. Proposals must address the following questions and contain the following sections.

If multiple firms partner to submit a joint proposal, the proposal must identify one firm as the primary contact. This primary contact will be the primary point of contact throughout the procurement process and will be held responsible for the overall implementation of all partners included in the joint proposal.

**Proposal Section 1.0 — Introduction (Not to Exceed 2 Pages)**

This section will summarize in a brief and concise manner, the Proposer's understanding of the need as described in this RFP and a brief narrative summarizing how the proposer will address the need. The letter must name all of the persons authorized to make representations for the Proposer, including the titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of such persons. An official authorized to negotiate for the Proposer must sign the Letter of Transmittal.

**Proposal Section 2.0 — Ability, Capacity and Skill of Firm**

This section should identify the project principal, the project manager, key staff and subconsultants. Present a brief discussion regarding how the team's qualifications and experience relate to the specific project. Address the following:

- Project team: principal, project manager, key staff, and subconsultants; relevance of their qualifications and experience.
- Organizational structure: roles, lines of authority, and coordination; integration of subconsultants.
- Experience and workload: similar project experience, team experience working together, current and projected workload, familiarity with the project area.
- Staff availability: key staff involvement, on-site presence, and time commitment.
- Firm capabilities: equipment, facilities, financial capacity, vendor/parts relationships.
- Compliance and quality: regulatory compliance history and QA/QC processes.

**Proposal Section 3.0 — Proposer's methodology, technical ability and approach to meeting the needs and requirements as noted in the RFP.**

This section describes the unique approach, products, and services the firm proposes to meet the needs described in the RFP. Address the following:

- Project Understanding: Approach to managing leachate volumes and navigating applicable regulatory environments.

- Treatment System Design: Technologies, process flow diagrams, sizing, layout, installation, and integration with existing systems.
- Operations & Controls: Quality controls, O&M plan (monitoring, reporting, contingency planning), residuals handling/disposal, anticipated emissions/discharges.
- Contingency & Reliability: Spare parts strategy, expected downtime, maintenance scheduling, and system reliability measures.
- Technical Merit: Feasibility, innovation, and value engineering/cost-control strategies.
- Compliance: Approach to meeting effluent standards and performance requirements in Section 7.4.
- Implementation: Project plan and timeline, including permitting, installation, startup, and environmental/safety considerations.
- End-of-Contract Requirements: System removal, decommissioning, site restoration, and reconnection to existing systems.

**Proposal Section 4.0 — Proposer's experience similar to the needs and requirements noted in the RFP.**

This section describes the relevant experience the firm and key staff have with projects of similar scope and complexity.

- Experience of the key staff and firm with projects of similar scope and complexity
- Demonstrated success on past projects of similar scope and complexity
- Experience with Class I permit modifications and DEP/F.A.C. permitting
- Record of successful leachate or industrial wastewater treatment projects of similar size and complexity
- Proven compliance and operational performance history
- List Florida landfill projects within last 5 years
- Minimum 5 years' experience in leachate treatment
- Include three (3) letters of reference for projects of similar scope and complexity

**Proposal Section 5.0 — Project Schedule and Timeline**

This section describes the projected major milestones from award to fully functional.

- Major milestones: award, design, permitting, procurement, construction, testing, startup, full operation

## 5.5. PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS:

A. The Procurement Selection Committee (PSC) will review all Proposals received and establish a short list in order of preference of no fewer than three (3) Proposers deemed to be the most qualified to provide the service requested based on the Evaluation Criteria and the Proposal Evaluation Process. The county intends to award one (1) contract through this RFP process.

B. The Professional Services Review Committee will evaluate each Proposer's written Proposal and assign a consensus score for each evaluation criteria based upon consensus scoring. The score can be zero to the maximum value, as noted in the Evaluation Criteria Section.

C. The scores for all evaluation criteria for each Proposer will be summed and averaged by way of consensus scoring. For example, if a Proposer was given a perfect score, that Proposer would receive a total score of 100.

D. If any Proposer claims "Local Preference", that Proposer will be assigned an additional five (5) percent of the points to their overall evaluation consensus score.

E. Based on the overall total evaluation consensus score, the Proposers will then be ranked highest (favorable) to lowest (unfavorable).

F. Alternatively, the Board may direct the Committee or the Committee may decide to establish a "short list" of no fewer than three (3) Proposers without establishing a priority order. The Committee or the Board of County Commissioners may request oral presentations from the Proposers when establishing the priority list. If three (3) or fewer Proposals are received, all Proposers shall be included in the selection process as described below.

G. If short listed firms are elevated to the oral presentation evaluation phase. Each elevated firm will receive a Request for Clarification (RFC) letter seeking any necessary clarification of the initial proposal and presentation requirements.

H. The oral presentation score for each Proposer will be added to their Proposal evaluation score to arrive at a total overall consensus score. Proposers will once again be ranked highest (favorable) to lowest (unfavorable).

I. Once the short list of Proposers has been prepared by the Committee, either the Board or the Committee shall attempt to negotiate a Contract with the most qualified Proposer at compensation, which is fair, competitive and reasonable.

J. If the Committee or the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory Contract with the first Proposer, negotiations with that Proposer shall be terminated and the Committee or the Board shall attempt to negotiate a Contract with the next most qualified Proposer. If these negotiations are not successful, negotiations shall be terminated with the second Proposer and attempted with the third most qualified. If the Board or the Committee is not successful in negotiating a satisfactory Contract with any of the selected Proposers, the Board or the

Committee shall select additional Proposers in order of their qualifications and continue negotiations until an agreement is reached or if no agreement can be reached the Board, Committee, or Chief Procurement Officer may reject all Proposals and may re-advertise for new Proposals. All Contracts negotiated by the Committee shall be subject to final approval by the Board unless such approval is waived by the Board.

K. Hernando County shall be the sole judge of its own best interests, the Proposals, and the resulting agreement. An award may be made to the most responsive and responsible firm whose Proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the County. The County's decision shall be final and the County at all times reserves the right to:

1. Reject any or all Proposals or parts thereof
2. Issue subsequent Requests for Qualifications
3. Cancel the entire Request for Proposals
4. Remedy technical errors in the Request for Proposals
5. Negotiate with any, all, or none of the Proposers
6. Award a Contract to one or more Proposers or none at all
7. Accept other than the lowest price
8. Waive informalities and irregularities in Proposals

L. Hernando County reserves the right to consider historic information and fact, whether gained from the Proposer's Proposal, question and answer conferences, references, and/or other sources in the evaluation process.

M. The County reserves the right to conduct investigations as deemed necessary by the County to assist in the evaluation of any Proposal and to establish the responsibility, qualifications and financial ability of Proposers, Sub-Contractors, suppliers and other persons and organizations to perform and furnish the work in accordance with the Proposal documents.

N. It is the Proposer's sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories. Hernando County is under no obligation to solicit such information if the Proposer fails to include it within their Proposal submittal. Failure to provide requested information may result in the rejection of the Proposal, or a deduction in evaluation points at the sole discretion of the evaluation committee.

## 5.6. DEBRIEFING OF PROPOSERS:

Not later than thirty (30) calendar days after the award of contract, a Proposer may submit a written request to the applicable Contract administrator or procurement agent for a debriefing on the evaluation of their Proposal. The procurement agent will schedule a meeting with the Proposer for the debriefing. However, at the Proposer's request, the debriefing may be conducted via telephone conference or the Proposer may request a copy of the digital recording of the selection on CD for $15.00 fee. The debriefing shall include the following minimum information:

A. Key requirements of the solicitation.

B. The overall ranking of all Proposals.

C. The significant weaknesses or deficiencies in the Proposal in response to the requirements of the solicitation.

D. If requested, an explanation of the score received for each evaluation criteria will be provided, including costs, if applicable.

E. If applicable, a summary of the rationale for award.

F. Responses to any relevant questions of the Proposer.

## 5.7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

A. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Proposals, with or without cause, to waive technicalities, or to accept the Proposal which, in its sole judgment, best serves the interest of the County, or to award a Contract to the next most qualified Proposer if a successful Proposer does not execute a Contract within thirty (30) days after approval of the selection by the Board of County Commissioners or other competent authority.

B. Hernando County reserves the right, and the Chief Procurement Officer has absolute and sole discretion, to cancel a solicitation at any time prior to approval of the award by the Board of County Commissioners when such approval is required. The decision to cancel a solicitation cannot be the basis for a protest pursuant to the Hernando County Procurement Policy.

C. The County reserves the right to request clarification of information submitted and to request additional information of one or more applicants.

D. The Contract that the County intends to use for award is attached for reference. Any exceptions to this standard Contract must be clearly indicated by return of the standard Contract with the Proposal, with exceptions clearly noted. The County has the right to require the selected Proposer to sign the attached Contract or to negotiate revisions to the Contract language prior to execution of the Contract, at its sole discretion.

E. Information regarding Committee scheduling and Board approvals are available by calling the Procurement Department at (352) 754-4020.

F. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted Consultant/Firm list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a Proposal on a Contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a Proposal on a Contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit Proposals on leases of real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a Consultant/Firm, supplier, Sub-Contractor or Consultant/Firm under a Contract with any public entity and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Florida Statute Section 287.017, for CATEGORY TWO (2) for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted Consultant/Firm list.

G. The County's performance and obligation to pay under this Contract is contingent upon an annual appropriation for its purpose by the Board of County Commissioners.

H. Proposers shall list all proposed Sub-Contractors to be used, regardless of racial or gender grouping. Include names, addresses, phone numbers, type of work Sub-Contracted (discipline, trade or commodity) and proposed percentage of work.

## 5.8. INDEMNITY, SAFETY AND INSURANCE PROVISIONS:

A. INDEMNITY, SAFETY AND INSURANCE PROVISIONS:

1. Indemnity: To the fullest extent permitted by Florida law, the Vendor/Contractor covenants, and agrees that it will indemnify and hold harmless the County and all of the County's officers, agents, and employees from any claim, loss, damage, cost, charge, attorney's fees and costs, or any other expense arising out of any act, action, neglect, or omission by Vendor/Contractor during the performance of the contract, whether direct or indirect, and whether to any person or property to which the County or said parties may be subject, except that neither the Vendor/Contractor nor any of its subcontractors, or assignees, will be liable under this section for damages arising out of injury or damage to persons or property directly caused or resulting from the sole negligence of the County or any of its officers, agents, or employees.

2. Protection of Person and Property:

   a. The Vendor/Contractor will take all reasonable precautions for, and will be responsible for initiating, maintaining and supervising all programs relating to the safety of all persons and property affected by, or involved in, the performance of his operations under this Contract.

   b. The Vendor/Contractor will take all reasonable precautions to prevent damage, injury or loss to: (a) all persons who may be affected by the performance of his operations, including employees; (b) all materials and equipment; and (c) all property at or

surrounding the work site. In an emergency affecting the safety of persons or property, the Vendor/Contractor will act, with reasonable care and discretion, to prevent any threatened damage, injury or loss.

B. MINIMUM INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS: Vendor/Contractor shall procure, pay for and maintain at least the following insurance coverage and limits. Said insurance shall be evidenced by delivery to the County of a certificate(s) of insurance executed by the insurers listing coverage and limits, expiration dates and terms of policies and all endorsements whether or not required by the County, and listing all carriers issuing said policies. The insurance requirements shall remain in effect throughout the term of this Contract.

1. Workers' Compensation: As required by law:

   a. State.....Statutory

   b. APPLICABLE FEDERAL.....Statutory

   c. EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY.....Minimum:

      i. $1,000,000.00 each accident

      ii. $1,000,000.00 by employee

      iii. $1,000,000.00 policy limit

   d. Exemption per Florida Statute 440: If a Vendor/Contractor has less than three (3) employees and states that they are exempt per Florida Statute 440, they must provide an exemption certificate from the State of Florida. Otherwise, they will be required to purchase Workers' Compensation Insurance and provide a copy of Workers Compensation Insurance.
   https://www.myfloridacfo.com/Division/WC/Employer/Exemptions/

2. General Liability: Comprehensive General Liability including, but not limited to, Independent Contractor, Contractual Premises/Operations, and Personal Injury covering the liability assumed under indemnification provisions of this Contract, with limits of liability for personal injury and/or bodily injury, including death.

   a. Coverage as follows:

      i. EACH OCCURRENCE.....$2,000,000.00

      ii. GENERAL AGGREGATE .....$5,000,000.00

      iii. PERSONAL/ADVERTISING INJURY.....$1,000,000.00

      iv. PRODUCTS-COMPLETED OPERATIONS AGGREGATE..$2,000,000.00 Per Project Aggregate (if applicable)

b. ALSO, include in General Liability coverage for the following areas based on limits of policy, with:

i. FIRE DAMAGE (Any one (1) fire.....$50,000.00

ii. MEDICAL EXPENSE (Any one (1) person)..... $5,000.00

3. Additional Insured: Vendor/Contractor agrees to endorse Hernando County as an additional insured on the Comprehensive General Liability. The Additional Insured shall read "Hernando County Board of County Commissioners." Proof of Endorsement is required.

4. Waiver of Subrogation: Vendor/Contractor agrees by entering into this Contract to a Waiver of Subrogation for each required policy herein. When required by the insurer, or should a policy condition not permit Vendor/Contractor to enter into a pre-loss agreement to waive subrogation without an endorsement, then Vendor/Contractor aggress to notify the insurer and request the policy be endorsed with a Waiver of Transfer of Rights of Recovery Against Others, or its equivalent. This Waiver of Subrogation requirement shall not apply to any policy, which includes a condition specifically prohibiting such an endorsement, or voids coverage should Vendor/Contractor enter into such an agreement on a pre-loss basis.

5. AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY: Comprehensive automobile and truck liability covering any auto, all owned autos, scheduled autos, hired autos, and non-owned autos. Coverage shall be on an "occurrence" basis. Such insurance to include coverage for loading and unloading hazards. Coverage as follows:

a. COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (CSL)..... $1,000,000.00

b. BODILY INJURY (Per Person)..... $1,000,000.00

c. BODILY INJURY (Per Accident)..... $1,000,000.00

d. PROPERTY DAMAGE.....$1,000,000.00

6. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY (if applicable it will be noted below separately):

7. BUILDERS RISK INSURANCE (if applicable it will be noted below separately):

8. CRIME PREVENTION – BOND (if applicable it will be noted below separately):

9. EXCESS/UMBRELLA LIABILITY (if applicable it will be noted below separately):

10. POLLUTION LIABILITY (if applicable it will be noted below separately):

11. SUBCONTRACTORS (if applicable): All subcontractors hired by said Contractor are required to provide Hernando County Board of County Commissioners a Certificate of Insurance with the same limits required by the County as required by the Contract. All subcontractors are required to name Hernando County Board of County Commissioners as additional insured and provide a Waiver of Subrogation in regards to General Liability.

12. RIGHT TO REVISE OR REJECT: County reserves the right, but not the obligation, to revise any insurance requirement, not limited to limits, coverages and endorsements, or to reject any insurance policies which fail to meet the criteria stated herein. Additionally, County reserves the right, but not the obligation, to review and reject any insurer providing coverage due of its poor financial condition or failure to operating legally.

C. EACH INSURANCE POLICY SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS BY ENDORSEMENT TO THE POLICY:

1. Vendor/Contractor agrees to provide County with a Certificate of Insurance evidencing that all coverages, limits and endorsements required herein are maintained and in full force and effect, and the Certificate of Insurance shall provide a minimum thirty (30) day endeavor to notify, when available by Vendor/Contractor's insurer. If the Vendor/Contractor receives a non-renewal or cancellation notice from an insurance carrier affording coverage required herein, or receives noticed that coverage no longer complies with the insurance requirements herein, Vendor/Contractor agrees to notify the County by email within five (5) business days with a copy of the non-renewal or cancellation notice, or written specifics as to which coverage is no longer in compliance. The Certificate Holder shall read: **Hernando County Board of County Commissioners, Attention: Human Resources/Risk Department, 15470 Flight Path Drive, Brooksville, Florida 34604**

2. Companies issuing the insurance policy or policies shall have no recourse against the County for payment of premiums or assessments for any deductibles which all are the sole responsibility and risk of Vendor/Contractor.

3. The term "County" or "Hernando County" shall include all authorities, boards, bureaus, commissions, divisions, departments, and offices of the County and individual members, employees and agents thereof in their official capacities and/or while acting on behalf of Hernando County.

4. The policy clause "Other Insurance" shall not apply to any insurance coverage currently held by County, to any such future coverage, or to County's Self-Insured Retentions of whatever nature.

D. The Vendor/Contractor shall be required to provide a current Certificate of Insurance to the County prior to commencement of services.

E. Bidders may, at the County's request, be required to provide proof that their firm meets the preceding insurance requirements, by submission of a Certificate Of Insurance coverage(s), prior to award of the Contract.

F. Failure of the Owner to demand such certificates or other evidence of full compliance with these insurance requirements or failure of the Owner to identify a deficiency from evidence provided shall not be construed as a waiver of Vendor/Contractor's obligation to maintain such insurance.

## 5.9. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS (continued)

**EXCESS/UMBRELLA LIABILITY**: Vendor/Contractor shall provide proof of Excess/Umbrella Liability coverage with minimum limits of $1,000,000.00. Limits can be increased, based on contract.

## 5.10. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS (continued)

**POLLUTION LIABILITY**

Include exposures of pesticides/insecticides and herbicides.

Limits as follows:

No less than $1,000,000.00 Per Occurrence

$1,000,000.00 Aggregate

$5,000.00 Medical Payment

Additional Insured and Waiver of Subrogation required.

## 5.11. MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS:

The Vendor/Contractor will keep adequate records and supporting documents applicable to this contract. Said records and documentation will be retained by the Vendor/Contractor for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of final payment on this contract. The County and its authorized agents shall have the right to audit, inspect and copy records and documentation as often as the County deems necessary during the period of this contract and a period of five (5) years after completion of contract performance; provided however, such activity shall be conducted only during normal business hours. The County during the period of time defined by the preceding sentence, shall also have the right to obtain a copy of and otherwise inspect any audit made at the direction of the Vendor/Contractor as concerns the aforesaid records and documentation. Pursuant to Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes, Vendor/Contractor shall comply with the Florida Public Records' laws and shall:

A. Keep and maintain records required by the public agency to perform the service.

B. Upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, provide the public agency with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in this chapter or as otherwise provided by law.

C. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the Contract term and following completion of the Contract if the Contractor does not transfer the records to the public agency.

D. Upon completion of the Contract, transfer, at no cost, to the public agency all public records in possession of the Contractor or keep and maintain public records required by the public agency

to perform the service. If the Contractor transfers all public records to the public agency upon completion of the Contract, the Contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If the Contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Contract, the Contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the public agency upon request from the public agency's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the information technology systems of the public agency.

E. Failure to comply with this section shall be deemed a breach of the Contract and enforceable as set forth in Section 119.0701, Florida Statutes.

**IF THE VENDOR/CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO THE VENDOR/CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE CUSTODIAN OF PUBLIC RECORDS AT 352-754-4020, PURCHASING@HERNANDOCOUNTY.US, WITH AN OFFICE LOCATED AT 15470 FLIGHT PATH DRIVE, BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604.**

## 5.12 PROTESTS AND LOBBYING

Any Proposer who protests the Request for Proposals or Award or Intent to Award, must file with the County a notice of protest and formal written protest in compliance with the Hernando County Procurement Manual, Section 22, which can be found at https://www.hernandocounty.us/home/showpublisheddocument/10509/638893844081930000. Failure to timely file such documents will constitute a waiver of proceedings. Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed by, or failure to post the bond or other security in strict accordance with, the Hernando County Procurement Manual, Section 22, shall constitute a waiver of protest proceedings.

## 5.13 CONE OF SILENCE

This Solicitation falls under the Hernando County Procurement Ordinance 93-16. All Vendors and Bidders, and representatives of same, are hereby placed on formal notice that a lobbying cone of silence period shall commence upon issuance of this Solicitation until the Board selects the successful Bidder. If Board is not involved in selecting the successful Bidder, the cone of silence period commences upon issuance of Solicitation and concludes upon award of Contract. During the cone of silence period, no Vendor/Bidder, or representative of the Vendor/Bidder, to this Solicitation may seek information or clarification or in any way contact any official or employee of the County concerning this Solicitation with the exception of the Chief Procurement Officer, County Attorney, or an individual specifically designated in this document for dissemination of information. A copy of any written communication concerning this Solicitation shall be filed with the Procurement Department and shall be made available to the public upon request. A violation of the cone of silence renders any award voidable at the discretion of the Chief Procurement Officer with approval from the Board and may subject the

Vendor/Bidder who violated it to debarment. Nothing in the Ordinance prevents a Vendor/Bidder or representative from taking part in a public meeting concerning the Solicitation.

Neither the members of the Board nor candidates for County Commission, nor any employees from the Hernando County Government, Hernando County staff members, nor any members of the evaluation team are to be lobbied, either individually or collectively, before or during the cone of silence concerning this project. Vendors/Bidders, or representatives of same, who intend to submit bids, or have submitted bids, for this project are hereby placed on formal notice that they are not to contact County personnel for such purposes as holding meetings of introduction, meals, or meetings relating to the selection process outside of those specifically scheduled by the County. Any such lobbying activities may cause immediate disqualification of this project.

## 5.14 E-VERIFY

A. Consultant/Firm is advised that the County has entered into an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) wherein the County will, in part, seek to promote the principles of ethical business conduct, prevent the knowing hiring of unauthorized workers through self-governance, and encourage voluntary reporting of the discovery of unauthorized workers to ICE (the IMAGE Agreement). Accordingly, by submitting your Bid/Proposal, Consultant/Firm represents and warrants (a) that the Consultant/Firm is in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including, but not limited to, the laws related to the requirement of an employer to verify an employee's eligibility to work in the United States, (b) that all of the Consultant/Firm employees are legally eligible to work in the United States, and (c) that the Consultant/Firm has actively and affirmatively verified such eligibility utilizing the Federal Government's Employment Verification Eligibility Form (I-9 Form).

B. A mere allegation of Consultant/Firm's intent to use and/or current use of unauthorized workers may not be a basis to delay the County's award of a Contract to the Consultant/Firm unless such an allegation has been determined to be factual by ICE pursuant to an investigation conducted by ICE prior to the date the Contract is scheduled to be awarded by the County.

C. Legitimate claims of the Consultant/Firm's use of unauthorized workers must be reported to both of the following agencies:

    1. The County's Procurement Department at (352) 754-4020: and

    2. ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) at 1-866-DHS-2-ICE

D. In the event it is discovered that the Consultant/Firm's employees are not legally eligible to work in the United States, then the County may, in its sole discretion, demand that the Consultant/Firm cure this deficiency within a specified time frame, and/or immediately terminate the Contract without any cost or penalty to the County, and/or debar the Consultant/Firm from bidding on all County Contracts for a period up to twenty-four (24) months, and/or take any and all legal action deemed necessary and appropriate.

E. Consultant/Firm is required to incorporate the following IMAGE Best Practices into its business and, when practicable, incorporate verification requirements into its agreements with Sub-Contractors:

1. Use the Department of Homeland Security employment eligibility verification program (E-Verify) to verify the employment eligibility of all new hires.
2. Use the Social Security Number Verification Service and make good faith effort to correct and verify the names and Social Security numbers of the current workforce.
3. Establish a written hiring and employment eligibility verification policy.
4. Establish an internal compliance and training program related to the hiring and employment verification process, to include, but not limited to, completion of Form I-9, how to detect fraudulent use of documents in the verification process, and how to use E-Verify and the Social Security Number Verification Service.
5. Require the Form I-9 and E-Verify process to be conducted only by individuals who received appropriate training and include secondary review as of each employee's verification to minimize the potential for a single individual to subvert the process.
6. Arrange for annual Form I-9 audits by an external auditing firm or a trained employee not otherwise involved in the Form I-9 process.
7. Establish a procedure to report to ICE credible information of suspected criminal misconduct in the employment eligibility verification process
8. Establish a program to assess Sub-Contractors' compliance with employment eligibility verification requirements. Encourage Consultant/Firms to incorporate the IMAGE Best Practices contained in this Article and, when practicable, incorporate the verification requirements in Sub-Contractor agreements.
9. Establish a protocol for responding to letters received from Federal and State government agencies indicating that there is a discrepancy between the agency's information and the information provided by the employer or employee; for example, "no match" letters received from the Social Security Administration.
10. Establish a tip line mechanism (inbox, e-mail, etc.) for employees to report activity relating to the employment of unauthorized workers, and a protocol for responding to employee tips.
11. Establish and maintain appropriate policies, practices, and safeguards against use of the verification process for unlawful discrimination, and to ensure that U.S. Citizens and authorized workers do not face discrimination with respect to hiring, firing, recruitment or referral for a fee because of citizenship status or national origin.

