

Request for Qualifications – Integrated Watershed Restoration Program Services

Q&A

November 16, 2022

This document provides a comprehensive list of questions and answers relating to San Mateo Resource Conservation District's (RCD) Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Integrated Watershed Restoration Program Services, dated November 3, 2022 (available [here](#)). The Q&A includes items from the Pre-Submittal Meeting held on November 15, 2022 and subsequent questions received by email through the Q & A period (ending November 28, 2022). Deadline for submittals for this Request for Qualifications is December 2, 2022 at 5:00 pm.

Questions and Answers:

1. If we were to be qualified under this list, would it prevent us from bidding on projects not under this program?
 - a. No, qualification under this RFQ would not prevent you from bidding on other projects with the RCD.
2. This question is on the content and format of the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) and what needs to be included specifically. Regarding details on staff members and their resumes, do these need to be included?
 - a. Generally, it is helpful to include relevant staff resumes in the SOQ, but it is not required.
3. If we come up with questions after this meeting, can we email them, and they'll be compiled with the other questions?
 - a. Yes, email questions about this RFQ to Amy Kaeser at amy@sanmateoRCD.org. Questions will be accepted through November 28. Q&A will be posted to our website [here](#) and will be updated as new questions are received.
4. To what extent will you use the rates to decide who will be selected on your list?
 - a. Your rate sheet is unlikely to affect your qualification for approval under this RFQ if the rates are reasonable. We are not required to select the lowest bid for Professional Services. Rates could make a difference in the future when selecting contractors for certain specific scopes of work, depending on cost effectiveness, funding, or other circumstances.

5. Can you provide details on the task orders/projects that are going to be issued under this contract?
 - a. I can provide details of likely project types and tasks. Example projects/tasks:

We are hoping to receive a grant that would partially fund 18 different conservation projects related to watershed restoration. For example, this includes creek enhancement through large wood installation. We would be looking for design support for those projects. We may need support with grant writing, permitting, engineering or arborist construction oversight, biological monitoring, wage compliance (we're subject to prevailing wage, some activities trigger that, see the RFQ for details). These are a few of the tasks that might be associated with this type of project. We also do fish passage, wetland restoration, floodplain restoration and reconnection, vegetation management and other upland restoration, etc. Our Water for Farms Fish and People Program includes projects related to water supply and storage for domestic and agricultural use, planning projects for building large water storage reservoirs for local agriculture as well as updating irrigation systems, helping local water users implement storage and infrastructure, plus all regulatory compliance issues coming into play with that. Sediment reduction projects including access for fire response, upgrades related to rural roads, bridge replacement, drainage upgrades, road assessments and specs and drainage recommendations, stream crossing projects for improvement and upgrades for access and erosion/sedimentation into creeks; mostly looking for engineering support for the erosion and sediment management program.
6. Regarding the follow up after RFQ, bottom of page 5 states contractor may be selected... After that phase, do you anticipate inviting multiple consultants from the list and that's where do costs come into play?
 - a. Approved contractors will be considered qualified and eligible for contracts to support integrated watershed restoration program services and other conservation efforts. Once approved, the RCD may come to one approved firm directly asking for a scope and estimate to support a specific project or task, or we may also go to multiple approved firms to request a cost estimate and approach depending on task type, project, and number of approved contractors for the service.
7. Does this supersede any pre-approve lists from the past?
 - a. Approval under this RFQ does not affect any previous approvals. There are some contractors currently approved under a smaller scope RFQ from 2020 for creek enhancement, but that expires soon at the end of February 2023. This new RFQ is meant to include and expand the services and projects provided under that previous approval. We also had an RFQ out recently for forest health and fire resilience program services that resulted in a few approved contractors.

8. Angie Robinson - What firms currently hold this on-call contract?

a. The contractors currently approved through February 28, 2023 to support creek enhancement projects are:

- Balance Hydrologics with Dudek
- FlowWest
- Mike Podlech, Fisheries Biologist
- North Valley Labor Compliance Services
- Restoration Design Group with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting and Grasseti Environmental Consulting
- Swaim Biological
- SWCA Environmental Consultants
- Vaughan Forestry
- Waterways Consulting with Horizon Water and Environment, CMAG Engineering, and Streeter Group
- WRA

The contractors currently approved through October 20, 2024 to support forest health and fire resilience projects are:

- Mason, Bruce, & Girard, Inc.
- Auten Resource Consulting
- Sequoia Ecological Consulting, Inc. in association with Hamey Woods, Wildland Resource Management, Inc., Brad Gallup, Digital Mapping Solutions, and Horizon Water and Environment

9. What is the advantage of multiple consulting firms forming a team to capture as many services as possible? If one firm can do some of those tasks can they add firms later as projects come up?

a. It depends. Please note that we do not expect any one firm or team to provide service for every task/activity in the RFQ. It is okay to respond to just one task/activity or multiple. Joining in a team around a certain category, i.e. engineers teaming up with Geotech, might be more useful than trying to hit every service. Something to consider - if your firm is a sub, we'd have to go through the approved prime. You'd still have the opportunity to sub out for part of a task even if you don't submit a team application, you could do that later for the specific project. For the subs, we do need to see their qualifications and approve them prior to a specific contract, which we'd do through the scope of work/cost anyway. If someone is a sub to someone else and wants to submit their own qualifications that's fine, they can do that too.

10. When they organize the list of services, should it be organized as on page 3 of the RFQ or organize by qualifications on page 8?

- a. Organize the list of services based on the bulleted list on page 3 – the project activities – which is repeated on page 7. The qualifications listed in item 7 on page 8 are qualifications you can speak to as they relate to the activities listed on page 3.
11. “The estimated funding for consulting services through December 31, 2025 (first three years of the total five-year term) is at least \$900,000.” Can we assume the RCD has this funding secured?
- a. The RCD does not have all the estimated funding secured. We work mainly through grant funding, agreements, and contracts. Most of this funding is not secured, however we have a very successful track record with funding and have several million out in grant applications currently for these program areas. For reference we will provide our last fiscal year report as example of typical funding we bring in. [Here is a link](#) to the RCD’s Fiscal Year 2023 budget (nearly \$15 million revenue).