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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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June 27, 2022

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **BRC-1**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - INFORMATIONAL UPDATE 1 ON-CALL POTABLE WATER TANK INSPECTION, CLEANING AND REPAIR SERVICES (BRC0000300)

Please note that the deadline to submit your proposal has been extended to Tuesday, July 5, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

Proposals will only be accepted electronically via www.bidexpress.com, a secure online bidding service website or via universal serial bus (USB) drive or compact disk submitted to the Cashier's Office at Public Works Headquarters located on the Mezzanine Floor, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, California 91803.

All addenda and informational updates will be posted at <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/brcd/servicecontracts>. Please check the website frequently for any changes to this solicitation.

Please take note of the following answers in response to the request for information and clarification and other questions submitted by proposers for the On-Call Potable Water Tank Inspection, Cleaning and Repair Services (BRC0000300). Questions presented in this Informational Update represent the questions asked by the proposers in the form and context submitted.

Questions and Answers to On-Call Potable Water Tank Inspection, Cleaning and Repair Services (BRC0000300)

- 1. Question:** If my firm meets all licensing and certification requirements and I have personnel on staff with 10 or more years of experience in the industry, but my firm was established fewer than 5 years ago, is my firm qualified to submit a proposal for this project?

Answer: No. As written, minimum mandatory requirement No. 1 states that proposer or its subcontractor(s), if any, must have a minimum of 5 years of experience performing tank cleaning and inspection services. Therefore, the business entity submitting the proposal must have at least 5 years of experience to satisfy this minimum requirement. The proposer is defined as the legal entity

submitting the proposal. Please refer to the Definitions of Terms found on Exhibit B, Section B, of the Request for Proposal (RFP) document. As stated, 'proposer' is "Any individual, person, or persons, sole proprietor, firm, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other legal entity submitting a proposal for the work, acting directly through a duly authorized representative." Individual experience held by a firm's staff does not transfer as experience held by their firm.

2. **Question:** For Form PW-2 Items 3, 4, and 5, (specifically Items under Exhibit A-E. 4-5, 7-8 and 10), shall the hourly rate include the combined man hours of the entire crew performing the work as well as the necessary equipment and consumables to run the equipment and to perform those tasks be included in one hourly rate?

Answer: Yes. As stated in Form PW-2 Scheduled of Prices, proposer rates shall include all administrative costs, labor, supervision, overtime, materials, transportation, taxes, equipment, and supplies unless stated otherwise in the RFP. It is the responsibility of the proposer to factor in all costs associated with the performance of a given task to the best of their knowledge when submitting their Form PW-2, Schedule of Prices.

3. **Question:** The estimate as stated on page 1 of the RFP is \$4,000,000. Is this based on a previous award? Is there a bid tabulation from the last time this contract was awarded?

Answer: No. The estimated annual amount is based on an approximation of the work to be performed under the new contract and is not based on the previous award of this contract. Please note, there is no guarantee that work totaling this dollar amount will be requested on the resultant contract. As requested, below are the proposed prices received in response to the previous solicitation.

- Proposer 1: \$678,600
- Proposer 2: \$1,257,5700

Please be reminded these amounts are cumulative sums of the rates provided on the Form PW-2, Schedule of Prices and are not indicative of actual work requested under the resultant contract.

4. **Question:** It is understood that pricing must be held for the duration of the first year of the contract; however, should the Owner extend the contract as stated in the provisions of the RFP, will these costs be able to be re-visited and/or adjusted at the time of the extension?

Answer: No. The prices submitted will not be renegotiated at any point during the contract term or its renewals. Notwithstanding granted cost-of-living adjustments, the Form PW-2, Schedule of Prices shall remain unchanged for the duration of the contract. Los Angeles County, Public Works and/or the Districts make no representations as to the costs of equipment, labor, fuel, the escalation of wages, or any other expenses which may become necessary to perform the contracted services. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to factor in all costs associated with the performance of a given task to the best of their knowledge when submitting their Form PW-2, Schedule of Prices.

5. **Question:** Are bid schedule prices for cleaning to be figured as if only one tank is cleaned per mobilization? How many tanks are to be expected to be serviced per contract year?

Answer: Yes. Pricing for cleaning as identified on Form PW-2, Schedule of Prices, Items 1 and 2 is for the performance of one cleaning operation for the given Reservoir and its specifications. Los Angeles County, Public Works and the Districts anticipate approximately 20 tanks will be cleaned each year. However, please note this is only an estimate, and the unit prices quoted will apply to the actual quantities, whatever they may be.