12. Maintain copies of any documents accepted as proof of identify and/or employment authorization for all new hires.

## 5.15..... LOCAL PREFERENCE:

A. Purpose and Findings: These provisions apply to purchases using Formal Bid, Request for Proposals or Quotes. The County annually spends significant dollars on purchasing personal property, materials, and services, and in constructing improvements to real property or existing structures. The dollars used in making those purchases are derived, in large part, from taxes, fees and utility revenues paid by businesses located within Hernando County, and the County Commission has determined that funds generated in the community should, to the extent possible, be placed back into the local economy. Therefore, the County Commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to give a preference to local businesses in making such purchases whenever the application of such a preference is reasonable in light of the dollar-value of Bids and quotes received in relation to such expenditures.

B. Application:

1. In bidding for, or letting Contracts for procurement of supplies, materials, equipment, and services, as described in the procurement policies of the County, the Board of County Commissioners may give a preference to local businesses in making purchases or awarding Contracts in an amount not to exceed:

    a. Five (5%) percent of the local business' total Bid price if the cost differential does not exceed $10,000.00 for procurement activities in amounts over $50,000.00.

2. The total Bid price shall include not only the base Bid price, but also all alterations to the base Bid price resulting from alternates which were both part of the Bid and actually purchased or awarded by the Board of County Commissioners.

3. In the case of requests for Proposals or qualification, letters of interest, or other solicitations and competitive negotiations and selections in which objective factors are used to evaluate the responses, local businesses shall be assigned five (5%) percent of the total evaluation points.

C. Definitions:

1. Local Vendor means a person or business entity which has maintained a permanent place of business with full-time employees within Hernando County for a minimum of twelve (12) months prior to the date Bids or Quotes were received for the purchase or Contract at issue, and which generally provides from such permanent place of business the kinds of goods or services solicited, and which at the time of the solicitation fully complies with the local vendor eligibility.

2. Local Vendor Affidavit of Eligibility shall accompany the Quotation or Bid submittal in order to be considered valid and shall include, but not be limited to, the following current information:

    a. A physical business and location address.

    b. Proof of payment of real property tax due to Hernando County.

    c. A copy of the firm's most recent annual corporation report to the Florida Division of Corporations.

    d. Any additional information necessary to verify local status.

D. Competitive Bids/Quotes:

1. The County reserves the exclusive right to compare, contrast and otherwise evaluate the qualifications, character, responsibility and financial qualifications of all persons, firms, partnerships, companies or corporations submitting formal Bids or formal quotes in any procurement for goods and services when making an award in the best interests of the County.

E. Exemptions:

1. Purchases resulting from exigent emergency conditions where any delay in completion or performance would jeopardize public health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of the County, or where in the judgment of the County the operational effectiveness or a significant County function would be seriously threatened if a purchase was not made expeditiously.

2. Purchases with any sole source supplier for supplies, materials, or other equipment.

3. Purchases made through cooperative purchasing arrangements utilized by the Procurement Department as identified in the Procurement Policy.

4. Purchases that are funded in whole or in part by assistance from any federal, state, or local agency where the program guidelines do not permit local preference.

5. Purchases with an estimated cost of less than $10,000.00 or less.

F. Appeal:

1. If an application for a "Local Contractor/Vendor" designation is denied, the applicant may appeal such decision to the County Administrator for review and further consideration.

## 5.16. CONTRACT AWARD

Award will be made at the earliest possible Hernando County BOCC Board meeting subsequent to the evaluation process. It is incumbent on Proposers to contact the Procurement Department to determine

the successful Proposer(s). This Request for Proposals is issued in accordance with and shall be governed by the provisions of the County's Procurement Policy.

## 5.17 CONTRACT TERM/RENEWAL:

The Contract resulting from this Request for Proposal shall commence effective upon execution by both parties and extend for a period of sixty **(60) months**. The Contract may be renewed unilaterally for two **(2)** additional **twelve (12) month** periods. If any such renewal results in changes in the terms and conditions, such changes shall be reduced to writing as an amendment to this Contract and such amendment shall be executed by both parties. Renewal of the Contract shall be subject to appropriation of funds by the Board of County Commissioners, satisfactory performance.

## 5.18 SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT:

When the County gives a Notice of Intent to Award to the Successful Proposer, it will be accompanied by an unsigned Agreement. Within ten (10) calendar days thereafter the Successful Proposer shall execute and deliver to the County the Agreement, along with a Certificate of Insurance that shows policies, limits and other conditions in compliance with that outlined in the Request for Qualifications. Upon award and execution of the Agreement by the County, one (1) executed copy of the Agreement shall be delivered to the Successful Proposer.

## 5.19 RESPONSIVENESS OF THE PROPOSAL AND DISQUALIFICATION:

A. A responsive Proposal is one that complies with and conforms to the requirements of this Request for Proposal. A Proposal requiring changes to any portion of this Request for Proposal may be considered non-responsive. A Proposal that fails to comply with the criteria outlined in this Request for Proposal may be deemed non-responsive.

B. A Proposal may be rejected if found to be conditional, irregular, incomplete or not in conformance with the requirements and instructions contained herein, such as, but not limited to: (1) failure to strictly comply with and satisfactorily address the prerequisite criteria, (2) failure to provide the required forms or other documentation, (3) incomplete, indefinite or ambiguous language, (4) failure to submit the information needed to evaluate the Proposals based on the Evaluation Criteria, and (5) improper and/or undated signatures.

C. Other conditions, which shall cause rejection of the Proposal, include, but are not limited to: (1) an individual firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof, under the same or different names submitting (as the Proposer) more than one Proposal, (2) evidence of collusion among Proposers, (3) obvious lack of experience or expertise to perform the Services, (4) failure to perform or meet financial obligations for previous Contracts, (5) falsification of any form required by the County, (6) evidence that a Proposer has a financial interest in another firm who is submitting a Proposal, (7) not having a valid and appropriate local, state or federal

certifications and/or licenses necessary to perform the Services, or (8) an investigation by the Chief Procurement Officer finds the Proposer delinquent on a previously awarded Contract or in litigation with a Hernando County involving a previously awarded Contract.

D. County may conduct such investigations as County deems necessary to assist in the evaluation of any Proposal and to establish the responsibility, qualifications and financial ability of the Proposer and their proposed sub-Contractors. County reserves the right to seek clarifications or request any information deemed necessary for proper evaluation of Proposals from all Proposers. Failure to provide requested information may result in rejection of the Proposal.

## 5.20..... List of Proposers

A list of Proposers will be posted on the County's eProcurement Portal within two (2) business days after the Public Opening date. The list of Proposers can also be obtained by contacting the Contact Person. The County will not provide a list of Proposers by telephone.

## 5.21..... EXAMINATION OF PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS:

A. It is the responsibility of each Proposer before submitting a Proposal, to (1) examine the Solicitation Documents thoroughly, (2) consider Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations that may affect cost, progress, performance or furnishing of the Work, (3) study and carefully correlate Proposer's observations with the Solicitation Documents, and (4) notify the Contact Person of all conflicts, errors or discrepancies in the Solicitation Documents prior to submitting a formal Proposal.

B. Before submitting a Proposal, it shall be the Proposer's responsibility to submit to the County a request for any additional information and data which pertains to the Project covered under this Request for Proposal which the Proposer deems necessary to develop their Proposal for performing the Services in accordance with the terms and conditions noted herein.

C. The submission of a Proposal in response to this Request for Proposal shall be considered as a representation that the Proposer; (1) has carefully investigated all conditions that affect, or may at some future date, affect the performance of the Services covered by this Request for Proposal, (2) is fully informed concerning conditions to be encountered, the character, quality and quantity of the Services to be performed and the work product to be furnished, and (3) is familiar with what is required to perform the Services covered by this Request for Proposal. The contents of the Proposer's Proposal shall become a Contractual obligation if the Proposer is awarded the Contract. Failure to accept these obligations in a Contractual agreement shall result in cancellation of the Award.

## 5.22 ADDENDA

Any Addenda issued in relation to this Request for Proposal will be posted on the County's eProcurement Portal. It is the Proposer's responsibility to be aware of any addenda that might have bearing on their Proposal before their Proposal is due. The Proposer will acknowledge receipt of any and all such addenda on the Proposal Pricing Form. In the event a Proposer fails to acknowledge receipt of such addenda, their Proposal will be construed as though they have received such addenda, and the submission of a Proposal will constitute acknowledgement of the receipt of same. All addenda will become a part of the Proposal Documents and Proposer will be bound by such, whether or not received by Proposer.

## 5.23 MODIFICATION/WITHDRAW OF PROPOSAL:

A. Proposers have the right to modify or withdraw their Proposal without cause or without liability whatsoever at any time prior to the stipulated submittal date and time. Such requests must be made to County in writing.

B. Modified or withdrawn Proposals may be resubmitted in accordance with the instructions in this Request for Proposal prior to the stipulated submittal date and time. If applicable, any changes in pricing shall be so worded as not to reveal the pricing that was noted in the original Proposal.

C. No Proposal shall be modified or withdrawn by the Proposer after the Proposal Due Date.

## 5.24 LESS THAN TWO (2) PROPOSALS RECEIVED:

If less than two (2) Proposals are received, the County may negotiate the best terms and conditions with that Proposer or reject the Proposal and re-solicit the Services.

## 5.25 REVIEW OF PROPOSER'S FACILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS:

After the Request for Proposal due date and prior to award of an Agreement, the County reserves the right to perform or have performed an on-site review of Successful Proposer's facilities and qualifications, as well as documentation provided in their Proposal. This review will serve to verify data and representations submitted by the Proposer and may be used to determine whether the Proposer is qualified and experienced and has the resources to perform the Services outlined in the Request for Proposal. The review may also serve to verify whether the Proposer has adequate financial capability to meet the County's requirements. Should the County determine that the Proposals, or subsequent documentation submitted by the Proposer, has material misrepresentations or that the size or nature of any of Successful Proposer's resources are not adequate to ensure satisfactory performance, or ascertains other bases for concern as to the Successful Proposer's ability to perform the Services, the County has the right to reject their Proposal and not make an award.

## 5.26. FINANCIAL STRENGTH:

Prior to award of a Contract, the County reserves the right to request financial information from the Successful Proposer to assist the County in further review of that Proposer's capabilities. Financial information provided shall be for the current and previous two years, to include, but not be limited to a financial statement prepared by a Certified Public Accountant (i.e., balance sheet and income and cash flow statements) or a Supplier Qualifier Report prepared by Dun & Bradstreet.

## 5.27. CLARIFICATIONS

Before Contract award, the County reserves the right to seek clarification from the Proposer with whom County is contemplating award to properly evaluate their Proposal. Failure to provide requested information may result in not making such award to the Proposer.

## 5.28. PUBLIC RECORDS ACT:

A. **Proposers should make themselves familiar with Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes concerning availability of public records. Thirty (30) days after opening the proposals or final replies, or notice of an intended decision, whichever is earlier, Proposals shall be made available for public viewing. Proposals and associated Proposal Documents may be viewed during normal business hours (which is Monday through Friday; 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at 15470 Flight Path Drive, Brooksville, Florida. Copies of the Proposals and associated Documents are available for a charge of fifteen cents ($0.15) per page, plus cost of copying.**

B. Florida law generously defines what constitutes a public record and, under Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes, all Proposals are to be made available by County for viewing by the general public. If a Proposer believes that their Proposal contains information that should not be a public record, the Proposer shall clearly segregate and mark that information as “Confidential" and describe in writing the grounds for claiming exemption from the public records law, including the specific statutory citation for such exemption.

C. Any documents given to the Successful Proposer as part of performing the Services covered under this Request for Proposal shall not be sold or distributed to third parties without the written consent of County. The Successful Proposer will be required to retain a copy of these documents for a minimum of five (5) years from completion of the Agreement. All documents, papers, letters, e-mails or other material made or received by the Successful Proposer in conjunction with the Services, unless exempt from Section 24(a) of Article I of the Florida Constitution and Section 119.071 of the Florida Statutes, shall be made available for public access. Should the Successful Proposer refuse to allow such access, County has the unilateral right to cancel the Award.

D. Proposers should consult an attorney as to their duties under the records and information laws (Section 257.36 of the Florida Statutes) and public records laws (Chapter 119 of the Florida Statutes) of the State of Florida. Significant judicial sanctions can be imposed for violation of these Statutes.

## 5.29 JOINT VENTURES:

A. Two (2) or more firms may submit a Proposal under a joint venture arrangement. Joint ventures shall be considered as a single entity in the evaluation of a Proposal. That is, the traits of individual firms shall be blended in arriving at an overall Proposal evaluation score and oral interview score for the joint venture.

B. A firm who submits a Proposal under a joint venture arrangement may satisfy the technical certification requirements outlined in this Request for Proposal as the prime Proposer through one or more of the firms comprising the Joint Venture. The Joint Venture shall at a minimum comply with the following additional requirements:

1. The Joint Venture shall, in its own name, be registered with the State of Florida Division of Corporations prior to submittal of a Proposal.
2. Each individual Firm comprising the Joint Venture shall, in its own name, be qualified in their respective areas of expertise prior to submittal of a Proposal.
3. Full compliance with the requirements set forth above is required, as well as properly documented compliance with any other certification and additional requirements set forth in the Request for Proposal.

## 5.30 PAYMENT

Payment to Proposer/Contractor by Electronic Payment Solution: ACH (Direct Deposit): If the Vendor/Contractor is enrolled in the County's ACH electronic payment solution, all payments will be made using the direct deposit which may or may not include a pre-note transaction. The Vendor/Contractor's bank account information will remain confidential to the extent provided by law and necessary to make direct deposit payments. Once the County has approved payment, an electronic remittance advice will be sent to the Vendor/Contractor via e-mail.

## 5.31 SCRUTINIZED COMPANIES PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES, SECTIONS 287.135 AND 215.473

Proposer/Contractor must certify that the company is not participating in a boycott of Israel. Proposer/Contractor must also certify that Vendor/Contractor is not on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, and not on the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List or has been engaged in

business operations in Cuba or Syria. Subject to limited exceptions provided in State law, the County will not contract for the provision of goods or services with any scrutinized company referred to above. Vendor/Contractor must submit the certification form included as an attachment to this solicitation. Submitting a false certification shall be deemed a material breach of contract. The County shall provide notice, in writing, to the Vendor/Contractor of the County's determination concerning the false certification. The Vendor/Contractor shall have five (5) days from receipt of notice to refute the false certification allegation. If such false certification is discovered during the active contract term, the Vendor/Contractor shall have ninety (90) days following receipt of the notice to respond in writing and demonstrate that the determination of false certification was made in error. If the Vendor/Contractor does not demonstrate that the County's determination of false certification was made in error, then the County shall have the right to terminate the contract and seek civil remedies pursuant to Section 287.135, Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time.

## 5.32 FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF CONCERN:

Pursuant to 287.138 F.S., effective July 1, 2023, the County may not enter into contracts which grants the Vendor/Contractor access to personal identifiable information if: a) the Contractor is owned by the government of a Foreign Country of Concern (as defined by the statute): (b) the government of a Foreign Country of Concern has a controlling interest in the entity; or (c) the Contractor is organized under the law of or has its principal place of business in a Foreign Country of Concern. Bidders/Proposers must provide a response to the section titled VENDOR QUESTIONNAIRE, Foreign Countries of Concern included in this solicitation.

Beginning July 1, 2025, a governmental entity is prohibited from extending or renewing a contract with an entity meeting the requirements (a), (b) or (c) above, if the contract would give such entity access to an individual's personal identifying information.

# 6. EVALUATION PHASES

## 6.1. Phase I: Written Evaluation

| No. | Evaluation Criteria | Scoring Method | Weight (Points) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Ability, capacity, and skill of firm**<br><br>Identify the project principal, the project manager, key staff and subconsultants. Present a brief discussion regarding how the team's qualifications and experience relate to the specific project.<br><br>• Project team: principal, project manager, key staff, and subconsultants; relevance of their qualifications and experience.<br><br>• Organizational structure: roles, lines of authority, and coordination; integration of subconsultants.<br><br>• Experience and workload: similar project experience, team experience working together, current and projected workload, familiarity with the project area.<br><br>• Staff availability: key staff involvement, on-site presence, and time commitment.<br><br>• Firm capabilities: equipment, facilities, financial capacity, vendor/parts relationships.<br><br>• Compliance and quality: regulatory compliance history and QA/QC processes.<br><br>Note: Organization charts and graphs depicting your capacity may be included. | Points Based | 25<br>*(25% of Total)* |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | **Proposer's methodology, technical ability and approach to meeting the needs and requirements as noted in the RFP.**<br><br>For the project and services outlined in the RFP document, describe how you plan to accomplish the following:<br><br>• Project Understanding: Approach to managing leachate volumes and navigating applicable regulatory environments.<br><br>• Treatment System Design: Technologies, process flow diagrams, sizing, layout, installation, and integration with existing systems.<br><br>• Operations & Controls: Quality controls, O&M plan (monitoring, reporting, contingency planning), residuals handling/disposal, anticipated emissions/discharges.<br><br>• Contingency & Reliability: Spare parts strategy, expected downtime, maintenance scheduling, and system reliability measures.<br><br>• Technical Merit: Feasibility, innovation, and value engineering/cost-control strategies.<br><br>• Compliance: Approach to meeting effluent standards and performance requirements in Section 7.4.<br><br>• Implementation: Project plan and timeline, including permitting, installation, startup, and environmental/safety considerations.<br><br>• End-of-Contract Requirements: System removal, decommissioning, site restoration, and reconnection to existing systems. | Points Based | 25<br>*(25% of Total)* |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | **Experience Similar to the needs and requirements noted in the RFP.**<br><br>Describe relevant experience:<br><br>○ Experience of the key staff and firm with projects of similar scope and complexity<br><br>○ Demonstrated success on past projects of similar scope and complexity<br><br>○ Experience with Class I permit modifications and DEP/F.A.C. permitting<br><br>○ Record of successful leachate or industrial wastewater treatment projects of similar size and complexity<br><br>○ Proven compliance and operational performance history<br><br>○ List Florida landfill projects within last 5 years<br><br>○ Minimum 5 years' experience in leachate treatment<br><br>○ Include three (3) letters of reference for projects of similar scope and complexity | Points Based | 25<br>*(25% of Total)* |
| 4. | **Project Schedule and Timeline**<br><br>This section describes the projected major milestones from award to fully functional.<br><br>• Major milestones: award, design, permitting, procurement, construction, testing, startup, full operation | Points Based | 5<br>*(5% of Total)* |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | **Pricing Proposal**<br><br>The maximum points assigned for pricing is twenty (20) points. The lowest cost pricing proposal will receive all twenty (20) points. The next lowest pricing will receive a portion of the twenty (20) points, and so on. For example, each pricing proposal will be evaluated by taking the lowest pricing proposal price and dividing it by the price of the pricing proposal being evaluated. The result is then multiplied by the weight of the price factor for the price score. The formula is:<br><br>Lowest Price = $100.00 =$100.00 = 20 points<br><br>2nd Lowest Price = $120.00 =$100.00/$120.00 = 0.833 x 20 points =16.67 points<br><br>3rd Lowest Price = $145.00 =$100.00/$145.00 = 0.689 x 20 points = 13.79 points | Points Based | 20<br>*(20% of Total)* |

## 6.2. Phase 2: Oral Presentation Evaluation (if required)

| No. | Evaluation Criteria | Scoring Method | Weight (Points) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Presentation Addresses the needs and requirements noted in the Request for Oral Presentations Letter** | Points Based | 10<br>*(50% of Total)* |
| 2. | **Presentation Team Demonstration of Knowledge, Experience, and Teamwork** | Points Based | 10<br>*(50% of Total)* |

# 7. SCOPE AND SPECIFICATIONS

## 7.1. SCOPE

The County is seeking proposals from qualified firms to supply, permit, install, operate, and maintain a leachate treatment system on County-owned landfill property.

The selected firm shall be responsible for all costs associated with the permitting, installation, and operation of the treatment system, including equipment, utilities, compliance monitoring, and regulatory reporting.

The system will be located at:

NW Solid Waste Landfill
14450 Landfill Road, Brooksville, FL 34614
Hernando County, Florida

**Compensation:**
The County will compensate the Contractor based solely on the verified volume of leachate treated, at the unit rate proposed. The County will not be responsible for operational, maintenance, or regulatory compliance costs incurred by the Contractor.

Proposers shall provide a unit price per gallon of treated leachate using the following stepwise tiered structure:

**Tier 1:** 0 – 3,000,000 gallons - Base Bid Price of treated leachate

**Tier 2:** 3,000,001 – 4,500,000 gallons - Discounted price for all gallons between 3,000,001 and 4,500,000 of treated leachate

**Tier 3:** 4,500,001+ Further discounted price applies to all gallons above 4,500,001 gallons of treated leachate

Example Calculation

Assume total monthly verified treated flow = 5,000,000 gallons:

- Tier 1: 3,000,000 × $1.00 = $3,000,000
- Tier 2: 1,500,000 × $0.95 = $1,425,000
- Tier 3: 500,000 × $0.90 = $450,000

**Total Monthly Payment = $4,875,000**

**Leachate Volume Basis:**
The NW Landfill currently generates approximately 3 million gallons of leachate annually based on recent data. For purposes of proposal preparation, system sizing, and pricing, Proposers shall assume a

planning estimate of up to 3.5 million gallons per year to account for potential variability due to rainfall, landfill expansion, and operational conditions.

Although 3.5 million gallons are used as a design and pricing assumption, payment will be made only for actual verified gallons treated.

Ownership of the treatment system during the contract period shall remain with the Contractor. Upon contract completion, the Contractor shall remove or decommission the system and restore the site per County-approved closure requirements.

## 7.2. Background information and desired outcome(s).:

The NW Landfill currently generates approximately 3 million gallons of leachate annually, with average daily flows estimated between 8,000 and 8,200 gallons per day.

The site includes an existing forcemain connection to a local wastewater treatment facility; however, that disposal method was discontinued due to elevated ammonia concentrations. The site no longer accepts raw leachate for treatment or disposal.

Currently, leachate is stored in a 163,000-gallon tank and transported via truck to an off-site treatment facility. The County seeks to reduce operational and transport costs through the installation of an on-site leachate treatment system while ensuring environmentally responsible and compliant treatment and disposal.

The County recognizes that annual leachate generation varies based on precipitation, active cell area, waste composition, and operational conditions. Therefore, for design and pricing purposes, the County has established a planning basis of 3.5 million gallons per year.

This planning volume reflects a conservative estimate that accommodates potential increases in leachate generation due to rainfall variability, future cell development, or other operational factors. The approach is intended to ensure that treatment system capacity and pricing structures are sufficient to manage peak or above-average flows without surcharge or interruption.

## 7.3. Scope of Work: Specifications

A. Supply and install or construct a leachate treatment system appropriately sized and configured to accommodate current and projected leachate flows and characteristics.

1. The proposed system must be compatible with current method of operations at NW Landfill.

B. Provide a detailed project timeline from award to full operational status, including:

1. major milestones for permitting,
2. configuration,
3. installation,
4. testing,
5. startup.

C. Bear all costs related to:

1. Class I Permit Modification,
2. equipment procurement,
3. system install or construction,
4. site preparation,
5. utilities
6. connection to the County's existing leachate infrastructure,
7. ownership of system.

D. Operate and maintain the system in full compliance with applicable regulations.

E. Treat landfill leachate to meet or exceed performance standards detailed below in section 7.4. Scope of Work: Performance Standards

1. Monthly testing of treated leachate is required
2. Monthly testing reports must be submitted to the County electronically

F. Flow metering and submission of monthly data logs or reports is required.

G. Provide an operational plan for handling of residuals

H. Provide an operational emergency or contingency plan relating to equipment failure, power outages or inclement weather

I. Bill the County based on gallons of leachate treated

J. At contract end, remove or decommission the system and restore the site as well as the connection(s) to existing systems.

A. A closure decommission plan is required

K. Provide educational information to Landfill staff on system operation and impact to Landfill operations as applicable and needed.

**Please note:**

K. The County is not responsible for any operational cost such as water, electric, compliance monitoring, or regulatory reporting.

L. The County may accept any residual materials which may be generated due to the operation of the leachate treatment system.

## 7.4. Scope of Work: Performance Standards

A. The treatment system must meet the following minimum effluent quality parameters (or more stringent if required by permit or discharge point):

| Parameters | Recommended Target before discharge |
|---|---|
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) | ≤ 30 mg/L |
| Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) | ≤ 250 mg/L or 80-90% removal |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS) | ≤ 30 mg/L (lower solids will provide better Metals Removal) |
| Ammonia Nitrogen | ≤ 10 mg/L Max (protects nitrifying bacteriain the plant) Final Discharge may require breakpoint chlorination, air stripping, or ion exchange if necessary |
| pH Range | 6.0-8.5 S.U. adjust to 6.5–8.5 prior to discharge; holding time to prevent excursions per 40 CFR 401.17 guidance |
| Total Nitrogen (TN) | ≤ 20 mg/L Max |

B. Heavy Metals (see Attachment D "Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Policy Manual" Chemical precipitation may be necessary during the clarification and polishing filtration process.

