

**Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County**  
**Design Services for the Rocky River Sewer Rehabilitation Project**  
**Request for Qualifications**  
**RFQ Announced: January 22, 2025**  
**SOQ Due: February 26, 2025**

The Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County (hereinafter called “WSACC”, or “Owner”) invites engineering consulting firms (hereinafter called “Consultant”) having sufficient experience in providing consulting services as related to the design and specifications development for the Rocky River Sewer Rehabilitation Project.

In February 2024, WSACC retained the services of HDR Engineering, Inc of the Carolinas (hereinafter called “HDR”) to investigate priority areas within the WSACC collection system and WSACC partner collection systems to reduce Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) rates throughout the collection system gravity lines. A detailed analysis of flow monitoring data for meters placed on the Rocky River Sewer Interceptor identified a target area for further investigation and rehabilitation. This area can be generally described as the area between Concord Parkway and Davidson Highway, as seen in Figure 1 and 2. The analysis indicated that this area has the potential to contribute between 2 and 10 MGD of rainfall derived I/I (RDII), depending on the amount of rainfall and the timing of the storm event. This Request for Qualifications (RFQ), and the anticipated associated project, is for the design services related to the rehabilitation of the Rocky River Sewer Interceptor.

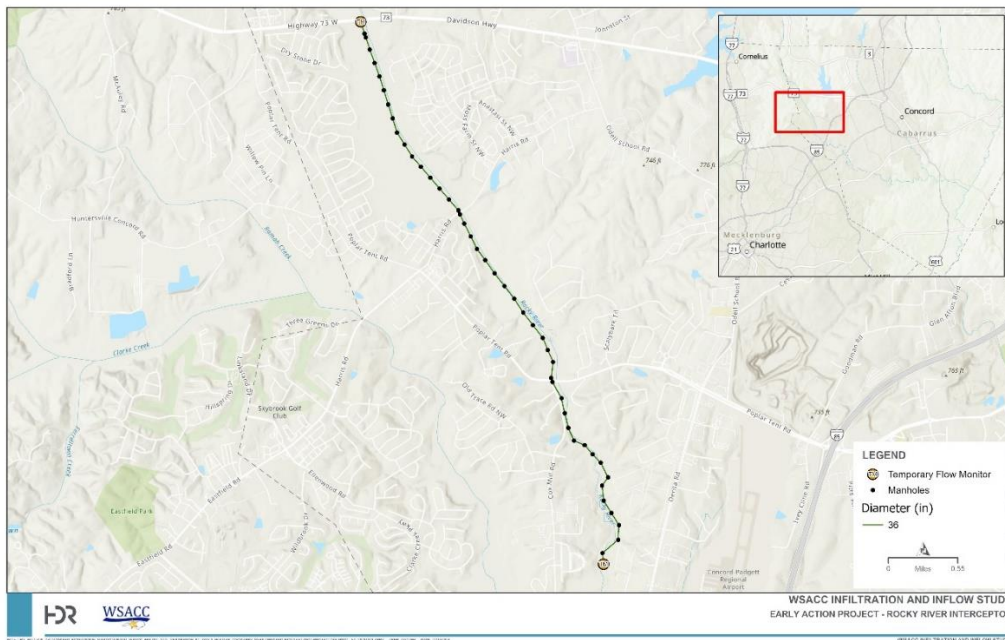


Figure 1- Rocky River Sewer Interceptor Section from Flow Meter 'KRR' near Davidson Highway to Flow Meter 'URR@SD' located East of Cox Mill Road

