



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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June 27, 2012

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: AS-0

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – ADDENDUM 1 FOR AS-NEEDED EXPLORATORY SUBSURFACE EXCAVATIONS SERVICES (2012-AN005)

Thank you for attending the mandatory Proposers' Conference for As-Needed Exploratory Subsurface Excavations Services at Public Works Headquarters (2012-AN005) held on Wednesday, June 13, 2012.

Please be reminded that the deadline to submit your proposals has been postponed to Monday, July 2, 2012, at 5:30 p.m.

The following revisions have been made to the Request for Proposals (RFP). Added words are shown in **bold**. Questions presented in this Addendum 1 represent the questions asked by Proposers in the form and context as submitted.

A. Addendum

1. Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Item J.10, Responsibilities of the Contractor, on page A.5, has been revised as follows since the bold text was inadvertently missing from this exhibit:
 10. Water jetting will not be permitted at any time by either the contractor(s) or subcontractors. Backhoe work shall not be performed by subcontractors. If necessary, hot patching may be **performed by the contractor as extra work, but subcontractors are prohibited from performing this type of work.**

B. Clarifications

The following answers are in response to the request for information and clarification submitted by attendees of the Proposers' meeting:

1. **Question:** Who is the current contractor for this contract?

Response: The current Contractor is SAF-r-DIG Utility Surveys, Inc.

2. **Question:** We are restructuring our company for reduction of costs to become more competitive in our bids. We might go ESOP [Employee Stock Ownership Plan] or have the company go up for sale. At this time we do not have an "actual offer", therefore, we might not get an actual offer until after this RFP" – How do we notify County of LA of this situation?

Response: At the time of your proposal submission, in Form PW-1, Verification of Proposal, Item 12, you must indicate whether your firm is involved in any pending acquisition or merger. If you are awarded the Contract, you must notify Public Works as soon as possible at first knowledge of any Acquisition/Merger of your Firm. In addition, please note Exhibit B, Section 2, Standard Terms and Conditions Pertaining to Contract Administration, Item B, Assignment and Delegation, on page B.4 of the RFP document. As indicated therein, Contractor shall not assign its rights or delegate its duties under this Contract, or both, whether in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County, in its discretion, and any attempted assignment or delegation without such consent shall be null and void.

3. **Question:** Does item 4 of Page A-4 cover the items below: Hot Patching, Slurry Backfill, and Concrete Panel. In recent projects, this has been performed by Subcontractors as "specialty work" with Contractor absorbing this cost. When we asked about it, we were told this was considered "replace in kind" and no compensation would be given. (If the above items are required by the City or County, can the bidder submit the Sub-Contractors estimate for approval for Cost + 15% markup?)

Response: Anytime a hole is dug, it is required that the hole is covered or patched at no additional cost to the County. Proposer's price shall include all administrative costs, labor, supervision, materials, transportation, taxes, equipment, and supplies unless stated otherwise in the RFP. Regarding subcontracting, please refer to Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Item K, Self-Performance, on page A.6, of the RFP, which states, "Contractor shall perform (with its own forces) 100 percent of the work to be performed under this Contract. Subcontracting is prohibited in this service with the exception of traffic control subcontractors and for saw-cutting purposes."

4. **Question:** If County requires two trucks for a specific task – Could we charge out each truck as individual cost? In an effort of maximizing Traffic Control and expediting projects, current Contractor was not allowed to charge out for each truck and had to absorb mobilization for each of these additional days.

Response: Mobilization Cost was intended to help the Contractor with some of the cost, and it is per job and not per truck. Please refer to Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Item O, Mobilization, on page A.9, as stated therein, "A stipulated mobilization fee of \$500 per work order will be paid on each project located within the North County (i.e., Santa Clarita, Valencia, Castaic, Gorman, Agua Dulce, Acton, Little Rock, Palmdale, and Lancaster). The stipulated mobilization fee for projects in all other areas will be \$300 per work order. For each day in excess of one day per work order, an additional \$150 and \$100 will be paid to Contractor for the North County and all other areas, respectively."

5. **Question:** Exhibit A page A.2 item I Traffic Control states "...contractor shall be responsible for all personnel and traffic control devices specified in this manual and/or the permit without cost to the County with the exception of arrow boards and flagmen." During the pre-bid meeting on June 13th it was stated that all traffic control would be reimbursed if contracted out so long as it was reasonable in cost. This is contradictory, please clarify?