C. NPDES Pretreatment Standards: If the POTW has a pretreatment program, the leachate facility must comply with 40 CFR Part 403.

D. Florida DEP Requirements: May require additional monitoring or permitting under F.A.C. Chapter 62-625 (Pretreatment Requirements).

E. Other requested Items:

A. SCADA Monitoring and Recording for important parameters and process
2. Composite Sampling Required when discharging

NOTES:

1. Ammonia and Total Nitrogen: High ammonia commonly requires dedicated ammonia removal: nitrification/denitrification biological systems sized for ammonia load, or physical/chemical options (air stripping with subsequent scrubbing, ion exchange) for very high strengths

2. Heavy metals: Precipitation (hydroxide or sulfide) followed by clarification and polishing filtration is standard; design for speciation and influent concentration to size chemical dosing and solids handling
3. Online instrumentation: continuous pH, flow, and preferably online ammonia analyzer; turbidity or TSS probes for solids control.

4. Sludge and chemical residuals: design dewatering, storage, and disposal for chemical precipitates, biosolids from biological treatment, and spent media/regenerants
(ion exchange brines, GAC media if any such items)

5. Safety and corrosion: materials resistant to ammonia, chlorides, and low pH; ventilation for confined spaces.

6. Downstream corrosion protection for receiving lift station(s).

## 7.5. Operational Emergency and Contingency Plan

**A. System Reliability and Performance**

The Contractor shall ensure the continuous and reliable operation of the leachate treatment system consistent with all applicable regulations and performance standards outlined in this RFP. The system shall be designed and maintained to minimize unplanned downtime and prevent unauthorized discharge or leachate accumulation beyond safe storage capacity.

**B. Definition of Technical Malfunction**

A technical malfunction shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Mechanical or electrical failure of treatment system components

2. Instrumentation failure resulting in data loss or improper process control;

3. Power outage or utility disruption affecting system performance;

4. Process upset or chemical imbalance causing treated effluent to fall outside required quality parameters;

5. Any other event that prevents the system from operating as designed or achieving required effluent standards.

C. Notification and Reporting

The Contractor shall immediately (same day) notify the County of any technical malfunction that affects or could affect system performance or discharge quality.

A written electronic incident report shall be submitted within 24 hours of discovery and include:

1. Estimated duration and volume of leachate affected;

2. Immediate corrective actions taken;

3. Proposed timeline for full restoration; and

4. Any regulatory notifications made or required.

5. The Contractor shall maintain a log of all malfunctions, repairs, and corrective actions.

D. Emergency and Contingency Measures

In the event of a malfunction that prevents treatment of leachate, the Contractor shall:

1. Initiative corrective action and repairs

2. Coordinate with the County for temporary leachate diversion or hauling if necessary

3. Repairs must be initiated as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 48 hours, unless otherwise approved by the County

4. Resume normal operations within 5 days from the date of malfunction notification while ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations.

5. The County may require the Contractor to implement system upgrades or redundancies at the Contractor's expense if persistent reliability issues occur.

## 7.6. Scope of Work: County Responsibilities

A. Provide access to the landfill property.

B. Upon receipt of specifications, County will coordinate activities relating to site selection, site preparation, infrastructure modification work and other, as applicable.

C. Supply raw leachate via existing infrastructure.

C. Coordinate site access and logistics.

E. Review of monthly testing of treated leachate

F. Review monthly reports and invoices.

G. Pay for verified volumes of treated leachate at the agreed unit price.

H. Select the firm to perform the work and pay for any necessary design work required for the project.

## 7.7. Minimum Qualifications

A. Experience in Florida solid waste management facilities configuration and operations

B. Minimum of 5 years' experience in Florida leachate treatment system and leachate recirculation system configuration, permitting and management

C. Experience with Florida leachate generation rates, data and treatment options

D. Experience with Class I permit modifications and DEP/F.A.C. permitting

# 8. PRICING PROPOSAL

**STEPWISE TIERED STRUCTURE (INCLUSIVE OF PROFIT, ALL OPERATIONAL, MAINTENANCE AND COMPLIANCE COSTS).**

The County notes that the NW Landfill generates an average of approximately 3 million gallons of leachate annually based on recent historical data. Proposers shall provide a unit price per gallon of treated leachate using the following stepwise tiered structure:

| Line Item | Custom | Description | Unit of Measure | Unit Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | TIER 1: Base price per | 0 gallons - 3,000,000 gal of treated leachate | gal | $0.18 |
| 2 | TIER 2: Discounted | TIER 2: 3,000,001 – 4,500,000 gal of treated leachate | gal | $0.15 |
| 3 | TIER 3: Further | TIER 3: 4,500,001+ gal of treated leachate | gal | $0.11 |

# 9. [SUSTAINABLE LANDFILL SOLUTIONS LLC] RESPONSE DOCUMENT REPORT

## 9.1. RFP No. 26-RFP01188/AP
## Leachate Treatment System

RESPONSE DEADLINE: April 13, 2026 at 10:00 am

Report Generated: Friday, June 5, 2026

## 9.2. Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC Response

### *9.2.1. CONTACT INFORMATION*

**Company:**
Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC

**Email:**
pjain@sustainablelandfills.com

**Contact:**
Pradeep Jain

**Address:**
13340 NW 8th Ave
NEWBERRY, FL 32669

**Phone:**
(352) 283-4742

**Website:**
N/A

**Submission Date:**
Apr 3, 2026 2:25 PM (Eastern Time)

### *9.2.2. ADDENDA CONFIRMATION*

Addendum #1
*Confirmed Feb 23, 2026 4:18 PM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #2
*Confirmed Feb 23, 2026 4:18 PM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #3
*Confirmed Feb 23, 2026 4:18 PM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #4
*Confirmed Feb 23, 2026 4:18 PM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #5
*Confirmed Feb 23, 2026 4:18 PM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #6
*Confirmed Feb 23, 2026 4:18 PM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #7
*Confirmed Mar 15, 2026 11:12 AM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #8
*Confirmed Mar 25, 2026 1:02 PM by Pradeep Jain*

Addendum #9
*Confirmed Apr 3, 2026 12:40 PM by Pradeep Jain*

### 9.2.3. QUESTIONNAIRE

*Company Information*

Vendor Registration*
***Pass***

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- Vendor-Registration-Form.pdf

Vendor-Registration-Form.pdf

W9 Form *
***Pass***

Please upload your company's W9 information

fw92025signed.pdf

Upload Florida Permit
***Pass***

**Bidders who are non-resident corporations** shall furnish to the Owner a duly certified copy of their permit to transact business in the State of Florida along with the bid. Failure to submit this evidence or qualification to do business in the State of Florida may be basis for rejection of the bid.

certificate_2026.pdf

Local Preference.
***Pass***

If you are claiming local preference, please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- LOCAL_VENDOR_AFFIDAVIT_OF_E...

Local_vendor_affidavit_notarized.pdf

Annual_report.pdf

*Authorizations*

Authorized Representative*

*Pass*

Are you fully authorized to bind this company, or corporation.

Yes

Authorized Signatory/Negotiator*

*Pass*

Please provide the information to support the statement below:

The Firm/Contractor represents that the following persons are authorized to sign and/or negotiate contracts and related documents to which the Firm/Contractor will be duly bound:

Name(s)

Title(s)

Email(s)

Phone(s)

Business Address(s)

Pradeep Jain, President, Email: pjain@sustainablelandfills.com; phone: 352-283-4742; Address: 13340 NW 8th Ave Newberry FL 32669

Corporate Affidavit*

*Pass*

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- Corporate_Affidavit_(4).pdf

Company_affidavit-Notarized.pdf

*Confirmations*

Confirm 180 days proposal validity*

*Pass*

I hereby propose to furnish the goods or services specified in the Request for Proposals at the prices or rates quoted in my Proposal. I agree that my RFP will remain firm for a period of up to one hundred and eighty (180) days in order to allow the County adequate time to evaluate the Proposals. Furthermore, I agree to abide by all conditions of the Proposal.

Confirmed

### Hernando County Does Not Accept Exceptions to the Contract?*

*Pass*

I have carefully examined the Request for Proposals (RFP), Instructions to Proposers, General and/or Special Conditions, Specifications, RFP Proposal and any other documents accompanying or made a part of this invitation.

I certify that all information contained in this RFP is truthful to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that I am a duly authorized to submit this RFP on behalf of the Consultant/Firm as its act and deed and that the Consultant/Firm is ready, willing and able to perform if awarded the Contract.

I further certify that this RFP is made without prior understanding, agreement, connection, discussion, or collusion with any person, firm or corporation submitting a RFP for the same product or service; no officer, employee or agent of the Hernando County BCC or of any other Proposer interested in said RFP; and that the undersigned executed this Proposer's Certification with full knowledge and understanding of the matters therein contained and was duly authorized to do so.

I further certify that having read and examined the specifications and documents for the designated services and understanding the general conditions for Contract under which services will be performed, does hereby propose to furnish all labor, equipment, and material to provide the services set forth in the RFP.

The undersigned further declares that the "work" will be performed in strict accordance with such requirements.

NO EXCEPTIONS ALLOWED:

I understand that Hernando County does not accept any Exceptions to the Sample Contract.

Yes

### Drug Free Workplace Certification *

*Pass*

I have read and attest to, in accordance with Florida Statute 287.087, hereby certify that Proposer:

Publishes a written statement notifying that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace named above, and specifying actions that will be taken against violations of such prohibition.

Informs employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the firm's policy of maintaining a drug free working environment, and available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug use violations.

Gives each employee engaged in providing commodities or contractual services that are under proposal a copy of the statement specified above.

Notifies the employees that as a condition of working on the commodities or contractual services that are under proposal, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employer of any conviction of, pleas of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of Chapter 893, or of any controlled substance law of the State of Florida or the United States, for a violation occurring in the workplace, no later than five (5) days after such conviction, and requires employees to sign copies of such written statement to acknowledge their receipt.

Imposes a sanction on, or requires the satisfactory participation in, a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program, if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.

Makes a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug free workplace through the implementation of the Drug Free Workplace Program.

"As a person authorized to sign this statement, I certify that the above named business, firm or corporation complies fully with the requirements set forth herein".

Please Confirm that you have read and attest to this Drug Free Workplace Certificate

Confirmed

### VENDOR CERTIFICATION REGARDING SCRUTINIZED COMPANIES*

*Pass*

Section 287.135, Florida Statutes, prohibits agencies from contracting with companies for goods or services of $1,000,000.00 or more, that are on either the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List, the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector Lists which are created pursuant to s. 215.473 F.S., or the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, created pursuant to s. 215.4725 F.S., or companies that are engaged in a boycott of Israel or companies engaged in business operations in Cuba or Syria.

As the person authorized to bind on behalf of respondent, I hereby certify that the company identified above in the section entitled "Respondent Vendor Name" is not listed on either the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in Sudan List or the Scrutinized Companies with Activities in the Iran Petroleum Energy Sector List, or the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List. I further certify that the company is not engaged in a boycott of Israel. I understand that pursuant to section 287.135, Florida Statutes, the submission of a false certification may subject company to civil penalties, attorney's fees, and/or costs and does not have business operations in Cuba or Syria.

I have read and attest that I confirm the above is acknowledged.

Confirmed

### E-Verify Certification *

*Pass*

**Vendor/Contractor acknowledges and agrees to the following:**

Vendor/Contractor shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system, in accordance with the terms governing use of the system, to confirm the employment eligibility of:

All persons employed by the Vendor/Contractor during the term of the Contract to perform employment duties within Florida; and

All persons, including subcontractors, assigned by the Vendor/Contractor to perform work pursuant to the Contract with the department.

Confirmed

### Affidavit of Non Collusion and of Non-Interest of Hernando County Employees*

*Pass*

Affidavit of Non Collusion and of Non-Interest of Hernando County Employees

Certification that Vendor/Contractor affirms that the bid/proposal presented to the Owner is made freely, and without any secret agreement to commit a fraudulent, deceitful, unlawful or wrongful act of collusion.

I have read and attest that I am the Vendor/Contractor in the above bid/proposal, that the only person or persons interested in said proposal are named therein; that no officer, employee or agent of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) or of any other Vendor/Contractor is interested in said bid/proposal; and that affiant makes the above bid/proposal with no past or present collusion with any other person, firm or corporation.

Please confirm that you have read and attest to Affidavit of Non Collusion and of Non-Interest of Hernando County Employees.

Confirmed

### FOREIGN COUNTRIES OF CONCERN 287.138*

*Pass*

287.138 F.S., prohibits agencies from contracting with companies which grant the Vendor/Contractor access to personal identifiable information if: a) the Contractor is owned by the government of a Foreign Country of Concern (as defined by the
statute): (b) the government of a Foreign Country of Concern has a controlling interest in the entity; or (c) the Contractor is organized under the law of or has its principal place of business in
a Foreign Country of Concern.

As the person authorized to bind on behalf of respondent, I hereby certify that the company identified above in the section entitled "Respondent Vendor Name" is not owned, controlled or organized under the law of a Foreign Country of Concern as identified in Section 287.138,
Florida statutes. I understand that the submission of a false certification may subject company to civil penalties, attorney's fees, and/or costs.

I have read and attest that I confirm the above is acknowledged.

Confirmed

### Sworn Statement 287.133 (3) (a)*

*Pass*

I have read and attest that I understand that a "public entity crime" as defined in Paragraph 287.133 (1)(g), Florida Statutes, means a violation of any public entity or with an agency or political subdivision of any other state or of the United States, including, but not limited to, any proposal or contract for goods or services to be provided to any public entity or an agency or political subdivision of any other state or of the United States and involving antitrust, fraud, theft, bribery, collusion, racketeering, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation.

I have read and attest that I understand that "convicted" or "conviction" as defined in Paragraph 287.133 (1)(b), Florida Statutes, means a finding of guilt or a conviction of a public entity crime, with or without an adjudication of guilt, in any Federal or State trial court of record relating to charges brought by indictment or information after July 1, 1989, as a result of a jury verdict, non-jury trial, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.

I have read and attest that I understand that an "affiliate" as defined in Paragraph 287.133 (1)(a), Florida Statutes, means:

A. A predecessor or successor of a person convicted of a public entity crime; or

B. An entity under the control of any natural person who is active in the management of the entity and who has been convicted of a public entity crime. The term "affiliate" includes those officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, and agents who are active in the management of an affiliate. The ownership by one (1) person of shares constituting a controlling interest in another person, or a pooling of equipment or income among persons when not for fair market value under an arm's length agreement, shall be a prima facie case that one (1) person controls another person. A person who knowingly enters into a joint venture with a person who has been convicted of a public entity crime in Florida during the preceding thirty-six (36) months shall be considered an affiliate.

I have read and attest that I understand that a "person" as defined in Paragraph 287.133(1)(e), Florida Statutes, means any natural person or entity organized under the laws of any state or of the United States with the legal power to enter into a binding contract and which proposals or applies to proposal on contracts for the provisions of goods or services let by a public entity, or which otherwise transacts or applies to transact business with a public entity. The term "person" includes those officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, and agents who are active in management of an entity.

I have read and attest that based on information and belief, the statement which I have confirmed below is true in relation to the entity submitting this sworn statement:

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THIS FORM TO THE CONTRACTING OFFICER FOR THE PUBLIC ENTITY IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH ONE (1) ABOVE IS FOR THAT PUBLIC ENTITY ONLY AND, THAT THIS FORM IS VALID THROUGH DECEMBER 31, OF THE CALENDAR YEAR IN WHICH IT IS FILED. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I AM REQUIRED TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ENTITY PRIOR TO ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT.

Neither the entity submitting this sworn statement, nor any of its officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, or agents who are active in the management of the entity, nor any affiliate of the entity has been charged with and convicted of a public entity crime subsequent to July 1, 1989.

If you chose option 3, to the question above, 3.10 Sworn Statement 287.133(3) a, attach a copy of the final order.

No response submitted

*Proposal*

Proposal*

***Pass***

Please upload your proposal. The Proposal Format section of Section 5 of this RFP describes the required Proposal Format.  Proposers should also reference Section 6 Evaluation Criteria.

Proposal Section 1.0 — Introduction (Not to Exceed 2 Pages)

Proposal Section 2.0 — Ability, Capacity and Skill of Firm

Proposal Section 3.0 — Proposer's methodology, technical ability and approach to meeting the needs and requirements as noted in the RFP.

Proposal Section 4.0 — Proposer's experience similar to the needs and requirements noted in the RFP.

Proposal Section 5.0 — Project Schedule and Timeline

DO NOT INCLUDE PRICING INFORMATION IN THIS SECTION.

20260403_Proposal_SLS_-_Hernando_County_NW_LF_Combined.pdf

*Additional Required Forms*

Hernando County Employment Disclosure*

***Pass***

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- HC_Employment_Disclosure_Ce...

HC_Employment_Disclosure_Certification_Statement_(6).pdf

## Anti Human Trafficking Affidavit*

*Pass*

Please download the below documents, complete, and upload.

- Anti_Human-Trafficking-Affi...

Anti_Human-Trafficking-Affidavit-2024.pdf

EXHIBIT B - Proposal

# Leachate Treatment Services for Hernando County Northwest Waste Management Facility

April 3, 2026

Prepared For:
Hernando County, Florida.

Prepared by:
Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC
Newberry, Florida

# Contents

# 1 Introduction

Attn: Ms. Carla Rossiter-Smith
Chief Procurement Officer
15470 Flight Path Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604

April 3, 2026

**Re: Leachate Treatment Service Letter of Interest**

Dear Ms. Rossiter-Smith,

Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC (SLS) is pleased to submit the attached proposal to provide reverse osmosis (RO) landfill leachate treatment services for the Hernando County Northwest Landfill (HCNWLF) in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) (26-RFP01188/AP). SLS understands that the County trucks leachate for treatment and disposal at an offsite facility and current pays $0.23 per gallon. For a leachate generation rate of 3.5 million gallons per year, the annual leachate disposal cost would be $805,000. The proposed services will significantly lower the leachate management cost incurred by the County. Apart from being more cost-efficient, the proposed system is designed to remove contaminants such as forever chemicals (i.e., PFAS) and salinity that most domestic wastewater treatment plants are not designed to treat. The proposed services would reduce/eliminate the County's dependence on off-site facilities for leachate management.

SLS will pay for the system design, permitting, construction, operation, and maintenance for the proposed per-gallon treatment cost with no capital investment from the County. SLS is a Florida-based business, located within a few hours' drive from the site, which would allow us to promptly troubleshoot and provide service as needed. Our systems are assembled locally in Florida. All our subcontractors are based in Florida. SLS will not bind the county in a long-term contract (e.g., 20 years) and will demobilize our system from the site if the County does not find our services more cost-efficient and environmentally sustainable over the current leachate management model, which gives the County the flexibility to pursue other treatment options at any point in time in case and for any reason our system/service does not address the County's treatment goal in the future. Our leachate treatment model poses no financial risk to the County.

We expect that you will find our team's qualifications to be unparalleled – our team members have designed, permitted, and operated three landfill RO leachate treatment/pre-treatment systems currently treating leachate landfills in the state of Florida. Specific, unique qualifications of our team include:

i. Our system is based on a patented membrane-based leachate treatment process (Patent US9540254B2) based on his research at the University of Florida. SLS licensed this patent from the University of Florida with an exclusive right to use this patent. A full-scale leachate treatment plant designed based on this process has been operating at Alachua County Southwest Landfill (Alachua County, Florida) since 2010; this system was redesigned and commissioned in 2013. As of 2014, over 10 million gallons of leachate have been treated at the site. SLS installed a full-scale leachate pre-treatment system based on this patented technology at New River Solid Landfill (Union County, Florida) in 2022. Both of these systems were designed and constructed by SLS team members.
ii. Expertise in onsite leachate treatment system design, permitting, construction, operations, and monitoring in Florida. All of SLS's key team members have experience with the Florida

Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) solid waste and industrial wastewater system permitting process.

iii. Extensive experience providing research and development and consulting services to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Office of Research and Development since 2006 (as a prime as well as subcontractor capacity) on areas pertaining to sustainability landfill management practices. Our team members completed a national-level study documenting the state of practice of onsite leachate treatment at MSW landfills in the US.

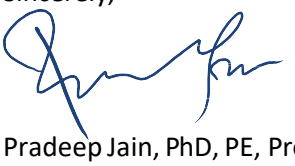
iv. Extensive leachate recirculation design and operation experience. The primary residual from the proposed leachate treatment system may need to be recirculated back into the landfill. Our team has over 30 years of leachate recirculation system design, permitting, construction, and operation experience. SLS will provide technical assistance to the County and its engineers to design and permit a brine recirculation system if the County would like the flexibility of recirculating brine into the lined landfill cells.

v. A strong understanding of landfill design and operating practices. Our team members have provided professional engineering, consulting, and onsite operating and monitoring services since 2005.

Our team has a unique set of past experiences pertaining to leachate data evaluation, onsite leachate treatment systems evaluation, design, permitting, and construction of onsite leachate treatment facilities in Florida.

As the company President, I am authorized to represent SLS. Please contact me at 352-283-4742 or e-mail below with any questions or clarification needs pertaining to any aspect of our proposal.

Sincerely,



Pradeep Jain, PhD, PE, President
Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC
13340 NW 8th Ave, Newberry, FL 32669
Mobile:+1 352 283 4742;
Email: pjain@sustainablelandfills.com

# 2 Ability, Capacity, and Skill of SLS

## 2.1 Project Team

### 2.1.1 Primary and Subcontractor Firm Details

SLS will be the prime contractor, utilizing its ROBOX technology to provide leachate treatment services for the County, as well as providing all design and permitting services. SLS plans to subcontract Coastal Concrete Inc. of Central Florida (CCI) and Integrated Environmental Technology for the execution of the project. Table 2-1 shows the requested contact information for the firms that we plan to partner with for this project. IET will provide the electrical and hydraulic connections that enable the ROBOX system to integrate with the current site infrastructure. CCI will provide a concrete pad for the ROBOX. All firms are located in Florida, United States, and no portion of the work for this project will be performed outside of the United States. It should be noted that the infrastructure costs (concrete pad, piping, and electrical) are one-time expenses and will be incurred in the first year of the contract. Starting Year 2, if the contract is extended, the entire contract cost will be associated with the leachate treatment services provided by the SLS.

**Table 2-1. Primary and Subcontractor Firm Details for the Project**

| Name | Role | Address | Phone numbers | Type of work | Percentage of work* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sustainable Landfill Solutions (SLS) | Prime | 13340 NW 8th Ave, Newberry, FL 32669 | (352) 283-4742 | Leachate treatment system | 83% |
| Integrated Environmental Technology (IET) | Subcontractor | 4804 US Hwy 98 N, Lakeland, FL 33809 | (863) 868-8348 | Electrical and hydraulic infrastructure | 10% |
| Costal Concrete Inc. (CCI) | Subcontractor | 7729 W Golf Club St, Crystal River, FL 34429 | (352) 613-0098 | Concrete pad construction | 7% |

*Assuming design leachate generation rates and proposed cost structure for the first year of the contract

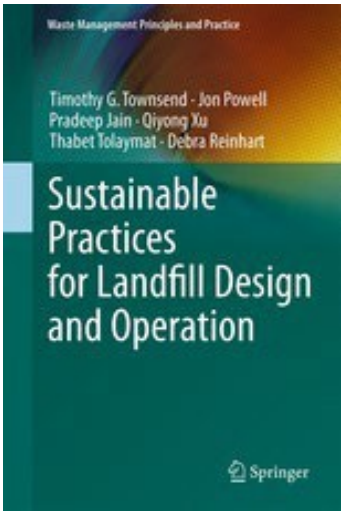
### 2.1.2 Sustainable Landfill Solutions (SLS)

Dr. Jain and Dr. Townsend founded Innovative Waste Consulting Services LLC (IWCS) in 2005 and have been providing consulting services for public- and private-sector clients on a variety of challenging solid waste, environmental, and energy issues. Originally developed from a university research environment, IWCS has state-of-the-art expertise in areas such as onsite leachate treatment/pre-treatment system design, permitting and operation, financial analysis for a variety of engineering applications, including feasibility evaluations of emerging technologies, design, and operation of waste management collection and disposal units, design and assessment of waste treatment and recycling facilities, and characterization of environmental risks and impacts from a variety of solid waste-related activities. IWCS has significant experience developing educational outreach and training courses and modules for professionals and the general public, covering a range of complex environmental issues. IWCS has provided its services to clients across the US, Europe, Central America, Asia, and Australia.

