

Answers to Questions Submitted for the Request for Qualifications:

“On-Call Professional Services for Environmental Compliance Related to Fuel Reduction Projects in Colusa, Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties”

Released September 10, 2021

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1. Question: Will multiple consultants be chosen per service area category? If so, will subsequent projects be awarded based on a competitive proposal or sole-source?

Answer: The intent is to choose multiple qualified consultants per service area category. Specific projects will not use competitive proposals, but rather will be awarded based on criteria such as experience with similar work, knowledge of the geographic area, availability, and cost. RCDs will follow up informally with consultants to collect this information as necessary.

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2. Question: How many projects/contracts are anticipated in total between the RCD and consultants?

Answer: The number of projects/contracts per year and their exact location and scope will be determined by CAL FIRE Unit needs and priorities.

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3. Question: What’s the total dollar amount expected to be awarded to the selected consultant(s) over the life of the contract?

Answer: The dollar amount of contracts will be determined by CAL FIRE Unit needs and priorities.

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4. Question: Could submitting to more than one service area prevent contractors from being considered for individual service areas if the selection committee finds that they are not qualified for all service areas?

Answer: Not being qualified in one of the service areas (i.e., planning, biological, cultural, regulatory, and geospatial services) will not preclude you from being contracted with to deliver

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services that RCDs determine you are qualified to deliver. You may submit qualifications for all service areas for which you wish to be considered. You need only be qualified to deliver one of the services listed in the Scope of Services to be qualified to respond to this Request for Qualifications.

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5. Question: Does the team presented in the RFQ need to include all potential support staff including any potential subconsultants or is the key staff who would provide the management and technical expertise sufficient?

Answer: Describing just the key staff who would provide the management and technical expertise is sufficient. However, if you are unable to fulfill the scope of work without subconsultants, please identify what types of subconsultants you anticipate working with.

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6. Question: For references, do other Resource Conservation Districts count as 'public agency' references?

Answer: Yes, you can include other Resource Conservation Districts as references.

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7. Question: What is the timeline for project initiations?

Answer: Projects may be initiated as soon as Fall 2021.

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8. Question: What is the contract duration?

Answer: We're anticipating 2-3 year As-Needed Agreements, but Work Orders will have more defined timelines based on the specific project.

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9. Question: Can you further define how evaluation criteria will be weighed?

Answer: Thoroughness of submission will be a primary screening criterion. While the RCDs may consider submittals that are lacking in minor elements, we reserve the right to reject qualifications that are substantively incomplete. Experience and demonstrated competence will be the primary criteria for reviewing proposals that are accepted as substantively complete. References will be used to substantiate this information. Cost effectiveness of fees will be considered if there are numerous qualified respondents and the RCDs need to narrow down the pool of contracts awarded.

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10. Question. What is the anticipated typical size/scale of the project treatment area each year?

Answer: The projects range in size and complexity. CAL FIRE LNU is requesting support in the development of the environmental documentation for fuels management projects. The projects range in size from hundred acres to several thousand acres. The documentation ranges in complexity from NOE's to the development of CAL VTP's. LNU is requesting support ranging from field surveys for biological and cultural resources to the development of CEQA and CAL VTP documents from the scoping phase to the approval phase.

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11. Question: Can a list of potential or example projects, with descriptions, be shared?

Answer: Project examples can be provided upon request.

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12. Question: Will project landowners include private, state, and federal lands? If federal lands are included, will NEPA consultation be included in the scope of work?

Answer: There will be no projects on federal lands. The projects will be focused on private lands and will be CEQA or VTP documents.

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13. Question: Are flora and fauna surveys meant to map for pre-construction/pre-attack work or to evaluate for impacts to special status species? Or both? Are there any special protocols to follow (i.e., USFWS)? What level of mapping classification is expected?

Answer: Flora and fauna surveys will be conducted to support the development of fuels management projects strategically identified by the CAL FIRE Sonoma Lake Napa Unit. Biological surveys will follow the protocols identified in the CAL VTP and CEQA process.

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14. Question. The RFQ does not list Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) or any other documents that would be required if these projects occur on timberland and propose commercial timber operations (e.g., sale of timber harvested during the fuel reduction work). Will you have projects that involve timber operations?

Answer: THP documentation preparation is not anticipated as a consulting need. CAL FIRE LNU is requesting the consulting services of RPF's in the develop of Board of Forestry Vegetation Management Program projects. The commercialization of forest products as defined by PRC 4527 (a)(1) will not be a component of project implementation.

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