

Utilizing Design-Build for Bureau of Engineering Wastewater Projects

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How have we typically done business?

- Construction contracts: design-bid-build
- Low bid wins!
- City Charter requirements
- Avoid potential protests
- Eliminate bias
- If it ain't broke...
- Stuck in “us” versus “them” mentality



What have been the advantages?

- Very descriptive designs
- Quality designs (we tend to gold plate everything)
- Maintain institutional design knowledge
- Minimal risk/Maximum control
- Consistency
- Happy client! (albeit at a cost)



What have been the disadvantages?

- Less innovative designs
- Not using the best tool
- Could be saving time and money
- Not one, single point of contact
- Out of touch with industry, not staying relevant
- You don't know what you don't know



D-B Challenges Encountered

- We're rookies!
- Political pushback
- Modifying the “system”
- Giving up control
- Training staff
- Playing it “safe” – fear of failure



What we've been doing to embrace D-B?

- Educating ourselves
- Educating management
- Educating the client
- Hiring some experts
- Dipping our toe in the water
- Getting a few easy victories
- Learning from our mistakes



Accelerating Reuse Projects

- Dealing with drought...and low flows
- OneWaterLA – City Agencies working together
- Identifying wastewater, storm water project opportunities
- Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant – 30,000 acre-feet by Year 2022
- Alternative project delivery will be used
- Will focus on ground water recharge and direct potable

reuse



Recent Wastewater D-B Projects

- Completed one major WW treatment D-B project (\$9M)
- 15 million gallons of WW storage - concrete lined basins
- Have another large WW treatment D-B project with bids received (\$41M)
- Pending award, here we go!
- These were low bid D-B, ready for the next step...



Realizing the True D-B Advantage

- Best value approach
- Explore variations such as progressive D-B, CM at Risk etc.
- Incorporate “own”, “operate” and “finance” components
- Public/private partnerships?
- Provides another delivery mechanism
- Keeps City of LA current with industry
- Encourages firms to do business in LA



Thank You!

Questions?

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