In 2020-2021, IWCS conducted a national-level study of onsite leachate treatment practices at US municipal solid waste landfills and identified a need for cost-efficient onsite leachate treatment/pre-treatment services. We realized that there is a significant need for cost-efficient and comprehensive leachate treatment services. In 2020, Dr. Jain and Dr. Townsend founded Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC (SLS) to provide cost-effective onsite leachate treatment/pre-treatment services from concept to commissioning and procured an exclusive license to a membrane-based leachate treatment technology patented (Patent US9540254B2) by Dr. Townsend and the University of Florida. In 2021, New River Solid Waste Association contracted SLS to design, permit, construct, operate, and maintain a RO leachate pre-treatment system to reduce ammonia-N below 100 mg/L and reduce the overall chlorine demand by 90% to meet the discharge criteria requested by the WWTP. The system was commissioned in 2022 and has been meeting the site's leachate treatment goals.

The key project team members will include Dr. Pradeep Jain, PE; Dr. Timothy Townsend, PE; Mr. James Wally; Dr. Nicole Robey; and Mr. Lewis Little. SLS plans to have at least one dedicated employee equivalent to provide leachate treatment services for the Hernando County Northwest Landfill (HCNWLF). SLS commits to dedicating all needed resources to providing exceptional services at HCNWLF. SLS will seek the services of other team members of IWCS and our subcontractors as needed to implement and operate the proposed leachate treatment project at HCNWLF.

An organizational chart is presented in Figure 2-1. Resumes of the key team members involved in the design, construction, and operation of the proposed leachate treatment system are presented in Attachment A.




**Dr. Pradeep Jain**, who will serve as the Project Manager for the project, has 20 years of experience in solid waste management facilities design and operations (including leachate treatment system and leachate recirculation system design and permitting), regional waste generation rate and composition characterization, feasibility evaluations for emerging waste management technologies, solid waste and recycling market analysis, and life cycle assessment of solid waste management alternatives. Dr. Jain has conducted numerous data collection surveys to evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of various solid waste-related projects, including several involving landfill reclamation and the beneficial use of landfill gas. Dr. Jain has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed publications on a wide range of solid waste management topics, including bioreactor landfills, landfill reclamation, and life cycle assessments, as well as a book titled "Sustainable Practices for Landfill Design and Operations." He is a registered Professional Engineer in Florida.

**Dr. Tim Townsend**, who will serve as a technical advisor, quality assurance, and quality control officer for this project, is a Professor in the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences at the University of Florida, where he leads one of the nation's top solid waste research programs with research efforts focused on waste- to-energy ash recycling, construction and demolition recycling and characterization, bioreactor landfill design and operation, assessment of plasma arc gasification byproduct properties, evaluations of leaching characteristics of industrial wastes, onsite leachate treatment systems evaluation and design, and PFAS characterization in landfill leachate. He has designed various types of onsite leachate treatment systems, including membrane-based systems and wetland systems. He also has over 30 years of consulting experience and is the author/co-author of several books and

publications. He authored a book titled "Sustainable Practices for Landfill Design and Operations," as well as the Manager of Landfill Operations and the Manager of Bioreactor Landfills training and certification courses taught by the Solid Waste Association of North America. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Florida.

**Mr. James Wally** graduated with an ME in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida in 2014 and has since worked with Innovative Waste Consulting Services, LLC in Gainesville, Florida. Mr. Wally has designed and commissioned three currently operating reverse osmosis leachate treatment systems in Florida. Mr. Wally conducted his graduate research on lifecycle evaluations of landfill leachate treatment technologies, including a detailed analysis of the costs and impacts of membrane leachate treatment. Mr. Wally has assisted several landfills in evaluating landfill leachate treatment technologies. Mr. Wally was the project engineer for the design, permitting, and routine operation and maintenance of the RO system at New River Regional Landfill, Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility, and Perdido Landfill, as well as designing and implementing pilot projects for a Class III landfill in Central Florida and Trail Ridge Landfill. Mr. Wally is a Professional Engineer in the state of Florida. Mr. Wally will be the Project Engineer of the proposed project.

**Dr. Nicole Robey** graduated with a PhD in Environmental Engineering from the University of Florida in 2021 and has since worked with Innovative Waste Consulting Services, LLC in Gainesville, Florida. Dr. Robey is an expert in landfill chemistry, contaminant partitioning, and the evaluation of analytical data. Her research focuses on sustainable landfill leachate management and treatment, the behavior, fate, and transport of waste-derived emerging contaminants, and the environmental impacts of the beneficial use of waste materials. Much of her work has focused on the chemical class of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Nicole began her work in the field of solid waste-derived PFAS during graduate school as a member of the University of Florida research team collaborating with the University of Miami for US EPA-funded PFAS research. During this time, she and other researchers analyzed PFAS in over a hundred landfill leachate samples from Florida landfills, and her work has contributed significantly to the scientific understanding of PFAS partitioning behavior in solid waste, as well as laboratory and pilot-scale leachate treatment studies using foam fractionation and membrane separation to treat PFAS, as well as constructed wetland treatment and chemical oxidation to target other leachate constituents such as ammonia. Nicole currently works extensively on projects funded by the US EPA to further PFAS research and provides consultation for EPA policy decision-makers.

**Mr. Lewis Little** is the Field Operations Manager with SLS. He has over eleven years of experience in the construction industry. He has extensive experience in operating the RO system. While working for ABC Research Corporation (Gainesville, Florida), Mr. Little operated and maintained two commercial-scale RO systems that supplied deionized water to chemistry and microbiology laboratories from 2013 through 2016. Mr. Little played a key role in the operation and maintenance of the RO leachate treatment system at New River Regional Landfill, a Class III landfill in Central Florida (pilot project), Trail Ridge Landfill (pilot project), and Perdido Landfill.

### 2.1.3 Integrated Environmental Technology

SLS is partnering with Integrated Environmental Technology (IET) to perform site work, including electrical connections and hydraulic connections to the tanks. IET has performed extensive work at the site and is familiar with the leachate lift station and storage infrastructure. SLS has worked with IET in the past (e.g., Trail Ridge Landfill). SLS will coordinate closely with IET during the site work, electrical, and hydraulic connection work to ensure the ROBOX system is well integrated with the site infrastructure. IET's extensive knowledge of the existing infrastructure at HCNWL would enable us to integrate the leachate treatment system expeditiously.

### 2.1.4 Coastal Concrete Inc. of Central Florida

SLS plans to contract Coastal Concrete Inc. of Central Florida (CCI) to construct a concrete pad for the placement of the proposed leachate treatment system. The concrete pad will serve as the system's secondary containment.

## 2.2 Organizational Structure

Figure 2-1 presents the organizational structure of the project team. Dr. Jain will serve as the Project Manager. He will be the primary point of contact for Hernando County and subcontractors. Dr. Townsend will serve as the technical advisor for system design and any major operational issues. He will routinely assess the quality of the project team's services and identify areas for improvement. Dr. Robey will provide technical assistance with the characterization of leachate and permeate quality. Mr. Wally will be the Project Engineer for the project and will supervise the design, permitting, and routine operation. Mr. Little will lead the field operations and supervise Mr. Reid and Mr. Brooks. Mr. Little will be directly supervised by Mr. Wally. Dr. Jain will directly supervise the entire project team. Table 2-2 describes each team member's roles and responsibilities.

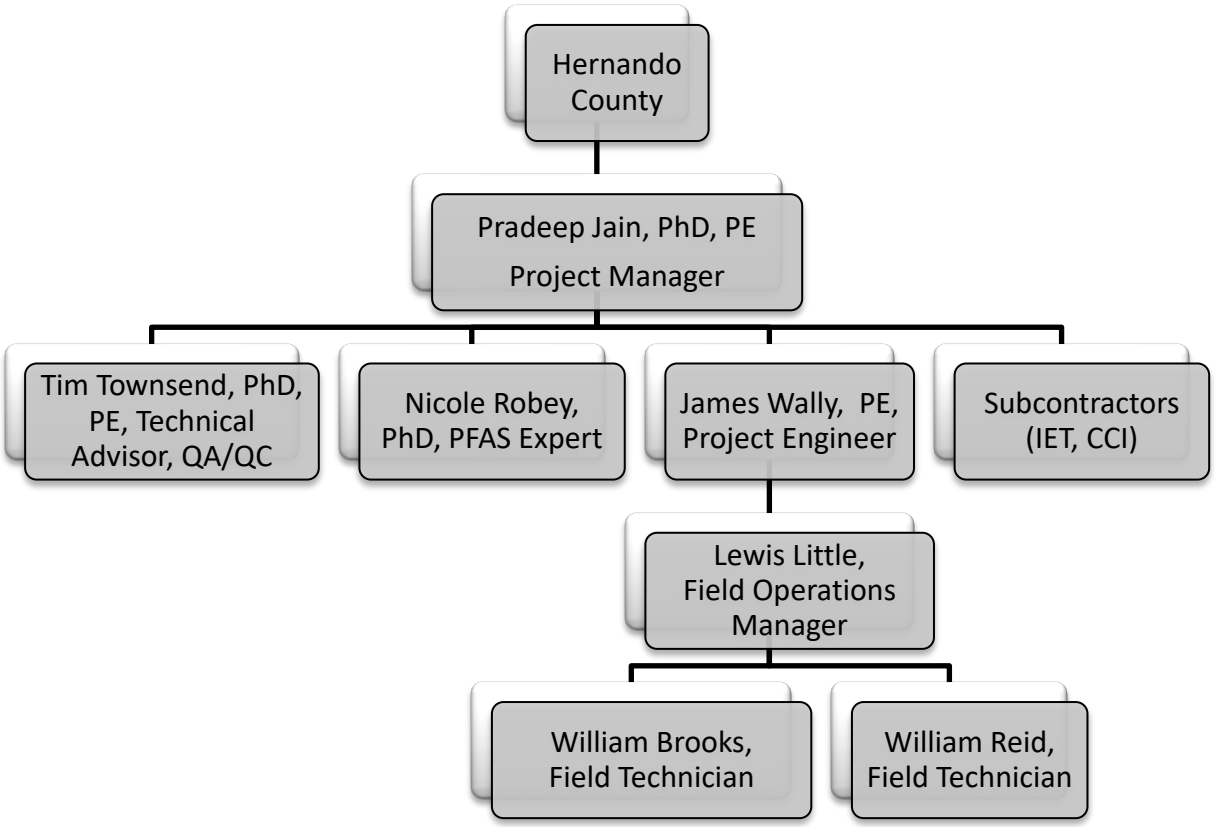



**Figure 2-1. Organizational Structure of the Proposal Team**

**Table 2-2. Roles and Responsibilities of the Proposed Team Members**

| Team Member | Roles and Responsibilities |
|---|---|
| Dr. Pradeep Jain | a) Manage the project team<br>b) Primary contact for the County<br>c) Supervise subcontract work<br>d) Review all project documents, including design, drawings, permit application, and reports, before submission to the County<br>e) Provide routine updates to the County<br>f) Submit invoices<br>g) Manage the contract<br>h) Weekly and monthly review of the system performance<br>i) Ensure project goals are achieved within the project schedule and cost |
| Dr. Tim Townsend | a) Senior technical advisor for any challenging issue<br>b) Quality assurance and quality control |
| Dr. Nicole Robey | a) Leachate and permeate quality characterization |
| Mr. Wally | a) Prepare all project documents, including design, drawings, permit application, and reports<br>b) Procure equipment and supplies needed for the routine operation of the system<br>c) Supervise mobilization and commissioning of the system<br>d) Supervise routine operation<br>e) Daily and weekly review of the system performance<br>f) Coordinate any modification of the system<br>g) Compliance data collection and reporting |
| Mr. Little | a) Mobilization and commissioning of the system<br>b) Routine field operation and maintenance<br>c) Supervise field technicians<br>d) Maintain spare parts inventory<br>e) Field data collection<br>f) Field sampling<br>g) Field health and safety |
| Mr. Brooks/Mr. Reid | a) Day-to-day field operations and maintenance |
| IET | b) Install electrical connection for ROBOX unit<br>c) Coordinate utility connection<br>d) Install piping to connect the leachate treatment system to the existing tanks and forcemains |
| CCI | e) Construct a concrete pad for the placement of the leachate treatment system |

## 2.3 Experience and Workload

SLS has operated leachate treatment systems for four years and currently owns and operates three modular RO systems. SLS can rapidly construct, deploy, and commission ROBOX leachate treatment systems. Figure 2-2 shows the ROBOX unit deployed for a short-term project to treat leachate at Perdido Landfill to increase the available storage capacity of the leachate storage ponds, which were close to its

permitted capacity due to discharge limitations. SLS deployed a leachate treatment system and began operations immediately upon receiving a permit from FDEP.

SLS also maintains an inventory of critical and long-lead materials and equipment, such as pumps and membrane vessels, to minimize downtime. Due to the modular nature of the system, fabrication and assembly are standardized, and the instrumentation and pressure-testing regime ensure that the system is operational before delivery to the site.

The ROBOX system has a suite of instrumentation to ensure consistent operation. The SLS staff remotely monitors the automated control system for influent and effluent flow rates, pressure, and conductivity to ensure consistent operation. Because of the nature of membrane treatment, any treatment failure that would result in contaminant breakthrough would necessarily correlate with an increase in conductivity, which this automated system would detect. Other system interruptions would be detected by changes in flow or pressure in the influent or effluent streams.


**Figure 2-2. ROBOX System Deployed for an Emergency Short-term Treatment Project at a Florida Landfill.**

Table 2-3 shows SLS's project experience and that of the project team members. Project principals have over 50 years of collective experience and over 20 years of working together. This project team has experience in design, construction, commissioning, and operation of membrane leachate treatment systems at seven Florida landfills.

**Table 2-3. Project Team Experience**

| Leachate Treatment Systems Site | Pradeep Jain | Timothy Townsend | Nicole Robey | James Wally | Lewis Little | Jim Brooks | William Reid |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility** | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| **Perdido Landfill** | X | | | X | X | X | X |
| **Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC)** | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| **New River Regional Landfill** | X | X | X | X | X | | |
| **Trail Ridge Landfill** | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| **Class III Landfill in Central Florida** | X | X | | X | X | | |
| **Alachua County Southwest Landfill** | | X | | X | | | |

## 2.4 Staff Availability

Table 2-4 provides the current workload and expected availability for SLS employees. SLS can dedicate a full-time operator equivalent to Hernando County without additional hiring. The ROBOX skid can be operated and monitored remotely, but is anticipated to require routine maintenance at least weekly. Commissioning is anticipated to require daily operation for up to four weeks. SLS has the capacity for both routine operation and the commissioning phase at HCNWLF without any hiring.

**Table 2-4. Existing SLS Staff Commitments and Projected Staff Capacity to Meet the HCNWLF Leachate Treatment Project Needs**

| Project Name | Pradeep Jain | Timothy Townsend | Nicole Robey | James Wally | Lewis Little | Jim Brooks | William Reid |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility | 10% | | 5% | 10% | | 50% | 20% |
| Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC) | 10% | | 5% | 10% | 30% | | |
| Other Commitments | 50% | 80% | 60% | | | | |
| **Projected Capacity Committed** | 70% | 80% | 70% | 20% | 30% | 50% | 20% |
| **Available for this Project** | 30% | 20% | 30% | 80% | 70% | 50% | 80% |

## 2.5 Firm Capabilities

SLS holds the exclusive license to use the University of Florida's patent. SLS has been in business for over 5 years. All of our systems are assembled in the State of Florida. We have paid all our subcontractors and employees on time. SLS has self-funded the fabrication and assembly of the ROBOX systems and currently owns a total of four ROBOX systems, as listed in Table 2-5; the unit located at New River Regional Landfill is owned by New River Solid Waste Association. Three of these systems are currently operating or committed to a site; one is committed for pilot or emergency operation; and one is

available and could be modified to meet the needs of this site. An ROBOX unit can be produced in 8 to 12 weeks, depending largely on lead time for key components such as pumps and vessels. SLS maintains an inventory of critical equipment, including high-pressure pumps, additional membranes and vessels, and other critical equipment. In addition to the pilot projects, the mobile pilot unit can be deployed when the primary system experiences a major malfunction and repairs cannot be completed before the treatment system's capacity is needed.

**Table 2-5. List of ROBOX Units Owned and/or Deployed by SLS**

| ROBOX Unit | Location | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Unit 1 | New River Regional Landfill | Permanent Installation |
| Mobile Pilot Unit | SLS Warehouse | Available for Pilot Projects and Rapid Deployment Projects |
| Unit 2 | Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility | Installed at Long-Term Project |
| Unit 3 | Perdido Landfill | Committed to Sarasota County |
| Unit 4 | Fabricator | Ready for Deployment at HCNWLC |

## 2.6 Compliance and Quality

### 2.6.1 Regulatory and Compliance History

SLS has provided leachate treatment services for seven landfills, including four permanent installations, one fixed treatment-volume contract, and two pilot projects. In all cases, the project team provided a system that consistently met the project treatment objectives. None of these sites has received notice of violation (NOV) or any other compliance violation related to leachate managed by these systems.

The SLS team has managed compliance and sampling for leachate and other compliance tasks, such as groundwater sampling or leachate and permeate sampling for four solid waste management facilities in Florida, successfully, as shown in Table 2-6. These projects have included sample collection, results analysis, and compliance reporting to FDEP. The SLS team has an excellent working relationship with FDEP staff and a positive track record in both permitting and regulatory reporting.

**Table 2-6. List of Permitted Solid Waste Management Facilities where SLS Project Team Members have had Monitoring and Compliance Responsibility**

| Site | Project Team Compliance Responsibility | Dates |
|---|---|---|
| Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility | • Leachate and permeate sampling<br>• Treated Leachate Effluent Disposal Pond<br>• Groundwater data reporting to FDEP | 2025-Ongoing |
| St. Cloud Landfill Class I | • Groundwater<br>• Subsurface Landfill Gas Probes | 2023-Ongoing |
| Enterprise Road Class III Recycling and Disposal Facility | • Treated Leachate Effluent Disposal Pond<br>• Groundwater data analysis and reporting to FDEP | 2021-Ongoing |
| Realco Recycling Company, Inc. Construction and Demolition Debris MRF | • Groundwater and surface water sampling and reporting to FDEP | 2025-Ongoing |

### 2.6.2 QA/QC Process

SLS has a rigorous document review process to maintain the highest quality of product output. SLS conducts an internal review of all reporting by field staff, staff engineering, and senior staff before submission of any compliance, permitting, or system performance documents. Laboratory compliance samples will be collected by qualified individuals. Analysis will be conducted at a NELAC-certified laboratory. Results from the laboratory analysis will be provided to the County and FDEP as part of any compliance reporting. Since the permeate from HCNWLF will be sent to a permitted wastewater treatment plant, FDEP likely would not require sampling of leachate or permeate.

Sampling instruments will be calibrated before any compliance sampling event by sampling personnel or SLS Staff and calibration certificates will be included in any compliance reporting. Field instruments are calibrated according to manufacturer specifications, and inline conductivity meters are measured for drift against the field conductivity instrument. Flow meters are monitored daily during operation based on the flow balance influent should equal the sum of effluent from the system within 5%, and generally falls within 1% for regular operation.

### 2.6.3 Health and Safety

SLS has had no health and safety incidents in four years of operation. SLS follows a corporate health and safety plan and will develop a site-specific health and safety plan for this site as part of the transition into regular operation at this Site. Requirements as part of this health and safety plan include safety training for all SLS staff, instructions for County employees on any relevant risks associated with the operation of the ROBOX system onsite, including emergency shutdown procedures, and PPE requirements.

### 2.6.4 Claims and change orders

SLS and its principles have no history of litigation or claims. SLS has a long record of working with clients to minimize or avoid change orders and maintain the project schedule and budget whenever possible.

# 3 SLS's Methodology, Technical Ability, and Approach to Meeting the Needs and Requirements as noted in the RFP

## 3.1 Project Understanding

### 3.1.1 Site Background

The Hernando County Northwest Landfill (HCNWLF) has been a critical component of the County's solid waste management system since its opening in 1991. It receives approximately 530 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) daily and 40 tons of old tires per month. The landfill originally encompassed 246 acres, with an additional 120 acres acquired from an adjacent mining operation, ensuring continued landfill operations for the foreseeable future.

The landfill has undergone systematic expansion to accommodate growing waste disposal needs and currently consists of the following lined cells:

- **Cells 1 & 2**: These 28-acre lined cells reached capacity in 2010 and have been partially closed with a plastic liner on the top and three sides.
- **Cell 3**: Currently an active 26-acre lined cell, projected to remain operational for one to two more years.
- **Cell 4**: A new 30-acre cell currently under construction, expected to provide approximately 26 years of disposal capacity. The new cell is anticipated to begin operation in 2026.

With an estimated 60 years of remaining landfill space, the facility is positioned for long-term waste management. In addition, the landfill property also has a yard waste processing facility with a planned composting facility located onsite.

The landfill serves over 300,000 customers annually across three locations, including the East Convenience Center (opened in 1994) and the West Convenience Center (opened in 1996). It plays a vital role in the county's integrated solid waste management system, ensuring the responsible disposal of waste, including for residents in the City of Brooksville.

### 3.1.2 Leachate Generation Rate

The bottom liner of cells intercepts leachate and prevents it from contaminating the underlying groundwater. The landfill owners are required to collect and manage it in accordance with state regulations. Once pumped from the cells, leachate is currently stored in a 163,000-gallon tank, with an additional 12,000-gallon tank available. The average leachate generation rate from 2020 to 2025 was 7,500 gallons per day, with a seasonal maximum average generation of 9,300 gallons in August and a seasonal minimum of 4,500 gallons per day in December. Figure 3-1 presents historical monthly leachate generation rates for HCNWLF based on information provided from 2020 to 2025 by the County. Historically, leachate generation during June-October has been higher than in the other months. Generation rate is generally about 1.5 times higher in the summer than the average. The County has requested that 3.5 million gallons per year be used as a design basis for this project, which will equate to approximately 9,600 gallons per day of leachate generation.

The larger storage tank provides approximately 17 days of storage at the anticipated max average generation rate of 9,600 gallons per day. The County's anticipated leachate generation rate for this design is 9,600 gallons per day, or about 3.5 million gallons per year, but it is expected to increase with the addition of Cell 4.

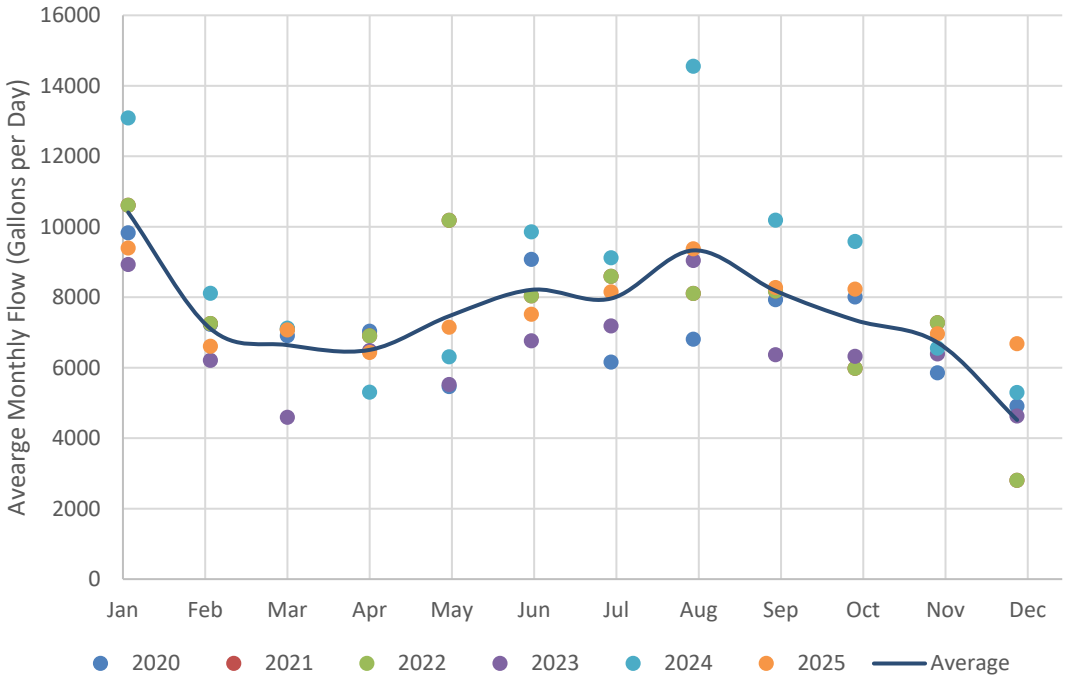



Figure 3-1. Historical Leachate Generation Rate for HCNWLF from 2020-2025.

### 3.1.3 Leachate Quality

The design and performance of a leachate treatment system, to some extent, depend on the leachate quality. MSW landfill leachate can contain a wide variety of different chemicals. From the leachate treatment perspective, these can be categorized into four distinct groups (Masoner et al., 2016; Townsend et al., 2015; Kjeldsen et al., 2002; Christensen et al., 2001; Patterson et al., 1995).

