

**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF RFP2026-008 ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR
TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (TOC) WATER SYSTEM
September 21, 2026**

The City of Apalachicola is cancelling RFP2026-008 in the best interest of the city to allow for further evaluation of technical scope requirements. A certified environmental engineering firm will first need to conduct a comprehensive water analysis and a pilot treatment study to see if a complex system like a Total Organic Carbon (TOC) filter will physically work with Apalachicola's specific raw water chemistry.

By skipping a localized pilot study, we are flying completely blind. We are asking contractors to guess at the scope of work, which guarantees two things: massive, expensive change orders later, or a multi-million-dollar treatment system that does not actually clean our water.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection has strict compliance mandates. State funding requires a vetted Preliminary Engineering Report and proven facility planning before construction funds are cleared. The City will not have time to complete this pilot study and facilities plan within the strict timeline required by FDEP.

FDEP agrees and supports this decision, and the new Apalachicola Water and Sewer District will be able apply next year for funds for a new Water System after proper due diligence is done.

The City of Apalachicola strives to be excellent steward of public money and completely transparent about how our infrastructure is built. Pausing this RFP to conduct a proper pilot study isn't a delay, it is responsible for financial stewardship. It ensures that when a government entity spends state funding, it goes toward a proven, guaranteed solution.