Response: As indicated in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Item I, Traffic Control, on page A.2, Contractor shall be responsible for all personnel and traffic control devices specified in this manual and/or the permit without cost to the County with the exception of arrow boards and flagmen. The stipulated unit price for arrow boards, provided by the Contractor, shall be \$100 per day. Flagmen will be provided by the Contractor at a cost to the County equal to the prevailing wage rate for the respective worker classification plus 15 percent markup.

6. **Question:** Exhibit A page A.3 item J.4, states "...All pavements removed or damaged by the excavation shall be replaced in kind." During the pre-bid meeting on June 13th it as stated that slurry and hot asphalt paving would be reimbursed as additional work. It was later clarified that hot asphalt paving is not additional work but rather in-kind if asphalt exists. For clarification hot asphalt paving will not be compensated as additional work correct?

Response: Correct. Hot asphalt will not be compensated as additional work. Hot asphalt falls under replace in kind.

7. **Question:** The bid schedule notes potholing depth requirements to 15+ feet deep. At the pre-bid meeting, Gus advised that "we realize that there are many ways to excavate. We are going to leave the method up to the contractor since you know best." Please confirm.

Response: The Scope of Work is to locate vertical and horizontal alignments of utilities within 0.1 feet accuracy. We do not know of any method at this time beside potholing that would give us such accuracy. As for, "...many ways to excavate" does not imply digging out the entire street to locate a utility line, rather, it is a specific spot, and that only could be done through potholing.

8. **Question:** Please confirm that all traffic control will be invoiced and paid at cost + 15%.

Response: Please see the response to question No. A.6.

9. **Question:** Please confirm that saw-cutting will be invoiced and paid at cost + 15%.

Response: No. As stated in Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Item N, Extra Work, Section 6.b, on page A.7, Work by Subcontractor: When all or any part of the Extra Work is performed by a Subcontractor, the markup established in this section shall be applied to the Subcontractor's actual cost of such work. A markup of 10 percent on the first \$5,000 of the subcontracted portion of the Extra Work and a markup of 5 percent on work added in excess of \$5,000 of the subcontracted portion of the Extra Work may be added by the Contractor. These markups shall constitute the markup for all overhead and profit for the Contractor on work performed by the Subcontractor.

10. **Question:** At the pre-bid meeting, Gus stated that the potholes would be 6"-12" in diameter and the contractor is required to replace the surface improvements "in kind" (i.e. AC, Concrete, etc.). In the interest of the County of L.A., the excavated soil should not be used for backfill since the soil cannot be compacted to 90% relative compaction in the hole prior to placing AC or concrete without experiencing unacceptable settlement after completion. We suggest that sand or light slurry be used for backfill in order to prevent settlement and failure of surface improvements. Please confirm.

Response: "In Kind" implies to same material and meeting all compaction requirements. As indicated on Exhibit A, Scope of Work, Item J.4, Responsibilities of the Contractor, on page A.4, when each excavation has been completed and the subsurface installation has been located, the Contractor shall backfill and compact the excavation and fully restore all existing improvements that were disturbed. The existing material (with the exception of concrete and asphalt pavement) may be used for backfill material in all excavations. All pavements removed or damaged by the excavation shall be replaced in kind.

11. **Question:** Exhibit A, Section J, Page A-5, Paragraph 10 states "Water jetting will not be permitted at any time". To clarify, water jetting is a process that utilizes high pressure water at a high gpm rate. Clearly, water jetting can cause flooding and damage to existing infrastructure and can, potentially, cause environmental non-compliance. Therefore, we request acceptance of hydrovac excavation methods for the following reasons: No environmental impact. Virtually, all water is removed simultaneously with debris during the excavation process; No chemicals or additives are used during the hydrovac process; Hydrovac is currently being safely utilized within the County of L.A. on other projects as well as EXPO in Los Angeles. Please confirm that you will accept bids utilizing hydrovac excavation subsequent to complete submittal, review and approval of hydrovac testing and documentation from the specific contractor.

Response: Thank you for your suggestion; however, we will not accept your request. Public Works will only accept proposals under this solicitation for conventional subsurface excavation as specified in this RFP.

12. **Question:** At the pre-bid meeting, Gus stated that the potholes would be less than 20 feet from the truck during operation. Please confirm.

Response: In general, the majority of potholes in the past few years were less than 20 feet deep; but if and when we have a pothole over 20 feet deep, according to the Schedule of Prices, Form PW-2, the work order will be for Item 13, Category E, which is for exploratory excavation over 15 feet deep.

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If you have questions concerning the above information, please contact Mr. Edwin Manoukian at (626) 458-4057 or Mr. Scott Pham (626) 458-4069, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Very truly yours,

GAIL FARBER
Director of Public Works


GHAYANE ZAKARIAN, Chief 
Administrative Services Division

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