1. **Dissolved organic matter**. Dissolved organic matter occurs in leachate both as a result of chemicals leached directly from the waste and because of the biological transformation of those waste components and their byproducts. In some cases, individual organic chemicals, such as volatile fatty acids, might be measured, but in most cases, organic matter in leachate is characterized using bulk chemical measurements. Biological oxygen demand (BOD) measures the oxygen demand associated with the biological oxidation of organic matter, while chemical oxygen demand (COD) measures the oxygen demand associated with the chemical oxidation of organic matter. Leachates dominated by large amounts of biodegradable organic matter would have relatively similar BOD and COD measurements, while leachates comprised of organic matter recalcitrant to biodegradation would have COD values much higher than BOD values because the remaining chemical oxygen demand is not susceptible to biological degradation. Other measures of organic matter in leachate include total organic carbon (TOC) and dissolved organic carbon (DOC).
2. **Inorganic ions**. Relatively soluble ions such as sodium, chloride, potassium, calcium, sulfate, and magnesium are commonly present at relatively high concentrations in domestic wastewater. Ammonium is present in high concentrations, particularly in mature landfill leachates, due to biological conversion of nitrogen-containing proteins in the waste, such as food waste. The production of large amounts of carbon dioxide during biological waste decomposition results in leachate with elevated bicarbonate ion concentrations and alkalinity, making pH adjustment challenging.

3. **Trace inorganic elements**. Depending on the types of waste disposed of in the landfill, MSW landfill leachate might contain relatively small amounts of metals and metalloids, such as arsenic and iron. Many of these constituents have regulatory limits due to toxicity.
4. **Trace organic chemicals**. A myriad of trace organic compounds result from the wide variety of materials disposed of in the landfill. Trace organic chemicals include a variety of aromatic hydrocarbons, phenols, pesticides, biocides, paints, plasticizers, and pharmaceutical compounds. Historically, the most common class of regulated organic chemicals measured in landfill leachates has been VOCs such as benzene, toluene, and trichloroethylene. In recent years, the presence of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in landfill leachate has been widely documented, and while many of these chemicals often do not yet have established regulatory thresholds, they are common at elevated levels in landfills (Lang et al., 2017); MCLs have been promulgated for only five (5) PFAS compounds. PFAS might not respond to most of the conventional treatment methods.

The diversity and relative concentrations of chemicals in leachate depend on factors such as waste age, waste type, and landfill operation. There is likely to be significant variation in leachate quality across different collection points at the site (including leachate collection sumps, gas condensate, leak detection systems, etc.) and over time.

Table 3-1 summarizes the results of recent leachate testing data for samples collected from several leachate collection sumps. Leachate data varied significantly across both sample dates and sumps representing leachate collected from different cells. Despite this variability, this set of maximum historical concentrations is within the range of leachates treated by the ROBOX unit. Leachate quality can vary widely over the life of a facility and is expected to continue to change during this project, requiring flexibility in the leachate management infrastructure. The ranges show the potential limits of different disposal options, ranging from discharge to a WWTP to beneficial use on-site to direct discharge to groundwater.

The comparison of the maximum concentration in leachate with the respective limits suggests that the leachate would need to be treated to significantly reduce the following parameters for discharge to the WWTP: total nitrogen, total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and ammonia. In addition, other contaminants, such as arsenic, color, and volatile organics, are present at elevated levels and require treatment. It should be noted that leachate would likely need to be treated to reduce the concentration of several PFAS for discharge to groundwater and to the WWTP (once pre-treatment standards are implemented by WWTP).

Based on our experience treating leachate with quality similar to that of HCNWLF, SLS's system (single-stage membrane system) will likely remove over 99% of color, organic matter, COD, and PFAS, as well as similar "large molecule" contaminants. The permeate is expected to contain dissolved ions such as sodium and chloride at levels lower than the drinking water standards and Florida Groundwater Clean-up Target Levels (GCTLs).

Leachate treatment using a single stage of SLS's system would likely be adequate to meet the criteria for groundwater discharge for all of these parameters, with the exception of ammonia-nitrogen and/or total nitrogen. Ammonia nitrogen would be the limiting factor and primary design constraint of the proposed system. SLS would need to implement a multi-stage system to achieve the ammonia target of 10 mg/L as N.

**Table 3-1. Range of Leachate Quality Data from 2020 to 2026 Provided by the County.**

| Parameter | Concentration Range (mg/L) |
|---|---|
| **Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$** | 331 – 2,500 |
| **Alkalinity, Total as $CaCO_3$** | 1,530 – 4,780 |
| **Arsenic** | 0.84 - 119 |
| **Benzene** | 0.3 - 9.9 |
| **BOD, 5 day** | 7.4 - 193 |
| **COD** | 35.8 – 4,420 |
| **Nitrogen, Ammonia** | 0.035 – 2,370 |
| **Nitrogen, Nitrate** | 0.025 - 2 |
| **pH** | 7.4 - 8.5 |
| **Specific Conductance** | 709 – 28,853 |
| **Total Dissolved Solids** | 388 – 10,800 |
| **Total Suspended Solids** | 11.5 - 118 |

### 3.1.4 The Needs of Hernando County- Cost-Efficient Leachate Treatment and Management

Leachate generation is a significant environmental consideration for the landfill, requiring efficient treatment and disposal strategies. Leachate is currently managed offsite via trucking to a facility in the Tampa area. The landfill has a forcemain connection to a local WWTP, which is owned and operated by the County, available for the disposal of treated effluent from an on-site treatment system. The County used to pump leachate to the WWTP. However, the WWTP stopped accepting landfill leachate more than 5 years ago due to elevated ammonia levels.

Our understanding is that the current trucking and offsite disposal costs $0.23 per gallon, which is significantly higher than the $0.18/gallon cost in 2024. Based on the current generation rate of 3 million gallons, the annual leachate management cost is approximately $690,000. The future cost is expected to exceed $690,000 per year due to an increase in the leachate generation rate and an escalation in hauling costs. As discussed above, the hauling cost increased by more than 27% in 2025.

Given these factors, an on-site leachate treatment solution proposed by SLS is imperative to:

- Reduce reliance on costly off-site transportation and treatment. On-site treatment and management of leachate will eliminate over 350 trucking trips on the County's transportation infrastructure and eliminate the environmental impacts associated with vehicular emissions from leachate transportation.
- Improve environmental compliance and operational efficiency.
- Provide a sustainable and long-term leachate management strategy.

The proposed treatment solution should address increasing leachate volumes while ensuring regulatory compliance and cost-effectiveness for the County's waste management operations.

## 3.2 Treatment System Design

### 3.2.1 System Description

SLS proposes to use a patented membrane-based leachate treatment system (referred to hereinafter as ROBOX), designed to address HCNWLF's leachate treatment needs and ensure reliable leachate management. The proposed system will consist of a skid or trailer-mounted multi-stage system to achieve the target permeate quality. ROBOX utilizes patented fractional recirculation technology developed by the University of Florida, which allows the system to meet a wide range of treatment objectives and performance goals.

This proprietary system has successfully treated leachate at five landfill sites in Florida. This system provides modular, expandable, flexible, and proven capabilities to address the landfill's evolving leachate needs. ROBOX is mobile, allowing for rapid deployment and, if necessary, replacement or decommissioning. Since the average daily generation in 2025 was 7,500 gallons per day and the maximum monthly leachate generation rate over the past five years has been approximately 15,000 gallons per day, SLS proposes a system optimized to treat 30,000 gallons per day of leachate during the initial operation period. Leachate generation is highly variable and difficult to estimate, and the impact of opening a new cell, and unanticipated events such as tropical weather. Due to the modularity of the ROBOX system, SLS can mobilize additional capacity within a month to address contingencies such as tropical storms and hurricanes if necessary. The system will be designed and maintained to minimize unplanned downtime and prevent unauthorized discharge or leachate accumulation beyond safe storage capacity.

This 30,000-gallons-per-day unit will be adequate to address the landfill's current needs based on leachate generation estimates provided by the County, and to provide additional capacity as discussed in Section 3.1.3 above. SLS will routinely monitor the available storage capacity at HCNWLF. SLS can temporarily deploy a second unit and promptly increase treatment capacity to 60,000 gallons per day within a month if leachate generation rates exceed 30,000 gallons per day.

The ROBOX technology utilizes membrane treatment, including RO and nanofiltration, to separate leachate into a treated "permeate" stream and a residual stream called "brine." The system generates multiple permeate streams, some of which may not meet discharge standards, in which case it will be returned to the leachate storage tank for additional treatment. Figure 3-3 below illustrates the proposed ROBOX system operation. The permeate quality (i.e., conductivity) will be continuously monitored, and the permeate will be directed either for further treatment or for discharge based on the quality of the influent leachate and the effluent permeate. The ROBOX is designed to treat leachate to produce a very high-quality effluent. The quality of treated permeate from a single-stage system may be transferred to the WWTP, reused onsite for beneficial purposes, or discharged to groundwater under an industrial wastewater permit. However, additional treatment stages may be necessary depending on the discharge method and associated requirements. The proposed system is robust enough to accommodate a wide range of variations in leachate composition and flow rates, thereby achieving a flexible, potentially evolving set of treatment objectives.

The proposed leachate treatment system will be available to operate on-site at least 80% of days a year (290 days), but based on recent and historical leachate flow data, it is expected that the proposed system with a design capacity of 30,000 gallons per day will require an average uptime of around 50%, providing a great deal of operational flexibility to the HCNWLF and SLS.

SLS proposes to locate the system adjacent to the existing leachate storage tank on a concrete pad, as shown in Figure 3-2. The proposed system will require less than 1,000 square feet of area. The benefits of this location include easy access to leachate storage and brine disposal infrastructure. This location is

expected to have 3-phase power available to power the proposed system. The proposed system will require 50-kVA 3-phase 480-V power, and 50 kVA of 240-volt split-phase power. SLS assumes that the required power will be available near the proposed system location.

SLS anticipates that the HCNWLF will provide a site of approximately 1,000 square feet for SLS and its partners, CCI and IET, to construct a concrete pad that drains to a sump with an automated pump to the leachate storage tank. This is where the ROBOX skid and associated storage tanks would be placed. The untreated leachate volume in the system at any given time is de minims, and the graded pad is expected to be sufficient as secondary containment. SLS assumes that HCNWLF will allow SLS to use the existing 20,000-gallon tank to store brine before final disposal in the landfill. A submersible pump (provided by SLS) is anticipated to be used to pump leachate from the leachate storage tank to the ROBOX unit. SLS proposes using a smaller storage tank to store permeate prior to discharge to the disposal forcemain. The brine from the proposed system will be trucked (by HCNWLF) to the landfill or to an offsite disposal facility.

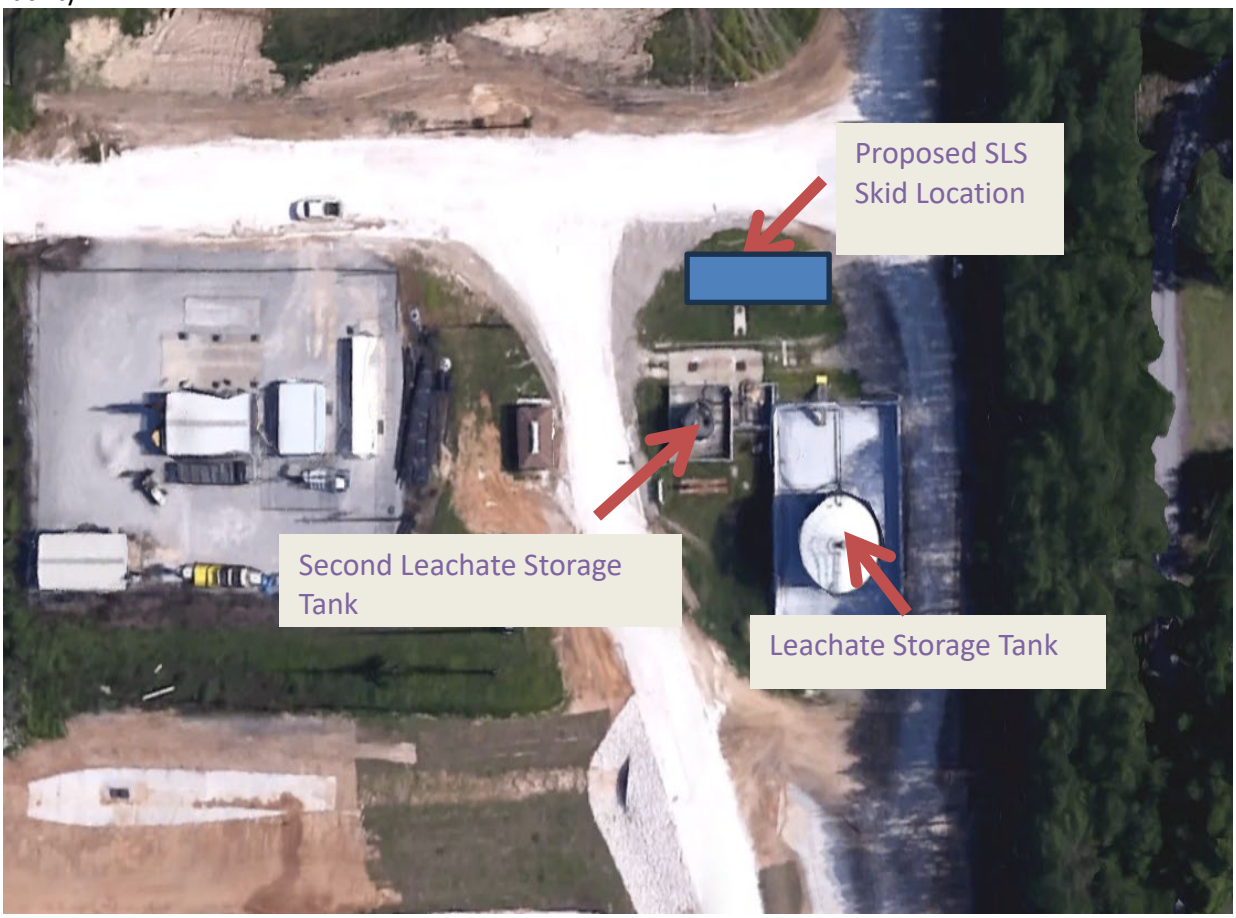



**Figure 3-2. Proposed System Location for the ROBOX Unit Adjacent to the Leachate Storage Tank at HCNWLF (Image by Google Earth)**

SLS proposes using a flexible multi-stage system to achieve the County's leachate treatment objectives. This system would consist of a first-stage skid that directly treats leachate, storing brine for additional treatment until the system reaches 70% recovery. The permeate from this first stage would be stored in an SLS-provided tank and then processed again using the second-stage skid to treat it until it meets the leachate discharge standard. It is expected to take 2 to 4 treatment stages to achieve the target ammonia level of less than or equal to 10 mg/L as N. Brine from these 2+ stage treatment steps could be

returned to storage in an early stage, as it would still be higher quality with lower dissolved solids concentrations than a previous stage feedwater. Because of the low dissolved solids and absence of scaling or fouling constituents in the permeate of all stages, the stage 2+ stage skid can operate at very high recovery. In lieu of deploying a dedicated unit for the second stage, SLS may oversize the first unit and use it to treat the permeate from multiple stages.

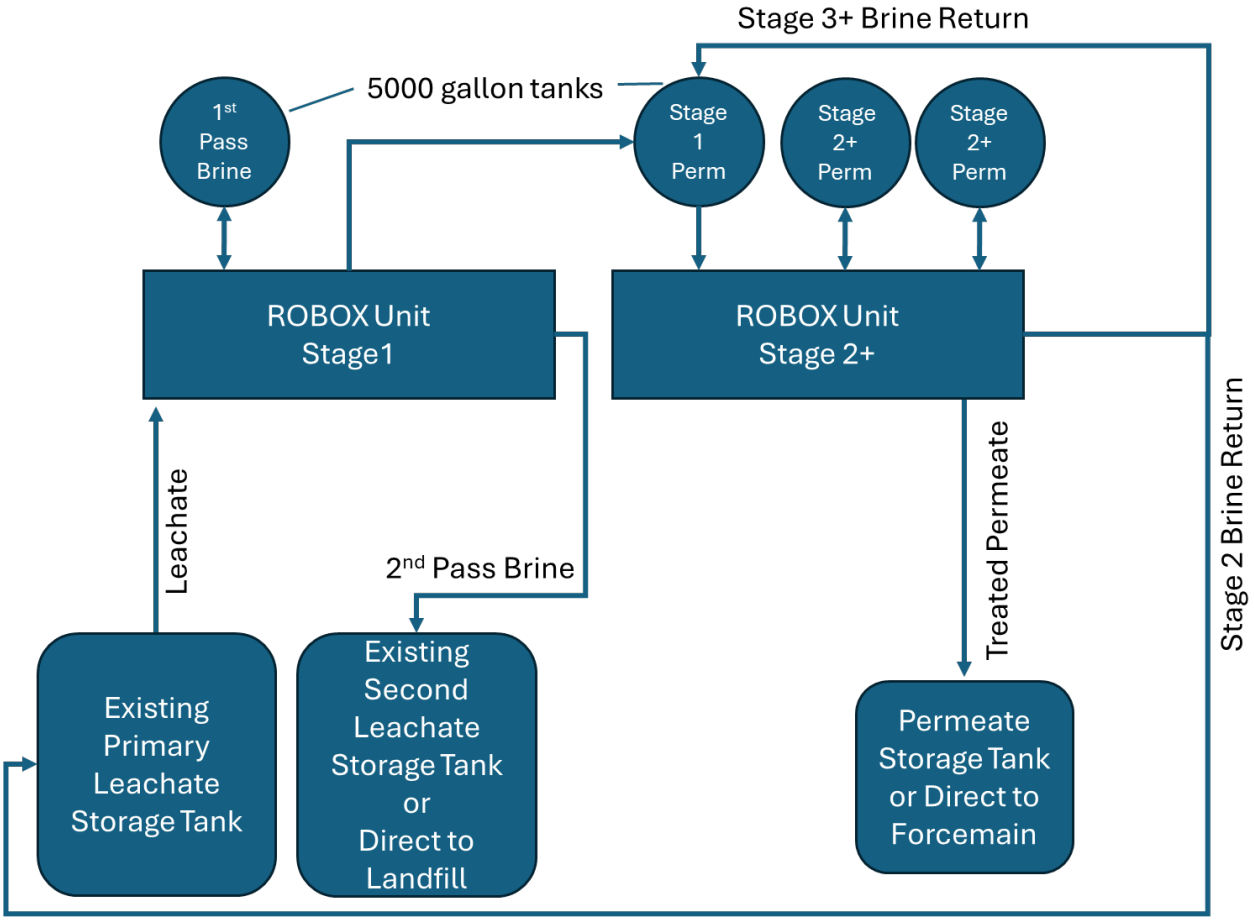



**Figure 3-3. Proposed Multi-Stage ROBOX Leachate Treatment System for HCNWLF.**

### 3.2.2 Expected System Performance

The system will be designed to have a treatment capacity of 30,000 gallons of raw leachate per day. The processing of 9,600 gallons of raw leachate is expected to generate approximately 6,700 gallons of permeate, which will be discharged into the WWTP forcemain, and 2,900 gallons per day of brine, which would be disposed of in the landfill.

**Single Stage Performance**

Apart from ammonia, the permeate from a single-stage system is not expected to contain any constituent at levels above the WWTP disposal limits. A single-stage system is expected to produce permeate with an ammonia concentration of around 100 mg/L. This concentration exceeds 10 mg/L, which is required for discharge to the WWTP. Discussions with multiple WWTP decision-makers indicate that they may consider accepting permeate with ammonia concentration greater than the specified pre-treatment standard due to the otherwise high quality of permeate. Unlike the typical pump station that intermittently pumps leachate at high flow rates to a WWTP, the ROBOX system pumps permeate

continuously at a lower flow rate, allowing it to uniformly mix with the other wastewater streams received at the plant and mitigate potential adverse effects of high ammonia levels on plant operation. SLS will discuss the opportunity to adjust the ammonia and total nitrogen target levels to higher than 10 mg/L and 20 mg/L, respectively, with the County and the WWTP operators, without impacting WWTP operations. If the target levels are increased, then SLS may use a single-stage system to achieve the required permeate quality.

**Table 3-2. Anticipated Treatment Performance of a Single-Stage ROBOX System**

| Treatment Parameter | Design Performance |
|---|---|
| Ammonia and Nitrate | 85%-95% reduction depending on leachate pH |
| Total Nitrogen | 85%-95% reduction depending on leachate pH |
| Color, BOD, and COD | >95% reduction |
| Organic compounds (including PFAS) | >99% reduction |
| Metals (e.g., iron, arsenic) | >90-99% reduction |
| Dissolved solids (e.g., TDS, sodium, chloride) | >95% reduction |
| Total suspended solids (TSS) | >99% reduction |

**Multi-Stage System**

Given that a single-stage system will not be sufficient to meet the 10 mg/L ammonia target, SLS proposes a multi-stage system in which the permeate is treated through multiple passes to further reduce the ammonia-nitrogen concentration. Reaching a 10 mg/L threshold is anticipated to require 2 to 4 passes through the ROBOX system. As discussed in the System Description section above, the ROBOX second-stage+ system can continue treating the permeate by multiple passes through the same system to further reduce ammonia concentration until it is ready for discharge, based on continuous conductivity monitoring correlated with regular photometric ammonia field measurements. With this approach, the ROBOX system is anticipated to achieve ammonia removal to 10 mg/L. This multipass permeate is anticipated to meet all other discharge requirements and exceed the drinking water standard for all parameters.

## 3.3 ROBOX Operation and Controls

### 3.3.1 Monitoring, Sampling, and Compliance and Performance Reporting

SLS will ensure the continuous and reliable operation of the leachate treatment system consistent with all applicable regulations and performance standards outlined in the RFP. SLS staff review the ROBOX unit's performance daily while it is operating to ensure it remains within expected parameter ranges. The system is equipped with a network of pressure transducers, flow meters, and conductivity sensors, which are monitored at least once per minute. A series of alarms notifies operators within minutes if these parameters fall outside of the expected range, and can automatically shut the system down in the event of a major disruption.

SLS staff will monitor several operational parameters collected by field instruments and systems within the ROBOX system, as shown in Table 3-3. Flow data will be collected and reported to the County weekly. Field chemistry results will be reported to the County in a monthly report, along with results for monthly laboratory sampling, included in Table 3-4.

**Table 3-3. System Operational Parameters Proposed to be Monitored for the ROBOX System at HCNWLF and Reported to the County.**

| Parameter | Measurement Method | Monitoring Frequency | Reporting Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Influent Flow** | Flow meter | At least once per minute | Weekly |
| **Effluent Permeate Flow** | Flow meter | At least once per minute | Weekly |
| **Effluent Brine Flow** | Flow meter | At least once per minute | Weekly |
| **Effluent Conductivity** | Conductivity meter<br>Field meter | At least once per minute<br>Weekly | Monthly |
| **Effluent pH** | Field meter | Weekly | Monthly |
| **Effluent Ammonia-N** | Colorimetric field meter | Weekly | Monthly |

**Table 3-4. Monthly Laboratory Sampling Proposed for Effluent Permeate from the ROBOX System at HCNWLF.**

| Parameter | Treatment Objective |
|---|---|
| **BOD5** | ≤30 mg/L |
| **COD** | ≤250 mg/L or 90% removal |
| **TSS** | ≤30 mg/L |
| **Ammonia-N** | ≤10 mg/L |
| **Total Nitrogen** | ≤20 mg/L |
| **pH** | 6 – 8.5 |

In addition to the monthly reporting, SLS will immediately (same day) notify the County of any technical malfunction that affects or could affect system performance or discharge quality. A written electronic incident report will be submitted within 24 hours of discovery and include:

1. Estimated duration and volume of leachate affected.
2. Immediate corrective actions taken.
3. Proposed timeline for full restoration.
4. Any regulatory notifications made or required.
5. SLS will maintain a log of all malfunctions, repairs, and corrective actions.

### 3.3.2 Quality Controls

Laboratory compliance samples will be collected by qualified individuals. Analysis will be conducted at a NELAC-certified laboratory. Results from the laboratory analysis will be provided to the County after

review by an SLS engineer.

Sampling instruments will be calibrated before any sampling event by sampling personnel or SLS Staff and calibration certificates will be included in any compliance reporting. Field instruments are calibrated according to manufacturer specifications, and inline conductivity meters are measured for drift against the field conductivity instrument. Flow meters are monitored every day of operation based on flow balance, as influent should equal the sum of effluents of the system within 5%, and generally falls within 1% for regular operation.