6. **Question:** Can you provide clarification on the bid schedule units? Such as Sediment units 100? What defines a unit measurement?

Answer: As described in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Section E.4 - Manual Sediment Removal: contractor shall have the ability to manually remove heavy sediment and deposits that cannot otherwise be removed by vacuum or water suction. All costs for Manual Sediment Removal shall be billed at the hourly rate provided on Form PW-2, Schedule of Prices, under Item 3, Manual Sediment Removal. This work may be recommended by the contractor or requested by the contract manager and will only proceed with written authorization from the contract manager.

7. **Question:** Will sediment be discharged within 100' of tanks (on-site), or will sediment need to be hauled and discharged off-site? If so, who is responsible for hauling and disposal?

Answer: Please refer to Exhibit A, Scope of Work Section I, Removal of Debris. As stated, all debris shall be removed from Public Works property and become property of the contractor. The contractor shall dispose of all debris from these services in a legally established area appropriate for type of debris being disposed and in compliance with all applicable Federal, State and local legal requirements. Disposal shall be at the contractor's expense.

8. **Question:** Will water be discharged on-site? Will it need to be de-chlorinated?

Answer: Please see Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Section L, Responsibilities of the contractor, Item 14. As stated, contractor shall dechlorinate all water discharged from the tank during cleaning procedures using sodium metabisulfate or the districts' approved equivalent. If the Districts determine that there is no adequate discharge point at or nearby the tank site, contractor shall provide a tank sufficient to perform the cleaning operation without discharging the water on-site or sufficient to reduce the discharge flow rate such that it does not produce any significant effect or alteration downstream. Contractor shall be liable for any damages incurred from discharging the water due to the tank cleaning operations. If a tank is required, when preapproved by the contract manager, the rental cost of the tank will be reimbursed to the contractor. Contractor shall submit the rental receipts to the districts along with invoices for reimbursement approval. Please also note, County of Los Angeles Public Works and the Districts follow NPDES Statewide General Permit for discharge requirements.

9. **Question:** It appears that only (2) Tanks (RLA) are not ground tanks. These appear to be elevated tanks (on legs) and not standpipes. Can you confirm? Can you provide an approximate height?

Answer: Only one tank (0.1 MG) is elevated. It sits at approximately 150 feet elevated from the ground.

10. **Question:** Does each member of the crew need to hold an American Petroleum Institute 653 - Aboveground Storage Tank Inspector certification?

Answer: No. Only one active certification held by the proposer or its subcontractor (if any) is required to satisfy this requirement. A valid and active certification must be held throughout the term of the contract.

11. **Question:** We have never been required to have API 653 certification to gather field data inside water tanks. Is this a requirement that could be waived, or would we be disqualified by not having that certification?

Answer: The API 653 certification is required for the engineering inspection, as mentioned in Exhibit A, Section E.6, Engineering Inspection. However, it is not required for basic tank inspection and cleaning tasks and the requirement can be met by a subcontractor. Proposals submitted without a valid and active API 653 certification will be subject to disqualification.

12. **Question:** The API 653 training and certification focus is primarily for fuel tank inspections. An API/ASME FFS-1 certification (fit for Service) is through the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in conjunction with API and provides a more fitting engineers evaluation. Would this certification be acceptable?

Answer: No. The Los Angeles County Public Works and Waterworks Districts potable water tanks are designed and constructed in accordance with AWWA D100 and API 650 standards for steel tanks. An API 653 Aboveground Storage Tank Inspector certification establishes the knowledge required for tank inspection and repair of aboveground storage tanks that implement the referenced AWWA and API standards. Therefore, given the specifications of Public Works' and the Districts' potable water tanks, a valid and active API 653 certification is required to perform the engineering inspection as mentioned in Exhibit A, Section E.6. However, please note this is not required for basic tank inspection and cleaning tasks and the certification requirement can be met by a subcontractor.

If you have any questions concerning the above information, please contact Mr. Danny Medina at (626) 458-4080 or Ms. Jessica Dunn at (626) 458-4169, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Very truly yours,

MARK PESTRELLA, PE
Director of Public Works

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Manovich" or similar, with a stylized flourish at the end.

for

JOSE QUEVEDO, PE
Assistant Deputy Director
Business Relations and Contracts Division

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