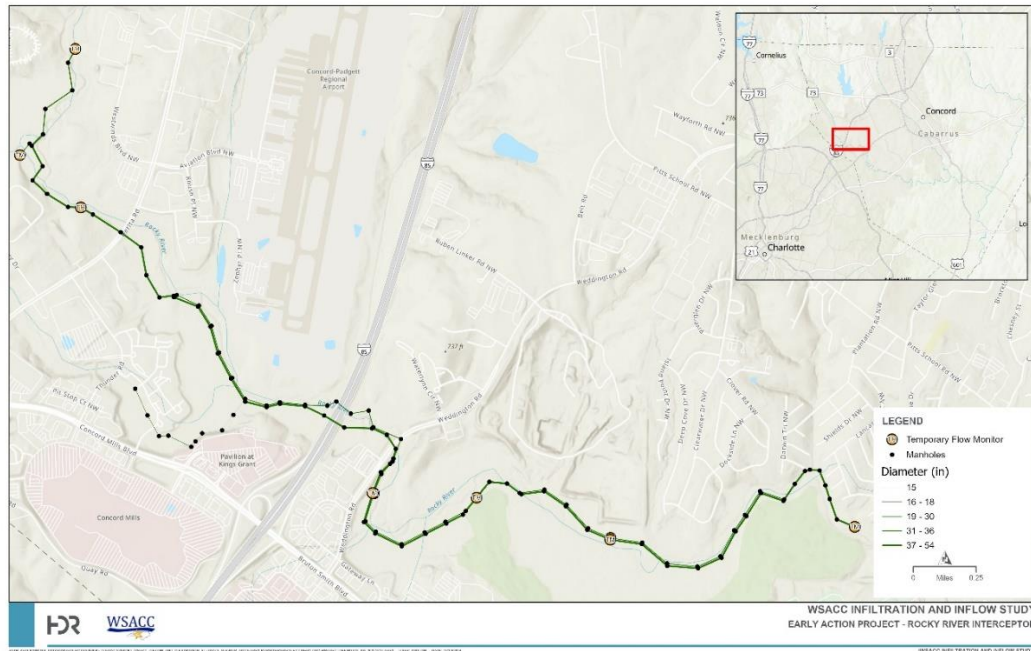


Figure 2 - - Rocky River Sewer Interceptor Section from the Flow Meter 'URR@SD' located East of Cox Mill Road to the Flow Meter 'Silver Maple' near Concord Parkway

## **Scope of Work**

WSACC owns and operates 127 miles of wastewater collection system gravity lines, six pump stations and 21 miles of force main, and two wastewater treatment plants: the Rocky River Wastewater Treatment Plant (RRWWTP) and the Muddy Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (MCWWTP). The RRRWWTP is currently permitted for a monthly average flow up to 30.0 million gallons per day (mgd), with expansion in progress to take the RRRWWTP to a permitted monthly average flow up to 34 MGD. The MCWWTP is currently permitted for a monthly average flow up to 300,000 gallons per day (gpd). WSACC provides bulk collection of wastewater from the City of Concord, City of Kannapolis, Town of Harrisburg, Town of Mount Pleasant, and Town of Midland, as well as portions of Charlotte Water's service area in Mecklenburg County. The Rocky River Sewer Interceptor is one of the main interceptors in WSACC's system, with diameters ranging from 36 inches to 54 inches.

The recent I/I investigation by HDR, with detailed analysis of flow monitoring data for meters placed on the Rocky River Sewer Interceptor, identified the areas shown in Figures 1 and 2 as having the potential to contribute between 2 and 10 MGD of RDII depending on the amount of rainfall and the timing of the storm event. An early action project was developed as part of the I/I study that focuses on additional investigation and rehabilitation for this area of WSACC's system. The investigations are expected to include CCTV data collection and manhole inspection, followed by design of sewer rehabilitation for this area.

WSACC is requesting statements of qualifications (SOQs) from qualified firms interested in providing design services for the Rocky River Sewer Rehabilitation Project. This effort will include review of the current collection system, review of the I/I Study by HDR, any associated additional

field investigations as needed, and development of plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of this interceptor.

One signed SOQ and six copies, all bound, in addition to one electronic copy in searchable PDF format (provided on flash drive), are to be submitted per the instructions outlined within the RFQ. Please review them carefully.

The project scope includes, but is not limited to, evaluation of the current collection system, analysis of previous evaluations data and conclusions, any additional field testing, and development of plans and specifications for the improvements. This effort is intended to take the project through the bid phase with contractors. WSACC will share the reports and associated data from the HDR efforts with the selected Consultant for this proposed effort.

WSACC currently anticipates that the scope will generally include the following elements, subject to further discussion and recommendations from the Consultant:

1. Background and Current Collection System Review
  - a. Review of Collection System
  - b. Rocky River Sewer Interceptor Details
2. Evaluation of Prior Recommendations (from I/I Study)
3. Any Additional Field Investigation (as needed)
4. Development of Bid Package for Contractors (plans and specifications)

WSACC may also elect to include other related services in the scope of work. A decision on any additional related components will be made after selection, and WSACC will work with the selected firm on the additional scope item(s) at that time.