### 3.3.3 Residuals Generation Rate, Characteristics, and Management Plan

The proposed system will generate the following residuals: brine, cleaning fluids, bag filters, and spent membranes. The brine generation rate is expected to be 30% of the leachate treatment rate. For operation at existing flows, this would represent about 2,700 gallons per day of brine. As discussed above, SLS proposes to manage brine via disposal lined Class I cell by leachate recirculation lines, or via spray via water truck onto the open working face at the end of each working day.

The proposed system will have an in-place cleaning system using high and low-pH cleaning reagents. The cleaning fluids will be discharged into the leachate storage tank. Because of the small volume of these fluids from each cleaning event and the high alkalinity of the leachate, the discharge of the cleaning effluent into the leachate storage would have an insignificant impact on the leachate quality. The system cleaning and maintenance frequency and the membrane replacement will vary based on the quality and quantity of the leachate treated using the system. The weight of the filter and membrane residuals is expected to be less than one ton per year. These will be disposed of in the active cell at the site, which is a typical practice for managing these residuals.

### 3.3.4 Contingency Plan

The Site has 11 to 17 days of leachate storage at max generation rate, depending on the season. SLS proposes to operate the system to maximize the leachate storage capacity when they reach at most 50% capacity. This ensures that the site will always maintain at least 5 days of leachate storage capacity should unexpected downtime occur for the ROBOX system. This will provide SLS with ample time to replace critical infrastructure or deploy a mobile treatment unit, if necessary.

In the event of a malfunction that prevents treatment of leachate, the SLS will:

1. Initiate corrective action and repairs
2. Coordinate with the County for temporary leachate diversion or hauling if necessary
3. Repairs will be initiated as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than 48 hours, unless otherwise approved by the County
4. Resume normal operations within 5 days from the date of malfunction notification while ensuring compliance with environmental and safety regulations.
5. SLS will implement system upgrades or redundancies at the SLS's expense if persistent reliability issues occur.

## 3.4 Contingency and Reliability

### 3.4.1 System Reliability

The proposed ROBOX system is modular, readily deployable, transportable, and modifiable. This approach allows for easy expansion or modification of the system to meet the site's changing treatment needs. The ROBOX system has been managing 100% of the leachate generated at all sites in regular operation since 2023. The ROBOX system in this project will be designed to handle 30,000 gallons per day, which is over three times the historic capacity and about 100% greater than HCNWLF's planned maximum treated requirements. This, combined with the availability of onsite storage, means that the system will be able to meet all leachate treatment needs of the site with additional capacity to account for planned and unplanned downtime, seasonal variations, and changes to treatment needs. Because of the modular nature of the units and the additional space planned at the project site, SLS can mobilize an additional treatment skid or swap out to a larger skid if additional capacity is needed. The system will be available to operate more than 80% of the time. Based on the proposed capacity of 30,000 gallons per day, the system would need to be operated less than 50% of the time.

SLS will ensure the continuous and reliable operation of the leachate treatment system consistent with all applicable regulations and performance standards outlined in the RFP. The system will be designed and maintained to minimize unplanned downtime and prevent unauthorized discharge or leachate accumulation beyond safe storage capacity.

### 3.4.2 System Performance Monitoring

SLS staff review the ROBOX unit's performance daily while the unit is operating to ensure the system remains within expected parameters. The system is equipped with a network of pressure, flow, and conductivity meters that collect and report data at least once per minute. A series of alarms notifies operators within minutes if these parameters fall outside of the expected range, and can automatically shut the system down in the event of a major disruption.

### 3.4.3 Risk Management and System Redundancy

SLS maintains an inventory of critical equipment, including high-pressure pumps, additional membranes and vessels, and other critical equipment. SLS also maintains an additional treatment skid that can be deployed in cases where the primary system experiences a major malfunction and repairs cannot be completed before the treatment system's capacity is needed.

SLS will provide an operational emergency and contingency plan for equipment failure, power outages, or inclement weather. As discussed above, the Site has 11 to 17 days of leachate storage at max generation rate, depending on the season. SLS proposes operating the system to maximize available leachate storage capacity when the tank is at 50% capacity or less. This ensures that the site will always maintain at least 5 days of leachate storage capacity should the ROBOX system experience unexpected downtime. This will allow SLS to shutdown during inclement weather or power failures, and also provide ample time to replace critical infrastructure or deploy a mobile treatment unit, if necessary.

### 3.4.4 Maintenance Strategy

SLS follows an extensive preventive maintenance strategy to maximize equipment life and minimize unplanned downtime. This maintenance includes routine membrane cleaning, pump inspection, instrument calibration, and filter replacement. Maintenance activities will be scheduled when appropriate leachate storage capacity is available (i.e., tank holds relatively low leachate volume), and

system capacity is not needed.

## 3.5 Technical Merit and Innovation

The ROBOX system was developed at the University of Florida as a robust and effective leachate treatment system, with the pilot unit in operation at Alachua County Southwest Landfill since 2010. The system has been deployed at six landfill sites throughout the state of Florida and has demonstrated the following key performance characteristics that are unique to the system:

1. **Treatment Performance**: The system has high removal of all parameters of concern, generally achieving drinking water standards for all parameters except for ammonia, even with a single stage.

2. **Adaptability**: SLS has demonstrated the ability to adapt the ROBOX system for a wide range of leachate volume, quality, and treatment objectives.

3. **Sustainability**: The system minimizes residuals, which are all contained within the landfill, minimizing risk of release of contaminants to the environment with no air emission or offsite sludge disposal.

4. **Simple Operation:** The ROBOX system is operated by SLS's team of trained operators and does not require any time or materials from the County to operate, simplifying operation for the County.

## 3.6 Compliance with Effluent Standards

SLS will provide a ROBOX unit designed to meet all required effluent quality targets for BOD5, COD, TSS, ammonia-nitrogen, total nitrogen, and pH. SLS will ensure compliance with effluent standards of this RFP via a rigorous monitoring program, including composite sample collection during discharge to the WWTP if required by the County. Aside from total nitrogen, all parameters are expected to be met with a single-stage ROBOX treatment, whereas ammonia/nitrogen would require additional treatment steps. The expected performance and number of stages to reach the effluent standard are shown in Table 3-5. The system is not expected to significantly change the leachate pH, reducing it slightly by about 0.5 SU when the influent leachate pH is elevated.

**Table 3-5. Leachate Quality, Effluent Standards, and ROBOX Projected Performance**

| Parameter | Units | Leachate Concentration | Target Effluent Concentration | ROBOX Expected Performance | Stages to Reach Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand ($BOD_5$) | mg/L | 7 to 193 | ≤ 30 | <30 | 1 Stage |
| Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) | mg/L | 36 to 4,400 | ≤ 250 or 80-90% removal | <250 | 1 Stage |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS) | mg/L | 12 to 120 | ≤ 30 | <10 | 1 Stage |
| Ammonia Nitrogen | mg/L | 50 to 2400 | ≤ 10 | <10 | 2-4 Stages |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Nitrogen (TN) | mg/L | 50 to 2400 | ≤ 20 | <20 | 2-4 Stages |
| pH | S.U. | 7.6 to 8.5 | 6.0-8.5 | 6.5 to 8 | N/A |

The system does not generate any sludges or residuals aside from the brine, and a very small volume of micron filter and membranes (less than 1 ton per year). No chemical dosing is anticipated; a small dose of anti-scalant may be employed to minimize calcium carbonate/calcium sulfate precipitation in the brine. If used, this anti-scalant will remain in the brine.

The performance of the ROBOX unit has historically been stable, with effluent quality largely dictated by variations in leachate strength driven by seasonal flow changes and often correlated with large rain events. Historically, ROBOX nitrogen results have been tightly correlated with the leachate and permeate conductivities. Any significant change in effluent quality would therefore be detected as a change in feed and permeate conductivity, which are frequently monitored and correlated with field and laboratory total nitrogen readings by the SLS project team. The correlation based on existing leachate and conductance data provided by the site is shown in Figure 3-4 for ammonia nitrogen, which represents over 99% of total nitrogen based on all available sampling data. The figure also shows a modeled upper bound that would be used to estimate ammonia influent concentrations based on treatment conductivity data. A similar correlation will be developed for permeate and used for estimating the permeate ammonia level based on permeate conductivity measurements. This correlation will be updated frequently based on field nitrogen measurements conducted by the SLS operator team and on laboratory samples.

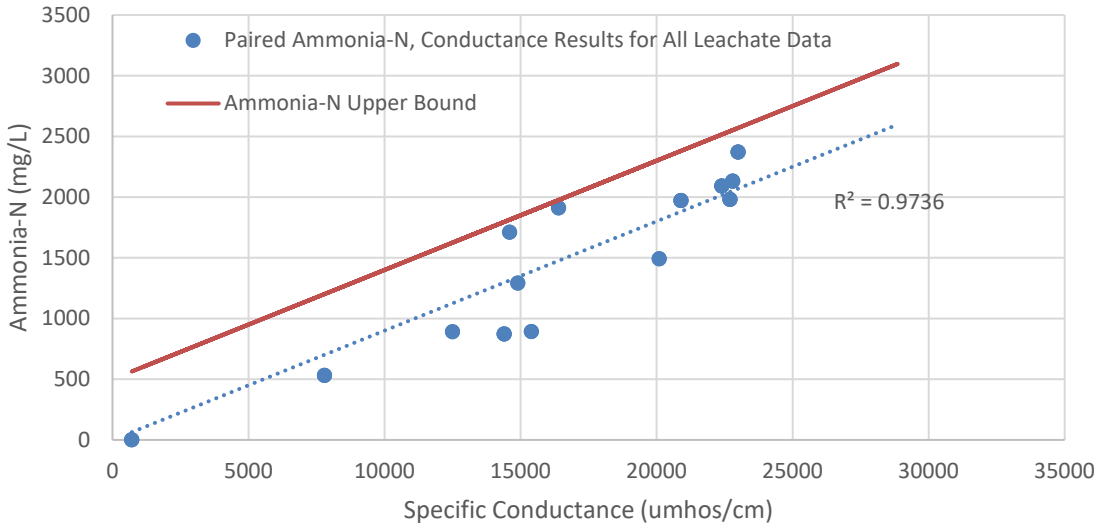



**Figure 3-4. Relationship between Specific Conductance and Paired Ammonia Samples at Project Site, Showing Ammonia-Nitrogen Concentrations Correlate Closely with Conductance**

Weekly field data reported to the County will include flow rate and conductivity data. SLS will collect monthly composite samples for monitoring the parameters listed in Table 3-4. Section 3.3 discusses operational controls and data reporting in more detail.

Leachate quality can vary widely and the ROBOX system is able to manage a wide range of leachate characteristics. Attachment C summarizes the upper limits of the proposed management strategy for which the ROBOX unit would manage at the proposed cost. When Cell 4 opens, leachate is expected to

become more dilute, rather than stronger, and SLS does not anticipate that leachate strength will exceed the values discussed in Attachment C. If the leachate characteristics change dramatically over the contract period to exceed these values, this may require a modification to the system design, a renegotiation of the rate or scope of services.

## 3.7 Implementation

SLS proposes the following phases for the project, along with the anticipated duration to bring the system into full operation:

1. Design and Permitting – 106 days –
    a. Design of site infrastructure
    b. FDEP permitting
    c. Final system modification plans developed.
2. Construction and Infrastructure Development – 88 days –
    a. Construction of secondary containment area with sump drained to master lift station
    b. Extension of electrical infrastructure to containment area
    c. Hydraulic connections for hookup of modular skid
    d. Delivery of the system
3. Commissioning – 30 days
    a. Initial operation of the system
    b. Collection of permeate samples for optimizing system performance
    c. Transition to routine operation

A more detailed schedule and discussion of the implementation steps are included in Section 5 of this proposal. SLS has partnered with CCI and IET to provide construction and infrastructure services, including secondary containment, electrical, and hydraulic connections, for the ROBOX unit.

### 3.7.1 Design and Permitting

The modular ROBOX system is highly adaptable to the site-specific characteristics of each landfill and will be the basis for the design of the treatment process. SLS will provide a ROBOX system or series of systems that can meet the flow and quality standards as discussed in Section 3.2, which is anticipated to include additional tanks to hold intermediate flows. SLS will provide the County with a final design of the treatment process and site infrastructure as part of the permitting phase of the project.

The installation and operation of ROBOX will require a minor modification of the existing solid waste permit. A major solid waste permit modification is anticipated to be necessary to permit brine return to the landfill. Since the site is not permitted to recirculate leachate, a major permit modification is expected to permit the on-site leachate treatment and brine recirculation. The proposed cost includes design and permit application preparation costs. SLS assumes that the County will pay the FDEP permit application fee directly to FDEP.

The proposed treatment system will be designed, permitted, and operated in accordance with all

applicable Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) regulations and the discharge requirements identified in the RFP. SLS will coordinate with Hernando County and FDEP to obtain any required solid waste permit modifications or industrial wastewater permits necessary for implementation of the proposed treatment system.

During this phase, SLS will develop and provide to the County a closure and decommissioning plan, and a an Operational Emergency and Contingency plan for equipment failure, power outages, or inclement weather, as discussed in Section 3.4.3.

### 3.7.2 Site Preparation

SLS will work with IET and CCI to construct a concrete pad, anticipated to be 60 ft by 30 ft, as shown in Section 3.2 above, that will provide secondary containment for the ROBOX system. Simultaneously with the construction of the concrete pad, IET will install the hydraulic and electrical connections to enable the ROBOX system to integrate with the existing onsite infrastructure. SLS will request an electrical service from the local electrical utility and pay the electricity cost at that service location. SLS assumes that a geotechnical analysis is not required prior to the installation of the concrete pads.

### 3.7.3 System Installation

SLS anticipates mobilizing up to two treatment skids, as well as one to three storage tanks, which will be installed on the concrete pad. This equipment will be deployed by SLS staff and connected to the site infrastructure placed by IET. IET will perform the final electrical connections, and SLS will connect the system (s) and tank(s) to the hydraulic connections provided by IET.

### 3.7.4 Startup and Commissioning

SLS will commission the system by operating it using leachate from the leachate storage tank and performing test runs in which all permeate and brine will be stored in the storage tanks. During this start-up period, SLS anticipates collecting daily field readings and weekly laboratory quality samples. During this period, SLS will work with the County to establish permeate quality based on both field readings and laboratory readings, and demonstrate at least two consecutive sampling events of stable operation meeting the discharge standards before discharging treated permeate to the forcemain for the County wastewater treatment plant.

### 3.7.5 Environmental/Safety Considerations

SLS will provide a safety plan for the County's review before commissioning of the system. Due to the low volume of leachate held by the system at any given time and the secondary containment system included in this proposal, the likelihood of environmental release during system operation is very low. The system is monitored continuously for influent flow, pressure, and conductivity, and for treated permeate and concentrated brine flow and pressure, with automated shutdown systems to prevent any potential interruption, ensuring the system operates with no or minimal risk to human health and the environment.

### 3.7.6 Transition to Regular Operation

After the commissioning phase, SLS will begin discharging treated permeate to the County wastewater forcemain and brine to trucks for disposal in the landfill working face. SLS will continue to monitor the

system continuously for flow and conductivity, provide weekly reports to the County, monthly compliance sampling reports, and maintain regular operation until the end of the contract period.

## 3.8 End of Contract Requirements

At the end of the contract period, SLS will demobilize the ROBOX units and any storage tanks. At the County's discretion, SLS will also demolish the concrete pad and remove any utility connections. SLS assumes the County will receive demolition debris from the concrete pad.

# 4 SLS's Experience

## 4.1 Experience of Key Staff with Projects of Similar Scope and Complexity

SLS team members have provided engineering services for public and private-sector clients on a variety of challenging solid waste, environmental, and energy issues. These services have been provided through Innovative Waste Consulting Services LLC. SLS team members have extensive experience in areas such as design, permitting, and operation of onsite leachate treatment systems, financial analysis for a variety of engineering applications, including feasibility evaluations of emerging technologies, design, and operation of waste management collection and disposal units, design and assessment of waste treatment and recycling facilities, and characterization of environmental risks and impacts from a variety of solid waste-related activities. SLS team members have significant experience developing educational outreach and training courses and modules for professionals and the general public on a range of complex environmental issues. SLS team members have provided their services to a range of clients in the US, Europe, Central America, Asia, and Australia.

Our team has extensive expertise in evaluating leachate generation rates and quality data, onsite treatment options, the operation and maintenance of landfills and bioreactor landfills, materials market analysis, solid waste management, and waste composition studies. SLS team members have conducted multiple solid waste management projects, including feasibility studies on emerging waste treatment technologies.

The Project Team has experience in design, construction, commissioning, operation, maintenance, and compliance monitoring of several leachate treatment systems within the last five years, as shown in Table 4-1. All of these projects have demonstrated a strong track record of compliance. A majority of the leachate treatment projects that the SLS team has implemented in the past 5 years were similar in scope and complexity to the one proposed at HCNWLF. A letter of reference from some of these clients is included in Attachment B.

It should be noted that all the projects that SLS has implemented to date are located in Florida. Due to hurricanes and tropical storms, and relatively higher annual rainfall, landfills in Florida and those located on the east coast are likely to have not only a higher leachate generation rate (measured per acre lined area) but also larger seasonal variations. In addition to the generation rate, leachate quality also varies significantly with rainfall. Our team has a strong understanding of the seasonal variations in leachate generation rate and quality. This understanding is critical to the successful implementation of the project at HCNWLF. ROBOX systems and operation strategy are designed to address this high seasonal variability in leachate generation and leachate quality.

**Table 4-1. Florida Landfill Leachate Treatment Projects by the Project Team within the Last Five Years.**

| Number | Leachate Treatment Project Site | Client | Status | Dates | Is Scope and Complexity Similar to HCNWLF? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility - Leachate Treatment System | Waste Pro of Florida, Putnam County, FL | Routine Operation | 2025-Ongoing | Yes |
| **2** | Perdido Landfill - Leachate Treatment System | Escambia County, FL | Fixed-Volume Contract Complete | 2025-2026 | Yes |
| **3** | Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC) | Sarasota County, FL | Under Construction | 2024-Ongoing | Yes |
| **4** | New River Regional Landfill, Union County, Florida | New River Solid Waste Association, Union County, FL | Routine Operation | 2023-Ongoing | Yes |
| **5** | Trail Ridge Landfill | City of Jacksonville, FL | Pilot Complete<br>Design Phase for Full Scale | 2025-Ongoing | No |
| **6** | Class III Landfill in Central Florida | Private Client | Pilot Project | 2024 | No |

These projects are discussed in further detail below.

1. **Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility- Leachate Treatment System, Putnam County, Florida. 2025-Ongoing.** Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. (WPF) owns and operates the landfill. WPF had installed and operated a membrane-based treatment at the site for 2-3 years. Due to frequent shutdowns and extensive operating and maintenance needs, WPF decommissioned the system and contracted SLS to provide leachate treatment services at the Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility in April 2025. SLS commissioned and began treating leachate within two weeks of receiving the notice to proceed. SLS has processed over 3.3 million gallons of leachate since the project started in May 2025. SLS also assisted WPF in obtaining an Industrial Wastewater Permit for onsite discharge of permeate. FDEP issued the permit within 100 days of WPF's notice to proceed to SLS. The permeate is currently discharged onsite into an Industrial Wastewater Rapid Infiltration Basin. The permeate from the SLS meets the drinking water standards for all the parameters, with the primary and secondary drinking water standards.
2. **Perdido Landfill Leachate Treatment System, Escambia County, Florida. 2025-Ongoing.** Escambia County Waste Services Department owns and operates Perdido Landfill (Cantonment, Florida). Due to high levels of color, and total nitrogen, Perdido Landfill was limited in the

amount of leachate that could be discharged to the local wastewater plant. Due to heavy summer rains in 2025, an excess of leachate accumulated in the pond. Perdido Landfill issued an Invitation to Bid requesting an aggressive timeline on deployment of a mobile leachate treatment system that could treat a high volume of liquid to lower the pond volume. SLS won the bid and deployed a system capable of treating 45,000 gallons of leachate per day. SLS worked with Perdido Landfill staff and the local wastewater utility to obtain permission to increase the discharge of treated leachate, given its high quality; the system removed over 90% of total nitrogen and increased ultraviolet transmission by over 90%.

3. **Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC), Sarasota County, FL. 2024-Ongoing**. Sarasota County issued an RFP for leachate pretreatment services to treat leachate before discharge to their local wastewater treatment utility. The utility was primarily concerned with the leachate's color and ammonia concentration and requested a moderate reduction. Given that the landfill was expected to grow considerably, the County was interested in a leachate management strategy that would accommodate significant increases in leachate generation rate without burdening the County with a large capital project. SLS proposed mobilizing a ROBOX system in the near term and mobilizing an additional unit in the future if leachate treatment demands required additional capacity. SLS was selected for its proposed flexible approach, which was highly cost-effective compared to other proposers. SLS has worked with the County as they upgrade other leachate management infrastructure, such as new leachate ponds and recirculation lines to manage brine. SLS has constructed the system and expects commissioning in March 2026.

4. **Reverse Osmosis leachate pre-treatment system at New River Regional Landfill, Union County, Florida (Project Owner: New River Solid Waste Association), 2022-Ongoing.** New River Solid Waste Association (NRSWA) owns and operates New River Regional Landfill (NRRL) through an Interlocal Agreement among Baker, Bradford, and Union Counties to provide solid waste disposal services for these counties. Leachate collected from each landfill cell is pumped to two 500,000-gallon lined leachate storage ponds located in the northeast corner of Cell 1. A portion of this leachate is recirculated back into the landfill. Historically, the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has accepted leachate from NRRL regardless of its quality, and in return, NRSWA has accepted WWTP sludges for disposal at NRRL. The WWTP raised concerns about elevated ammonia-N levels and chlorine demand associated with leachate treatment and requested NRSWA to pre-treat the leachate to reduce ammonia-N below 100 mg/L and reduce overall chlorine demand by 90% or more. After being awarded the project, SLS designed, installed, and operated a 40,000-gallons-per-day RO leachate pre-treatment system. The project was commissioned in 2022 and was operated and maintained by SLS for a year. The permeate (treated leachate) is stored and aerated in the lined pond, then pumped to the WWTP, and the brine is recirculated into the landfill. The ammonia concentration in permeate from this single-stage RO system has been less than 100 mg/L. The ammonia concentration in the aerated permeate has been well below 100 mg/L and occasionally has been less than 2.5 mg/L. Figures 4-1 and 4-2 present a visual comparison of the quality of permeate from the SLS system and leachate. The site is currently meeting all water quality standards specified by the WWTP. Please click this link for a new coverage for this system.

**Figure 4-1. Permeate from the Reverse Osmosis Leachate Pre-Treatment System at New River Regional Landfill**


**Figure 4-2. Raw Leachate (Right) and Treated Permeate (Left) at New River Regional Landfill ROBOX System.**

5. **Trail Ridge Landfill Membrane Treatment Project, Jacksonville, Florida, 2025-Ongoing**. The City of Jacksonville, FL, owns Trail Ridge Landfill, which is operated by Waste Management. Trail Ridge Landfill currently manages leachate via an onsite evaporation unit and offsite trucking to their local utility. The leachate evaporator is not able to meet the leachate management needs of the site, and the City commissioned SLS to perform a pilot study and propose next steps for a membrane treatment system that could synergize with its evaporation system to manage all leachate produced on site. SLS mobilized an RO system with a first-pass capacity of 80,000 gallons per day and worked with IET to integrate it into the onsite leachate management infrastructure. SLS used a single unit and a series of tanks to test several configurations, including multi-stage and multi-pass systems, and different membrane types, to develop a leachate management strategy for the site. SLS has proposed a leachate management configuration that is expected to manage all leachate onsite, improve evaporator performance, reduce evaporator operating costs, and avoid adding additional liquids to the landfill. The City is currently reviewing this proposal.
6. **Onsite Leachate Pre-Treatment Pilot Project at a Class III Landfill in Central Florida, 2024**. SLS conducted a pilot project to evaluate the ammonia removal capabilities of SLS's system at a Class III landfill in Central Florida for a private and confidential client. The system removed over 90% of ammonia on average. The permeate quality met all the criteria specified by WWTP. SLS assisted the site owner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) approval for the pilot project. SLS mobilized and commissioned the system within 6 weeks of the notice to proceed by the landfill owner. SLS operated and monitored the system throughout the project. The treatment system was demobilized upon completion of the pilot project.
7. **Alachua County Southwest Landfill – Membrane Leachate Treatment System, Alachua County, Florida (Project Owner: Alachua County Public Works Department). 2009-Ongoing.** Dr. Timothy Townsend is the principal investigator and engineer of record for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of this first full-scale membrane leachate treatment system operated in the state of Florida. Alachua County partnered with the University of Florida to develop an innovative membrane-based treatment system that manages all leachate onsite. This system consists of a two-stage treatment train capable of reducing ammonia nitrogen concentrations from 800 mg/L in the raw leachate to below 5 mg/L in the final treated permeate. Treated permeate has been discharged to a sprayfield on the surface of the closed landfill cell. The brine is recirculated into the landfill. This system has treated over 10 million gallons of leachate in its first five years of operation and continues to manage all leachate generated on-site since commissioning. This system has formed the basis for intellectual property licensed for exclusive use by the project team. Project team member James Wally assisted in operating and extensively modifying the system during his time working for Alachua County and the University of Florida.
8. **Onsite Leachate Treatment System Design, Permitting and Commissioning at Enterprise Road Class III Recycling and Disposal Facility, Pasco County, Florida (Project Owner: Angelos Aggregate Materials, Inc), 2020-Ongoing.** Angelos Aggregate Materials operated an unlined industrial wastewater pond (IW pond) to dispose of the leachate generated at the site. Leachate disposal into the pond was suspended in early 2020 due to iron and manganese exceedances observed in some downgradient wells during 2019 monitoring events. The FDEP issued a Consent Order to Angelos requiring the submission of a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address iron, manganese, and pH exceedances observed during the 2019 monitoring events. SLS team members (through Innovative Waste Consulting Services LLC) evaluated and tested several pilot-scale treatment options, including oxidation and membrane-based treatment, for the site. Leachate oxidation was selected as the treatment option for the site. SLS team members prepared and submitted a CAP to the FDEP

in September 2020. The CAP proposed lining a section of the unlined pond and using the lined section to passively (or actively) aerate the leachate to oxidize iron and manganese, thereby reducing concentrations below the respective compliance limits. The liner construction was completed in April 2021. SLS team members started the pond commissioning and have been assisting Angelos in monitoring treated leachate quality at the site. The system is currently in routine operation and is meeting its effluent discharge standards. Iron and manganese in the treated leachate have been consistently below the background limit/secondary drinking water standards.

9. **State of Practice of Onsite Leachate Treatment at Municipal Solid Waste Landfills in the US (Project owner: US Environmental Protection Agency, Prime Contractor RTI International), 2019-2021.** SLS team members (through Innovative Waste Consulting Services LLC) developed a report documenting the state of practice of onsite leachate treatment at MSW landfills in the US. The SLS team members compiled a database of over 400 MSW landfills that treat leachate onsite, as shown in Figure 4-3. A detailed evaluation of six onsite leachate treatment systems, including the membrane-based system, was conducted to assess the treatment option used, system efficiency and efficacy, treatment system construction, operating and maintenance costs, operating duration, and the contaminants the treatment system is designed to remove. SLS has developed an in-depth understanding of the current onsite leachate treatment and pre-treatment practices and design and operating considerations that should be taken into account for various types of systems.

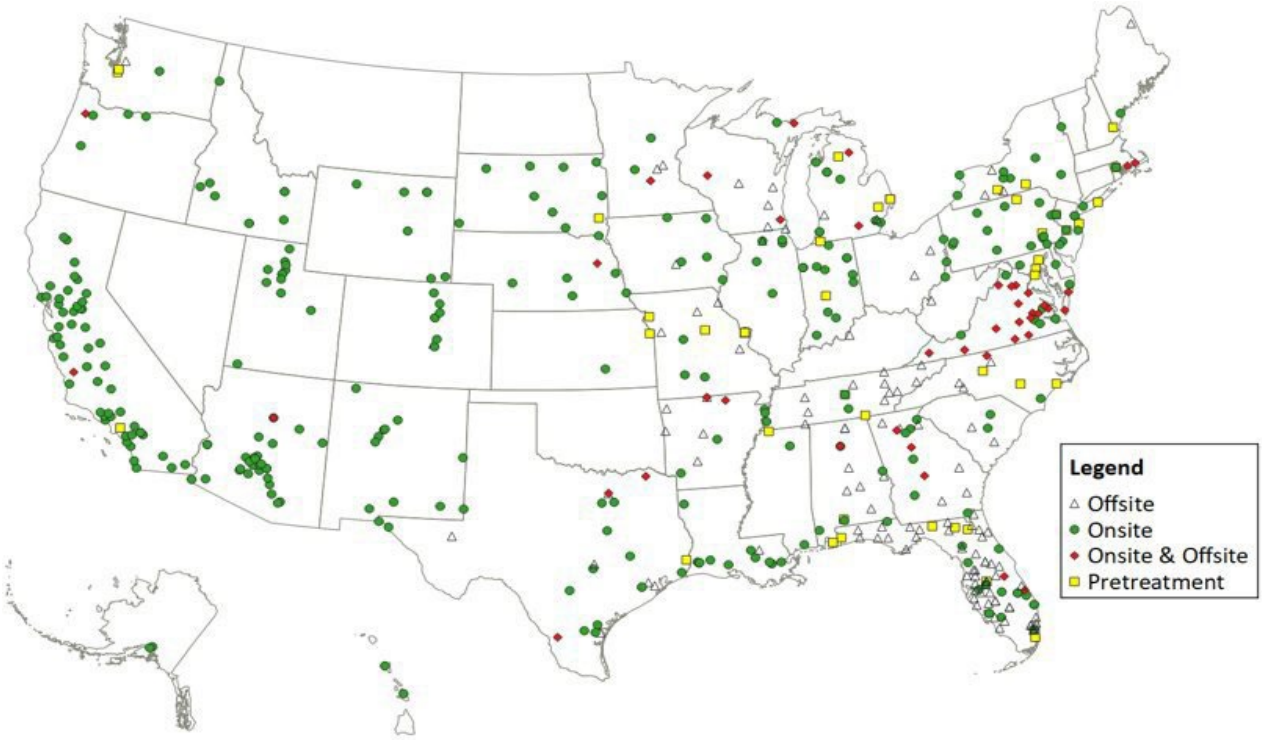



**Figure 4-3. Inventory of all Identified Landfills and Leachate Management Strategies Complied by the Project Team Members for the US EPA Onsite Leachate Treatment State of the Practice Report (Jain et al., 2021).**

10. **Evaluation of Reverse Osmosis for Treating Leachate at the Municipal Landfill of Vega Baja,**

**Puerto Rico, 2019.** La Vega Landfill and Resources, Inc. (LVLR) currently manages its leachate through trucking offsite to a WWTP; however, leachate volume and quality restrictions imposed by the WWTP are making leachate management a considerable challenge for the site. Mr. Wally conducted a review of the state of the leachate treatment across the US and identified seven sites that manage leachate onsite using RO systems. Treatment efficiencies and capital and operational costs of these systems were evaluated. After a critical evaluation of LVLR's needs and existing treatment systems, the application of the RO system was recommended for the site. Dr. Jain and Mr. Wally assisted LVLR in preparing and submitting a Research, Demonstration, and Development permit application to install and operate an onsite landfill leachate treatment system using RO membranes. The permit application was submitted to the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board and the Environmental Protection Agency Region 2. SLS team members conducted this project through Innovative Waste Consulting Services LLC.

11. **Long-Term Performance of Subtitle D Landfills (Project owner: US Environmental Protection Agency), 2016- 2020.** SLS team members evaluated the long-term performance of 9 closed MSW landfill sites around the US to develop approaches that landfill owners and regulators can take to assess the maintenance and monitoring needs of closed MSW landfills at the end of the 30-year post-closure care period. The landfill liner and closure cap design, leachate generation rate and quality, landfill gas collection and quality, and groundwater quality data were extensively reviewed for the selected sites to develop approaches for assessing post-closure care termination or extension. SLS team members analyzed trends in leachate generation rates and used various approaches to model future leachate generation rates at these sites. Based on a review of the leachate quality data, SLS team members identified contaminants of potential concern that may pose a threat to the environment and human health if leachate collection system operations are terminated. The data suggested that only a handful of contaminants subject to primary and secondary drinking water standards may pose a threat to the environment and human health if the leachate collection system is terminated. SLS team members conducted this project through Innovative Waste Consulting Services LLC.

12. **Extensive Leachate Recirculation System Design and Operating Experience**. SLS team members have extensive experience designing and operating leachate recirculation systems at MSW landfills. SLS team members commissioned the leachate recirculation system at New River Regional Landfill in 2003 and managed the day-to-day operation until 2005. SLS team members commissioned the leachate recirculation system at Polk County North Central Landfill (Polk County, Florida) in 2006 and managed the day-to-day operation until 2007. SLS has designed and/or operated leachate recirculation systems for several landfills in the US, Asia, and Europe. Recirculation into the landfill is the most common approach to managing rejects from the membrane-based system. SLS team members conducted these projects through Innovative Waste Consulting Services LLC. SLS team members designed a leachate recirculation system at the following sites:

    a. New River Regional Landfill, Florida
    b. Polk County North Central Landfill, Florida
    c. Salt River Landfill, Arizona
    d. Kanjur Integrated Waste Management Facility, Mumbai, India
    e. Getlini EKO Landfill, Riga City, Latvia

A majority of the leachate treatment projects that the SLS team has implemented in the past 5 years were similar in scope and complexity to the one proposed at HCNWLF. With this experience, SLS project team is uniquely qualified to design, permit, construct, and operate the proposed membrane-based

treatment system at HCNWLF. While executing any project or task, we have always prioritized identifying and implementing long-term strategies to save our clients' money. One clear example of a project where our team will save the client millions of dollars in leachate treatment costs is the leachate pre-treatment system at the Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex, owned and operated by Sarasota County. SLS cost was 1/4 of the second-lowest bidder's proposed cost.

## 4.2 Project Team Experience with Permit Modifications and DEP/F.A.C. Permitting

The SLS team has extensive permitting experience and a positive working relationship with FDEP regulators. The SLS team's experience includes leachate treatment, leachate and brine recirculation, and onsite permeate disposal (through an industrial wastewater permit) in the state of Florida. Table 4-2 summarizes projects the project team has been involved in for leachate management permitting in the state of Florida.

**Table 4-2. Project Team Permitting Experience for Florida Landfills**

| Leachate Treatment Project Site | Landfill Type | Project Team FDEP/FAC Permitting Role | Dates | Is Scope and Complexity Similar to HCNWLF? |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (CCSWDC)** | Class I | Permit modification assistance<br>• Leachate treatment permitting<br>• Leachate recirculation design and permitting | 2024-Ongoing | Yes |
| **New River Regional Landfill** | Class I | Permit modification assistance | 2023-Ongoing | Yes |
| **Polk County North Central Landfill**[1] | Class I | • Leachate treatment system permitting<br>• Industrial wastewater permitting | 2023 - Ongoing | Yes |
| **Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility** | C&D | • Leachate treatment system<br>• Permeate disposal infiltration pond<br>• Leachate recirculation system permitting | 2024 - Ongoing | Yes |
| **Enterprise Road Class III Recycling and Disposal Facility** | Class III | • Leachate treatment system permit modification<br>• Industrial wastewater permitting | 2021-Ongoing | No |
| **Alachua County Southwest Landfill**[1] | Class I | Applied for and received an RD&D permit for leachate treatment Transitioned to regular operation | 2009-Ongoing | Yes |

[1] Dr. Townsend, through his work at the University of Florida, was the Professional Engineer for the design and permitting of this project.

## 4.3 Project Team Experience with Leachate Management

The Project Team has extensive experience, both within and outside the firm, in the leachate treatment and management field. Table 4-3 shows the number of years of leachate treatment experience for each member of the project team. This includes projects discussed in Section 4.1 as well as projects done in a professional capacity for other organizations and firms. This project team has a combined 57 years of experience in leachate treatment and management. Attachment A includes resumes with select experience for Project Team members.

**Table 4-3. Project Team Members Years of Leachate Treatment Experience**

| Project Team Member | Years of Leachate Treatment Experience |
|---|---|
| **Dr. Pradeep Jain** | 5 |
| **Dr. Timothy Townsend** | 30 |
| **Dr. Nicole Robey** | 6 |
| **Jim Wally** | 13 |
| **Lewis Little** | 3 |

# 5 Project Schedule and Timeline

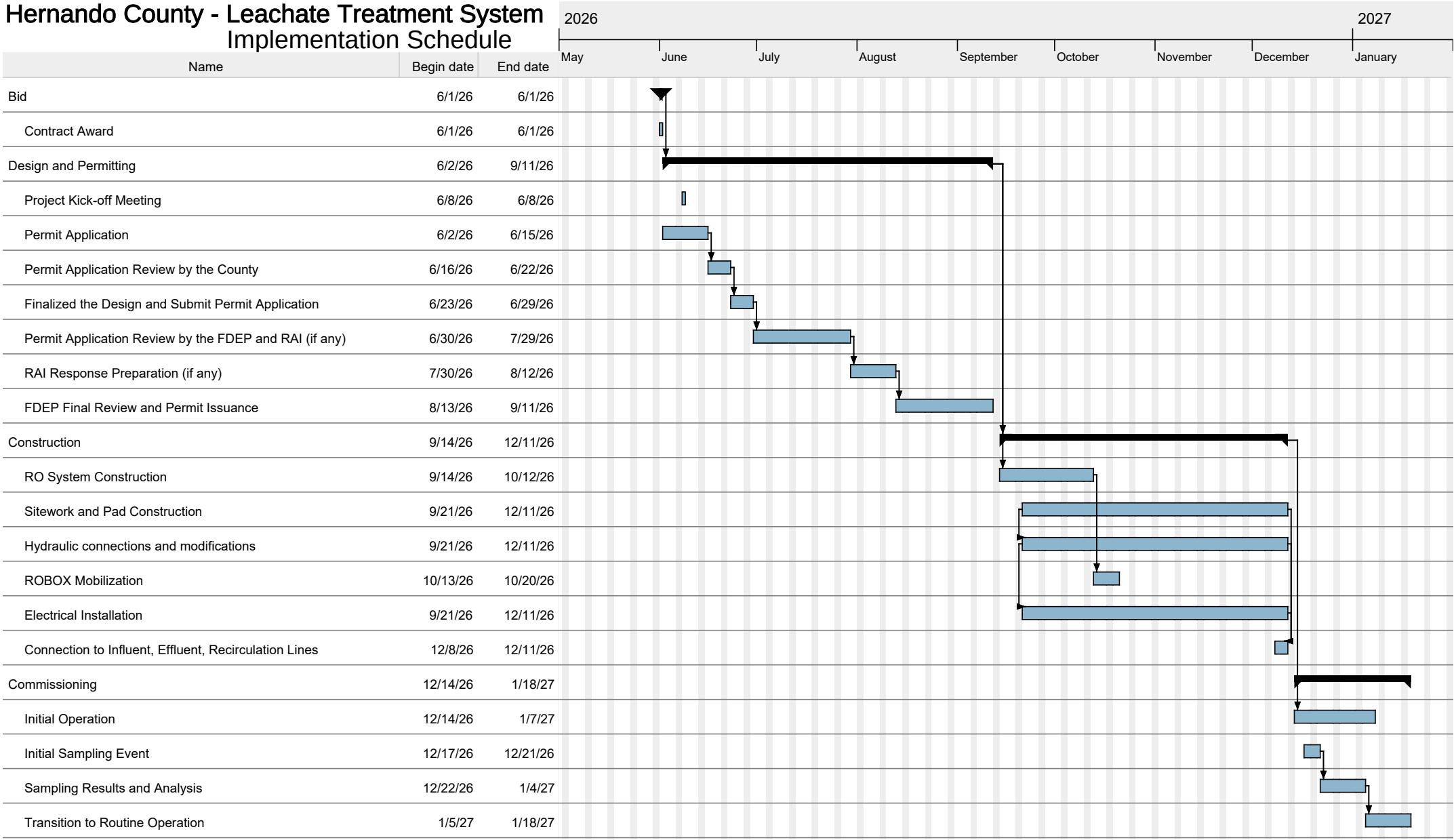
The proposed project schedule below assumes a contract award on June 1, 2026, and that FDEP will take 30 days to review all permits and have one RAI. SLS will make every effort to aggressively pursue the implementation of the membrane treatment system to minimize cost to the County. SLS anticipates 218 days from contract award to regular operation, assuming no major unanticipated delays.

SLS proposes the following phases for the project, along with anticipated phase length to bring the system into full operation:

1. Design and Permitting – 106 days –
    a. Design of site infrastructure
    b. FDEP permitting
    c. Final system modification plans developed.
2. Construction and Infrastructure Development – 88 days –
    a. Construction of secondary containment area with sump drained to master lift station
    b. Extension of electrical infrastructure to containment area
    c. Hydraulic connections for hookup of modular skid
    d. Delivery of the system
3. Commissioning – 30 days
    a. Initial operation of the system
    b. Collection of permeate samples for system optimization
    c. Transition to routine operation

Figure 5-1 shows the proposed timeline for the design, permitting, infrastructure, and deployment of the ROBOX system. SLS understands that HCNWLF is interested in the aggressive implementation of this project and will make every effort to deploy it to meet the County's leachate treatment needs. SLS will work with the County to develop a final timeline upon contract award.

## Hernando County - Leachate Treatment System
### Implementation Schedule




| Name | Begin date | End date |
|---|---|---|
| Bid | 6/1/26 | 6/1/26 |
| Contract Award | 6/1/26 | 6/1/26 |
| Design and Permitting | 6/2/26 | 9/11/26 |
| Project Kick-off Meeting | 6/8/26 | 6/8/26 |
| Permit Application | 6/2/26 | 6/15/26 |
| Permit Application Review by the County | 6/16/26 | 6/22/26 |
| Finalized the Design and Submit Permit Application | 6/23/26 | 6/29/26 |
| Permit Application Review by the FDEP and RAI (if any) | 6/30/26 | 7/29/26 |
| RAI Response Preparation (if any) | 7/30/26 | 8/12/26 |
| FDEP Final Review and Permit Issuance | 8/13/26 | 9/11/26 |
| Construction | 9/14/26 | 12/11/26 |
| RO System Construction | 9/14/26 | 10/12/26 |
| Sitework and Pad Construction | 9/21/26 | 12/11/26 |
| Hydraulic connections and modifications | 9/21/26 | 12/11/26 |
| ROBOX Mobilization | 10/13/26 | 10/20/26 |
| Electrical Installation | 9/21/26 | 12/11/26 |
| Connection to Influent, Effluent, Recirculation Lines | 12/8/26 | 12/11/26 |
| Commissioning | 12/14/26 | 1/18/27 |
| Initial Operation | 12/14/26 | 1/7/27 |
| Initial Sampling Event | 12/17/26 | 12/21/26 |
| Sampling Results and Analysis | 12/22/26 | 1/4/27 |
| Transition to Routine Operation | 1/5/27 | 1/18/27 |

**Figure 5-1. Proposed Implementation Schedule for ROBOX Leachate Treatment System at HCNWLF**

# 6 Additional Contract Terms

SLS proposes to include the following terms in addition to those specified in the RFP. These include terms on a minimum treatment volume, fee escalation, permit fee payment, and compliance sampling costs.

## 6.1 Minimum Treatment Volume

SLS will expend a significant amount of capital to deploy ROBOX unit(s), construct infrastructure (e.g., concrete pad, piping, electrical), and prepare permit applications to implement the project. While SLS understands that the County cannot guarantee a specific leachate treatment volume, SLS will require treating a minimum of 2.7 million gallons of leachate or an equivalent fee to cover the amortized capital cost of the project. Based on the historical generation rate data and Cell 4 construction, it highly unlikely that the site will generate less than 2.7 million gallons of leachate annually.

## 6.2 Annual Cost Escalation

The proposed treatment fee will be escalated annually to account for inflation. Any fee schedule adjustment requests will be submitted by SLS in writing to the County annually by November 1st each calendar year of the Agreement. The fee schedule adjustments will be effective on January 1st of each calendar year following the request. The fee schedule increases will be based upon the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Items, Not Seasonally Adjusted (CPI-U) for the South Region (https://www.bls.gov/regions/southeast/news-release/consumerpriceindex_south.htm).

Other fee schedule increases due to circumstances beyond SLS's control shall be considered by the County if SLS provides justification for the increased costs.

## 6.3 Permitting Fee and Assistance

SLS will coordinate and provide all permitting work necessary for the project, which is anticipated to include a major modification to the solid waste permit to allow brine recirculation to the landfill. SLS assumes that the County will pay the fee owed directly to FDEP for a major permit modification. SLS also assumes that the "Engineer of Record" for the landfill will work with SLS to modify the Site Operations Plan and seal the resulting modified plan.

The proposed scope does not include Industrial Wastewater Permitting.

## 6.4 Compliance Sampling Costs

SLS will provide sampling and analysis of monthly permeate samples to meet the RFP compliance parameters listed in Table 3-4 in Section 3.6. The proposed cost includes sampling for these parameters only. The proposed cost assumes that FDEP will not impose additional sampling requirements because all treated permeate will be discharged to a permitted WWTP.

# 7 References

We are providing the following references for your consideration. We have provided leachate

treatment services to these clients within the last 5 years. A letter of reference from these clients is included in Attachment B.

1) Joel Woolsey. Assistant Director, New River Solid Waste Association (Email: jwoolsey@nrswa.org, Phone: 352-871-7066)
2) Michael Fernandez, Vice-President Post-Collection Operation, Waste Pro of Florida, Inc. (Email: mfernandez@wasteprousa.com; Phone: 754-306-3595)
3) Mr. Andrew Liess, Director, Escambia County Waste Services (Email: asliess@myescambia.com; Phone: 850-937-2164

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Townsend, T.G., Powell, J., Jain, P., Xu, Q., Tolaymat, T., Reinhart, D. (2015). *Sustainable Practices for Landfill Design and Operation.* Springer. ISBN-13: 978-1-4939-2661-9, ISBN: 1-4939-2661-6.

## Attachment A. Project Team Resumes

## E. RESUMES OF KEY PERSONNEL PROPOSED FOR THIS CONTRACT

*(Complete one Section E for each key person)*

| 12. NAME | 13. ROLE IN THIS CONTRACT | 14. YEARS EXPERIENCE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | a. TOTAL | b. WITH CURRENT FIRM |
| **Pradeep Jain, PhD, PE** | **Project Manager** | 21 | 5 |

15. FIRM NAME AND LOCATION *(City and State)*

Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC, Newberry, Florida

| 16. EDUCATION | 17. CURRENT PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION *(STATE AND DISCIPLINE)* |
|---|---|
| PhD, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/2005<br>ME, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/2003<br>B-Tech, Civil Engineering/ Indian Institute of Technology/1997 | Registered Professional Engineer: Florida #68657 |

18. OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS *(Publications, Organizations, Training, Awards, etc.)*

**Sustainable Practices of Landfill Design and Operations**, Waste Management Principles and Practice, Springer, New York, 2015

19. RELEVANT PROJECTS

a.

(1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Sarasota County Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (Sarasota, Florida)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2023-Ongoing; CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)*: 2025-2026

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Project manager for the design and construction of a leachate management system to manage elevated ammonia and color in Class I landfill leachate. Worked with the site to develop site infrastructure, including leachate storage ponds, leachate management hydraulic systems, and recirculation lines for brine disposal. System fabrication is completed and awaiting mobilization and commissioning when infrastructure work is complete.

b.

(1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility (Interlachen, Florida)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2025-Ongoing; CONSTRUCTION: 2025

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Project manager for a design, build, own and operate project to provide a leachate treatment system for this C&D landfill in North Florida. The site had an existing onsite leachate treatment system that did not have sufficient capacity to meet site needs. Mobilized a system with sufficient capacity to manage all leachate onsite. Designed and permitted the upgraded leachate treatment system as well as an infiltration pond to manage treated permeate, and leachate recirculation lines to manage brine. All leachate is managed onsite, resulting in significant savings and simplified operation for the site. Provided compliance services for leachate treatment monitoring and reporting.

c.

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **New River Regional Landfill Reverse Osmosis Leachate Pretreatment System (Raiford, Florida)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2021-Ongoing; CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)*: 2022

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Managed design, construction, and operation of a membrane-based leachate pretreatment system with a capacity of over 40,000 gallons per day. This system is currently meeting treatment objectives for volume and quality. The permeate is discharged to a wastewater treatment plant and the brine is recirculated into the landfill.

d.

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Onsite Leachate Treatment System at Enterprise Road Class III Recycling and Disposal Facility**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2020-Ongoing; CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)*: 2021

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

Project Manager for design and permitting of an onsite leachate treatment system to treat leachate for iron and manganese. Supervised the design, and preparation of permit modification applications for the FDEP Solid Waste and Industrial Wastewater Divisions of the Southwest District of FDEP. The system was constructed in April 2021. The system was commissioned in 2021 and transitioned into routine operation by January 2022. The treated leachate from this system is being discharged onsite. Routine sampling indicates that iron and manganese in the treated leachate have been below the background concentration/secondary drinking water standards.