### **Key Success Factors**

1. Effective, consistent, and thorough communications with employees throughout the WSACC organization, the WSACC Board, State regulators, and others as needed.
2. Well-developed scope and schedule
3. Project completion on-schedule
4. Establishing a cost-effective engineering design
5. Well-documented project milestones and well-documented project changes (as needed).

### **Selection Process**

Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-64.31, WSACC is conducting a “qualifications-based” selection process without regard to fee.

WSACC will conduct a fair and impartial evaluation of all SOQs that are received in accordance with the provisions of this RFQ. WSACC will appoint a selection committee to perform the evaluation. WSACC reserves the right to obtain clarification of any point in a firm’s / team’s qualification package or to obtain additional information. All firms / teams who submit qualification packages will be notified of the selection committee’s choice. Final approval of any selected firm / team is subject to the action of the WSACC Board.

## **SOQ Submittal**

SOQs should include the following sections:

- Project Team
  - Proposed Subconsultants (if any)
  - Brief Biographies for Key Team Members
- Experience
- Approach
  - Proposed design sequencing and phasing
  - Approach(es) to address potential design issues, including, but not limited to:
    - Maintenance of flow
    - Easements
    - Difficult terrain

No “new work product” for the project may be part of the SOQs and/or presentation, and no “new work product” will be considered in the interview presentation or selection process.

The last day for questions on the RFQ is February 19, 2025. Questions must be submitted via email to Thomas Hahn at [T.Hahn@wsacc.org](mailto:T.Hahn@wsacc.org).

SOQs shall be in a letter proposal format, and shall be submitted in sealed, clearly marked envelopes. The SOQ shall be submitted to the Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County located at 232 Davidson Highway, Concord, N.C., 28027, before 2:00 p.m. February 26, 2025. Submittal envelope should be marked:

*Statement of Qualifications – ‘Design Services for the Rocky River Sewer Rehabilitation Project’*

*Attention: Thomas Hahn*

Firms may change or withdraw their SOQs at any time prior to the due date by providing clear and concise written notice via email to WSACC. Withdrawal of a SOQ will not preclude a Consultant from submitting a new SOQ, provided that the new SOQ is properly submitted and received prior to the SOQ due date identified above.

## **Negotiations and Modification of Contract Documents**

WSACC reserves the right to conduct negotiations with the Consultant regarding any remaining issues provided that the general work scope remains the same and that the field of competition does not change as a result of material changes to the requirements stated in the RFQ. If, in WSACC’s sole discretion, it determines that the highest qualified Consultant is not responsive to the negotiation process, or that the parties will be unable to reach a mutually-acceptable Contract, WSACC may terminate negotiations with the Consultant. WSACC will then continue the process of negotiation with the next highest qualified Consultant until WSACC either successfully negotiates with a Consultant or cancels the procurement.

## **Conditions and Reservations**

WSACC reserves the right to request substitutions of subconsultants. WSACC reserves the right to contact any Consultant if such is deemed desirable by WSACC to obtain any additional information including but not limited to experience, qualifications, abilities, and financial standing. WSACC reserves the right to conduct investigations with respect to the qualifications and experience of any Consultant. WSACC reserves the right to contact any firm/team to negotiate if

such is deemed desirable by WSACC. WSACC reserves the right to reject any or all responses to the RFQ, to advertise for new RFQ responses, or to accept any RFQ response deemed to be in the best interest of WSACC. WSACC reserves the right to waive technicalities and informalities.

A response to this RFQ should not be construed as a contract, nor indicate a commitment of any kind. No binding contract, obligation to negotiate, or any other obligation shall be created on the part of WSACC unless WSACC and a firm jointly execute a contract.

**Cost of SOQ Preparation**

WSACC accepts no liability for the costs and expenses incurred by Consultants responding to this RFQ, in preparing responses for clarification, in attending interviews, participating in contract development sessions, or in attending meetings and presentations required for the contract approval process. Each Consultant that enters into the procurement process shall prepare the required materials and SOQ at its own expense and with the express understanding that the Consultant cannot make any claims whatsoever for reimbursement from WSACC for the costs and expenses associated with the procurement process. The RFQ does not commit WSACC to pay for costs incurred in the submission of a response to this RFQ or for any cost incurred prior to the execution of a final contract.