## E. RESUMES OF KEY PERSONNEL PROPOSED FOR THIS CONTRACT

*(Complete one Section E for each key person)*

| 12. NAME | 13. ROLE IN THIS CONTRACT | 14. YEARS EXPERIENCE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | a. TOTAL | b. WITH CURRENT FIRM |
| **Timothy Townsend, PhD, PE** | **Technical Lead** | 28 | 5 |

15. FIRM NAME AND LOCATION *(City and State)*

Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC, Newberry, Florida

| 16. EDUCATION | 17. CURRENT PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION *(STATE AND DISCIPLINE)* |
|---|---|
| PhD, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/1995<br>ME, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/1992<br>BS, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/1989 | Registered Professional Engineer: Florida #60283 |

18. OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS *(Publications, Organizations, Training, Awards, etc.)*

**Sustainable Practices of Landfill Design and Operations**, Waste Management Principles and Practice, Springer, New York, 2015

19. RELEVANT PROJECTS

a.

| (1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| **Leachate Treatment Wetland, Polk County Landfill, Florida** | 20 | 2008-2013 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

Principal Investigator for the design, installation, and operation of an innovative leachate treatment wetland. Provides leachate treatment using a series of aeration ponds, vertical wetlands, freewater wetlands, and infiltration basin for treated leachate. Provides removal of ammonia, color, and reduction in other parameters of concern. Provide substantial reduction in leachate management operation costs for Polk County.

b.

| (1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| **Leachate Treatment using Reverse Osmosis System at Alachua County Southwest Landfill, Florida** | 2008-2013 | 2008-2013 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

Principal Investigator for the design, installation, and operation of a pilot-scale reverse osmosis (RO) system for on-site leachate treatment. Several leachate pretreatment alternatives, such as air stripping, oxidation, ion exchange, etc. were evaluated to reduce the fouling frequency of RO membranes. Additionally, designed a spray irrigation system to irrigate the landfill top cover grass using treated leachate. Supervised preparation of a Research, Development, and Demonstration permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to operate the RO system at the landfill. The project was demonstrated to treat leachate to the quality for eventual land application on-site

c.

| 1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| **New River Regional Landfill Reverse Osmosis Leachate Pretreatment System** | 2021-Ongoing | 2023 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Technical lead for the design, construction, and operation of an innovative membrane-based leachate pretreatment system with a capacity of over 40,000 gallons per day. This system is currently meeting treatment objectives for volume and quality. Over 5 million gallons of leachate have been treated using this system.

d.

| 1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| **Landfill Leachate Treatment using Physico-chemical Treatment Processes, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida** | 2008-2010 | N/A |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

Supervised doctoral research on evaluating the effect and science of physicochemical treatment methods coagulation, ion exchange, ozonation, and adsorption as pretreatment methods for treating stabilized landfill leachate using high-pressure membrane systems such as reverse osmosis and nano-filtration. These pretreatment methods were used to reduce the fouling and scaling frequencies of these membranes and thereby obtain a cost-effective leachate treatment.

e.

| 1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| **Behavior, Fate and Transport of Waste-Derived Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances** | 2018-2023 | N/A |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

Principal Investigator for monitoring PFAS in waste streams (e.g., municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris, landfill leachate, landfill gas) and partitioning behavior of PFAS in different matrices. Supervised the collection and analysis of over 100 leachate samples around Florida for PFAS analysis.

## E. RESUMES OF KEY PERSONNEL PROPOSED FOR THIS CONTRACT

*(Complete one Section E for each key person)*

| 12. NAME | 13. ROLE IN THIS CONTRACT | 14. YEARS EXPERIENCE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | a. TOTAL | b. WITH CURRENT FIRM |
| **James R. Wally, PE** | **Project Engineer** | 14 | 4 |

15. FIRM NAME AND LOCATION *(City and State)*

Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC, Newberry, Florida

| 16. EDUCATION | 17. CURRENT PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION *(STATE AND DISCIPLINE)* |
|---|---|
| ME, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/2014<br>BS, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/2012 | Professional Engineer, (Florida, Environmental) |

18. OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS *(Publications, Organizations, Training, Awards, etc.)*

19. RELEVANT PROJECTS

**a.**

(1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Sarasota County Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (Sarasota, FL)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2023-Ongoing; CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)*: 2025-2026

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Designed and permitted a leachate management system to manage elevated ammonia and color in Class I landfill leachate. Worked with the site to develop site infrastructure, including leachate storage ponds, leachate management hydraulic systems, and recirculation lines for brine disposal. System fabrication and assembly is completed, and awaiting mobilization and commissioning when infrastructure work is complete.

**b.**

(1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Interlachen Blue, C&D Disposal Facility (Interlachen, FL)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2025-Ongoing; CONSTRUCTION: 2025

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Project engineer for the design, build, own, and operate project, which provided a leachate treatment system for a C&D landfill in North Florida. The site had an existing onsite leachate treatment system that did not have sufficient capacity to meet site needs. Mobilized a system with sufficient capacity to manage all leachate onsite. Designed and permitted the upgraded leachate treatment system as well as an infiltration pond to manage treated permeate, and leachate recirculation lines to manage brine. All leachate is managed onsite, resulting in significant savings and simplified operation for the site. Provided compliance services for leachate treatment monitoring and reporting.

**c.**

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Perdido Landfill– Emergency Leachate Treatment (Pensacola, FL)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2025-2026; CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)*: 2025

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Provided design, construction, operation, and compliance for a rapid deployment of a leachate treatment system to address an emergency need to reduce leachate volume in leachate storage ponds that were operating near or above desired capacity. Provided a rapid deployment that met both the treatment quantity needs and also the quality objectives for the site. Treated 1.45 million gallons of leachate within 8 weeks and demobilized the system on schedule.

**d.**

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **New River Regional Landfill Reverse Osmosis Leachate Pretreatment System (Raiford, FL)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2023-2024; CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)*: 2023

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Provided design, construction, commissioning, and operation services for a leachate treatment system at a Class I Florida landfill. Assisted with permit modification for the installation and operation of a leachate treatment system. Provided compliance sampling, system operation and maintenance activities. Also managed brine recirculation into the intermediate-closure area of the site.

**e.**

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Trail Ridge Landfill Leachate Treatment Pilot (Jacksonville, FL)**

(2) YEAR COMPLETED — PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: 2025; CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)*: 2025

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE — ☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Provided a pilot study for a Class I landfill by deploying a full-scale ROBOX leachate treatment system for a 3-week pilot study to test the capability of the system as well as potential integration with the existing evaporator. This study demonstrated the capabilities in terms of the quantity of leachate treated, as well as the quality of resultant permeate. Worked with the City to develop a pilot plan to test performance at the facility, and accommodated additional testing of leachate from a second City-owned facility.

## E. RESUMES OF KEY PERSONNEL PROPOSED FOR THIS CONTRACT

*(Complete one Section E for each key person)*

| 12. NAME | 13. ROLE IN THIS CONTRACT | 14. YEARS EXPERIENCE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | a. TOTAL | b. WITH CURRENT FIRM |
| **Nicole M. Robey, PhD** | **Environmental Engineer** | 10 | 3 |

15. FIRM NAME AND LOCATION *(City and State)*

Innovative Waste Consulting Services, LLC, Gainesville, Florida

| 16. EDUCATION | 17. CURRENT PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION *(STATE AND DISCIPLINE)* |
|---|---|
| PhD, Environmental Engineering Sciences/University of Florida/2021<br>Dissertation Title: Advances in Sustainable Management of Landfill Leachate<br>BS, Civil Engineering/University of North Florida/2011 | EI, Civil, Florida<br>PE, Environmental Engineering, Florida |

18. OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS *(Publications, Organizations, Training, Awards, etc.)*

Intellectual Property/Patent: A Novel Technique for Treating Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances in Landfill Leachate (2020).

19. RELEVANT PROJECTS

a.

| (1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| **Sustainable Treatment of Landfill Leachate** | 2018-2022 | N/A |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

Address concerns of landfill leachate disposal with a focus on full-scale feasibility and long-term sustainability. Treatment techniques include foam flotation, membrane separation, chemical oxidation, photolysis, constructed wetland treatment, and treatment train combinations of multiple techniques.
Deliverables:

- Effect of Loading Frequency on Ammonia-Nitrogen Removal Kinetics in Early-Stage Pilot-Scale Vertical Flow Constructed Wetlands Treating Landfill Leachate
- From waste collection vehicles to landfills: Indication of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) transformation
- Concentrating per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in municipal solid waste landfill leachate using foam separation
- Practical method for specifying MSW landfill drainage media to avoid turbidity contamination

b.

| (1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION |
| **Behavior, Fate, and Transport of Waste-Derived Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances** | 2018-2023 | N/A |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

Monitoring PFAS in waste streams (e.g., municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris, biosolids, landfill leachate, landfill gas) and partitioning behavior of PFAS in different matrices.
Deliverables:

- PFAS in groundwater, stormwater, gas condensates and in leachates from landfills
- Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in street sweepings
- Underestimation of Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Biosolids: Precursor Transformation During Conventional Treatment
- Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) distribution in landfill gas collection systems: leachate and gas condensate partitioning
- Behavior of Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in Pilot-Scale vertical flow constructed wetlands treating landfill leachate

c.

| 1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)* | (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|---|
| | PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| **Environmental Impacts of Beneficial Reuse of Waste Materials** | 2019-2023 | N/A |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE ☐ Check if project performed with current firm

In-depth characterization of waste materials and determination of leaching potential in beneficial reuse applications.
Deliverables:

- Environmental Characterization of Engineered Soil Products for Beneficial Use
- Review of Potential Environmental Impacts of Lakefilling Activities on Groundwater Quality
- Assessment of Modified EPA LEAF Method 1315 Data to Determine Environmental Impact of Lakefill Beneficial Use
- Evaluation of Soil Sample Data for Beneficial Use for Alton Road Projects

## E. RESUMES OF KEY PERSONNEL PROPOSED FOR THIS CONTRACT

*(Complete one Section E for each key person)*

| 12. NAME | 13. ROLE IN THIS CONTRACT | 14. YEARS EXPERIENCE | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | a. TOTAL | b. WITH CURRENT FIRM |
| **Lewis Little** | **Operations Manager** | 14 | 3 |

15. FIRM NAME AND LOCATION *(City and State)*

Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC, Newberry, Florida

| 16. EDUCATION | 17. CURRENT PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION *(STATE AND DISCIPLINE)* |
|---|---|
| AA, Marine Biology/Florida State College/2011<br>AA, Marine Biology and Architecture/Santa Fe College/2009 | |

18. OTHER PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS *(Publications, Organizations, Training, Awards, etc.)*

19. RELEVANT PROJECTS

a.

(1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Sarasota County Central County Solid Waste Disposal Complex (Sarasota, FL)**

| (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| 2023-Ongoing | 2025-2026 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE

☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Operations manager for the pending membrane leachate treatment project. Assist with site infrastructure design, skid placement, and infrastructure needs. Assisted with fabrication and assembly of treatment skid, instrumentation, and hydraulic connections.

b.

(1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Interlachen Blue C&D Disposal Facility (Interlachen, FL)**

| (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION |
| 2025-Ongoing | 2025 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE

☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Operations manager for the construction, mobilization, commissioning, and operation of a leachate treatment system at a C&D landfill in North Florida. Assisted with developing operation plan, compliance monitoring, procurement, and operations and maintenance for the leachate treatment system.

c.

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Perdido Landfill– Emergency Leachate Treatment (Pensacola, FL)**

| (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| 2025-2026 | 2025 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE

☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Operations manager for the deployment of an emergency leachate treatment project at this Class I landfill. Assisted in commissioning, integrating, and operating the leachate treatment system into the site existing infrastructure. Assisted with mobilization and placement of additional frac tanks to manage leachate volume. Assisted with the deployment of innovative intake design to allow the system to operate with flexibility to meet the site's needs.

d.

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **Class III Landfill Leachate Treatment Pilot Project (Apopka, FL)**

| (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| 2023 | 2023 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE

☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Mobilized and operated a leachate treatment skid for pilot operation at a private Class III landfill in Central Florida. Integrated the system into the site infrastructure, allowing permeate and brine to blend back together before discharge to ensure the system had minimal impact on the leachate quality pending results of the pilot. Assisted with sampling and reporting for FDEP.

e.

1) TITLE AND LOCATION *(City and State)*: **New River Regional Landfill Reverse Osmosis Leachate Pretreatment System (Raiford, FL)**

| (2) YEAR COMPLETED | |
|---|---|
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES | CONSTRUCTION *(If applicable)* |
| 2023-2024 | 2023 |

(3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION *(Brief scope, size, cost, etc.)* AND SPECIFIC ROLE

☑ Check if project performed with current firm

Mr. Little played a key role in assembling the reverse osmosis leachate pre-treatment system at New River Regional Landfill. He assisted with the commissioning of the system, modification, and further system development.

Ron DeSantis, Governor

Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary

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# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
## BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER HEREIN IS LICENSED UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 471, FLORIDA STATUTES

## JAIN, PRADEEP

13340 NW 8TH AVE
NEWBERRY FL 32669

**LICENSE NUMBER: PE68657**

**EXPIRATION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2027**

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Ron DeSantis, Governor

Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary

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# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
## BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

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## WALLY, JAMES ROBERT

15626 NW 94TH AVE
ALACHUA FL 32615

**LICENSE NUMBER: PE85405**

**EXPIRATION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2027**

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Ron DeSantis, Governor

Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary

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# TOWNSEND, TIMOTHY GLYNDON

6615 SW 100TH LN
GAINESVILLE FL 32608

**LICENSE NUMBER: PE60283**

**EXPIRATION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2027**

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## ROBEY, NICOLE MARIE

1032 NE 5TH STREET
GAINESVILLE FL 32601

**LICENSE NUMBER: PE102915**

**EXPIRATION DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2027**

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## Attachment B. Letters of References

# NEW RIVER SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 647 Raiford, FL 32083 (386) 431-1000 FAX (386) 431-1099


January 13, 2026

County of Hernando
15470 Flight Path Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604

**RE: Leachate Treatment RFP Reference for Sustainable landfill Solutions**

New River Solid Waste Association (NRSWA) owns and operates New River Regional Landfill (NRRL). NRRL is a Class I landfill with a waste acceptance rate of approximately 1000 tons per day. The lined cells at the site generate approximately 4 million gallons of leachate annually. NRSWA has pumped the leachate to an offsite wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) for treatment and disposal of leachate since the early 1990s. The WWTP raised concerns about the elevated ammonia level in the leachate. The elevated ammonia required limitations on how much leachate NRSWA could send to the WTTP at any given time and when the leachate could be sent.

To proactively assist the WWTP, NRSWA contracted Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC (SLS) to install and operate a 13,000-gallons-per-day membrane leachate treatment system at NRRL in 2021 to achieve the pretreatment standards requested by the WWTP owner/operator. SLS worked with NRRL staff and consultants to develop Class I landfill permit modification and compliance documents. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued the permit without any request for additional information. The leachate treatment system was delivered and commissioned in 2022. SLS operated the leachate treatment system successfully and worked with NRRL staff to upgrade the system as necessary to meet the evolving leachate treatment needs of the site. SLS eventually delivered a system capable of processing up to 42,000 gallons per day of leachate (over 3 times the contractual capacity) at no additional cost of NRSWA. There were no change orders to the contract. SLS completed the installation and commissioning within the NRSWA's timeline.

The permeate from the system met the pretreatment requirements prescribed by the WWTP owner. The WWTP has been accepting the permeate from the system for the past 3 without any complaints or notice of violations. The services provided by SLS have allowed NRSWA to continue pumping pre-treated leachate to the WWTP at costs that are substantially lower than the other alternatives (e.g., offsite trucking).

Based on our experience, I would recommend SLS as a leachate treatment service provider. I can be reached at the email or cell number below if you have further questions about our experience with SLS.

Joel Woolsey
Assistant Director – NRSWA
Email: jwoolsey@nrswa.org
Phone: 352-871-7066

2101 West SR 434 | Suite 301 | Longwood, FL 32779
T (407) 869-8800
F (407) 869-8884

December 18, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to provide this letter of reference for Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC, who has provided leachate collection and management services utilizing Reverse Osmosis (RO) technology for Waste Pro.

Throughout our working relationship, Sustainable Landfill Solutions has consistently demonstrated a high level of technical expertise, professionalism, and reliability in managing complex leachate treatment operations. Their team has shown a strong understanding of landfill operations, regulatory compliance requirements, and system optimization related to RO-based leachate treatment.

Sustainable Landfill Solutions has been particularly effective in maintaining system performance, responding promptly to operational needs, and working collaboratively with our internal operations, engineering, and compliance teams. Their approach has contributed to improved leachate handling, efficiency, regulatory compliance, and overall operational continuity at our facilities.

Based on our experience, we consider Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC to be a trusted and capable partner and would confidently recommend them to any organization seeking advanced leachate collection and treatment solutions, including Reverse Osmosis applications. We value our relationship with their team and look forward to continuing our work together.

Should you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Mike Fernandez

Mike Fernandez
Vice President, Post Collections
Cell: 754-306-3595
mfernandez@wasteprousa.com

Board of County Commissioners • Escambia County, Florida

Andy Liess, Director
Waste Services Department

February 23, 2026

County of Hernando
15470 Flight Path Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604

Re: Letter of Recommendation Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC

Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of Escambia County Waste Services, I am pleased to provide this letter of recommendation for Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC (SLS) regarding the successful implementation of the interim leachate treatment project at the Perdido Landfill in Cantonment, Florida.

In mid-2025, the County faced significant operational challenges associated with elevated leachate volumes and nitrogen concentrations at Perdido Landfill. Seasonal rainfall, combined with nitrogen loading limits and ultraviolet transmissivity (UVT) requirements imposed by the Emerald Coast Utility Authority (ECUA), constrained our ability to discharge treated effluent leachate to the POTW and restore optimal functionality of our on-site pre-treatment. At that time, the landfill required a rapid, technically sound, and regulatory-compliant interim solution to reduce stored leachate volume and improve effluent quality.

SLS mobilized its ROBOX membrane treatment system within the proposed schedule and worked closely with County staff to coordinate site preparation, and operational startup. Commissioning was efficient, and the system quickly achieved stable operation. During the pilot and subsequent operating period, the ROBOX system has met performance expectations. Key outcomes have included:

- Greater than 90% reduction in ammonia-nitrogen concentrations.
- Significant improvement in UVT, eliminating further risks of discharge constraints.
- Reliable production of high-quality permeate suitable for discharge under existing ECUA permit limits.
- Net daily reduction in stored leachate volume consistent with projections, enabling the County to reduce pond levels by the targeted 1.5 million gallons within the anticipated timeframe.

Equally important, SLS provided valuable assistance with regulatory coordination, including support for communications and documentation associated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Their familiarity with Florida permitting frameworks and

prior experience with membrane-based leachate systems, proved instrumental in maintaining project momentum and compliance. Operationally, the SLS team demonstrated professionalism, technical competence, and responsiveness. Their personnel worked collaboratively with landfill staff, maintained a safe and organized project footprint, and adapted system configuration as needed based on field data. The brine management approach was implemented as planned, and membrane performance was managed efficiently.

From a financial perspective, the project provided a cost-effective alternative to expanded off-site hauling or emergency capital upgrades. By restoring operational flexibility and reducing stored leachate volume, SLS is enabling the County to stabilize pre-treatment and evaluate long-term leachate management improvements under far less urgent conditions.

Based on our experience, Escambia County Waste Services confidently recommends Sustainable Landfill Solutions, LLC for membrane-based leachate treatment services, pilot demonstrations, interim treatment deployments, and long-term onsite leachate management system development. Their combination of engineering expertise, field execution capability, and regulatory experience makes them exceptionally well qualified for similar projects at municipal solid waste facilities. Should you have any questions regarding SLS's performance at Perdido Landfill, please feel free to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Andrew Liess

Andrew Liess, Department Director
Escambia County Waste Services

ASL:cw

## Attachment C. Maximum Concentrations in Leachate for Proposed Cost

SLS shall design the treatment system to treat the leachate with the characteristics presented in the table below. The treatment system will be able to treat leachate if the concentrations are equal to or less than the ones listed below. Changes to regulatory effluent limits to permeate discharge option may also necessitate a reevaluation of leachate treatment costs.

**Table C-1. Constituents and Maximum Concentrations in Leachate from the Site for Proposed Treatment Costs**

| Constituent | Unit | Maximum Concentration |
|---|---|---|
| **pH** | S.U. | 5.5-9 (range) |
| **Total suspended solids** | mg/L | <75 |
| **Total dissolved solids** | mg/L | <12,000 |
| **Alkalinity** | Mg/L | <5,000 |
| **Calcium** | mg/L | <100 |
| **Magnesium** | mg/L | <100 |
| **Sulfate** | mg/L | <200 |
| **Sodium** | mg/L | <2,000 |
| **Chloride** | mg/L | <2,000 |
| **Oil, fat, and grease** | mg/L | <50 |
| **Arsenic (total)** | mg/L | <0.3 |
| **Nitrogen (total)** | mg/L | <3000 |
| **Ammonia nitrogen as N** | mg/L | <2500 |
| **Chlorine (hypochlorite)** | mg/L | <0.1 |
| **Boron** | mg/L | <2 |

Note: SLS will complete/update it during contract negotiations with the County.

## Exhibit "C" Compensation and Method of Payment

| Line Item | Custom | Description | Unit of Measure | Unit Cost |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | TIER 1: Base price per gallon | 0 gallons - 3,000,000 gal of treated leachate | gal | $0.18 |
| 2 | TIER 2: Discounted price for all gallons between 3,000,001 and 4,500,000 | TIER 2: 3,000,001 – 4,500,000 gal of treated leachate | gal | $0.15 |
| 3 | TIER 3: Further discounted price for all gallons > 4,500,001 | TIER 3: 4,500,001+ gal of treated leachate | gal | $0.11 |

# Anti-Human Trafficking Affidavit

In compliance with Fla. Stat. § 787.06(13), this affidavit must be completed by an officer or representative of a nongovernmental entity that is executing, renewing, or extending a contract with Hernando County or any of its subordinate units (the "Governmental Entity").

1. My name is Pradeep Jain and I am over eighteen years of age. The following information is given from my own personal knowledge.

2. I am an officer or representative with Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC, a non-governmental entity (the "Nongovernmental Entity"). I am authorized to provide this affidavit on behalf of Nongovernmental Entity.

3. Neither Nongovernmental Entity, nor any of its subsidiaries or affiliates, uses *coercion* for *labor* or *services*, as such italicized terms are defined in Fla. Stat. § 787.06, as it may be amended from time to time.

4. If, at any time in the future, Nongovernmental Entity does use coercion for labor or services, Nongovernmental Entity will immediately notify Governmental Entity and no contracts may be executed, renewed, or extended between the parties.

5. This declaration is made pursuant to Fla, Stat. § 92.525. I understand that making a false statement in this declaration may subject me to criminal penalties.

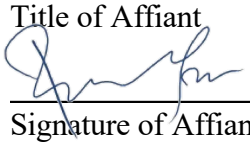
Under penalties of perjury, I Pradeep Jain, declare that I have read the foregoing Anti-Human Trafficking Affidavit and that the facts stated in it are true.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC
Name of Nongovernmental Entity

Pradeep Jain
Printed Name of Affiant

President
Title of Affiant


Signature of Affiant

02/23/2026
Date

**Exhibit "D" Foreign Countries of Concern**

Pursuant to Florida Statutes, § 287.138, effective July 1, 2023, the County may not enter into contracts which grants an entity access to personal identifiable information if: a) the entity is owned by the government of a Foreign Country of Concern (as defined by the statute): (b) the government of a Foreign Country of Concern has a controlling interest in the entity; or (c) the entity is organized under the law of or has its principal place of business in a Foreign Country of Concern.

Beginning July 1, 2025, a governmental entity is prohibited from extending or renewing a contract with an entity meeting the requirements of (a), (b) or (c) above, if the contract would give such entity access to an individual's personal identifying information.

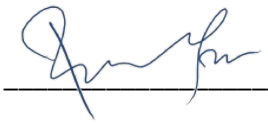
The Contracting with Entities of Foreign Countries of Concern Prohibited Affidavit Form ("Form") is required by Florida Statutes, § 287.138, which is deemed as being expressly incorporated into this Form. The Affidavit must be completed by a person authorized to make this attestation on behalf of the entity for the purpose of submitting a bid, proposal, quote, or other response, or otherwise entering into a contract with the County. The associated bid, proposal, quote, or other response will not be accepted unless and until this completed and executed Affidavit is submitted to the County.

PROFESSIONAL's Legal Company Name: Sustainable Landfill Solutions LLC does not meet any of the criteria set forth in Florida Statutes, § 287.138(2)(a)-(c).

Pursuant to Florida Statutes,§ 92.525, under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing statement and that the facts stated in it are true.

Print Name of PROFESSIONAL's Authorized Representative: Pradeep Jain

Title of PROFESSIONAL's Authorized Representative: President

Signature of PROFESSIONAL's Authorized Representative: 

Date: June 10, 2026