

LCEP “On Call” Natural Area Vegetation Management Services Request for Qualifications Addendum

The following questions were submitted to the Estuary Partnership regarding the RFQ.

(The question period closed on 11/27/2019).

As applicable, please incorporate the response information below into your firm’s Qualification Proposal (due December 13, 2019 at 4:00 PM).

General Questions

Q1: Can you please clarify the “On-Call” Contractors selection process and how project work will be issued/assigned?

A1: Several “On-Call” Contractors will be selected based on the criteria noted in the “Request for Qualifications” document. A master contract for the implementation period (2020-2024) will be established with each selected VMS (Vegetation Management Services) Contractor containing the firm’s work task rate sheet prices for the 2020 calendar year: initially, this master contract will have no dollar value assigned. As revegetation service needs arise and funding is secured for projects over the implementation period, the Estuary Partnership will award specific work to a VMS contractor in the form of contract amendments containing a scope of work, budget and NTE (“not to exceed”) value. Work orders may be released to initiate specific work for some projects.

The Estuary Partnership anticipates a range of revegetation projects over the implementation period from smaller-scale Education Stewardship Team restoration sites (0.5 ac to 5 ac) to the large Steigerwald restoration project (200+ acres with 350,000+ plants). In order to be considered for the Steigerwald revegetation project work, your firm must be in the pool of the Estuary Partnership’s selected “On Call” VMS Contractors. Award of the Steigerwald revegetation work will involve an additional, condensed bid proposal process including a site visit and will likely result in a distinct project-specific contract: “On Call” VMS contractors will have the opportunity to revise their prices for this project.

Q2: Appendix B states that “Contractor’s prices and hourly rates shall be fixed for the duration of the Contract term. However, the “Contract Specifics” section of the RFQ states that rates “can be reestablished annually by mutual agreement.”

A2: The master contract signed between the Estuary Partnership and VMS contractor is for “On-Call” Natural Area Vegetation Management Services spanning the implementation period (2020-2024). Prices quoted are fixed for the first calendar year (or “term”). Prices can be revisited annually thereafter by mutual agreement: any cost increases must be justified (i.e. linked to percentage changes in an applicable economic index).

Q3: Will any of the work performed under this contract require prevailing wage rates?

A3: There is a likelihood that prevailing wages will apply for some future vegetation management projects. However, for the purposes of this solicitation proposal, please provide rates that assume no prevailing wage requirements. If a project does require prevailing wages, the Estuary Partnership will revisit the applicable labor-related task prices with the selected contractor.

Q4: Would a quote offering only some of the tasks listed on the solicitation be acceptable? or is it required that a proposer bid on all tasks?

- A4: Firms are welcome to bid on a subset of tasks. That said, when selecting a contractor for a given project, the Estuary Partnership will prioritize contractors who can complete all the required vegetation management tasks for that project.
- Q5: Does the solicitation require Professional Liability Insurance? Is this requirement associated with specific tasks? or is it required regardless of the tasks that a proposer bids on?
- A5: Professional Liability Insurance is not required for this “On-Call” Natural Area Vegetation Management Services work.
- Q6: Which herbicide and of what quantity would you like us to base our estimates?
- A6: Rates should only be based upon the labor and related-equipment costs to conduct the herbicide treatment. The VMS Contractor shall be reimbursed at an agreed upon cost-plus percentage for herbicide, surfactants, and dye that VMS Contractor uses while performing herbicide application services for both hourly or per acre rate projects. VMS Contractor must be able to provide receipts upon request for reimbursement. The most common herbicides used on projects are glyphosate-based (i.e. Rodeo) and triclophr-based (i.e. Garlon 3A).
- Q7: Regarding Minimum Qualifications, Maintenance of Oregon and/or Washington State Farm and Forest Labor Contractor License (F/FLC License). If a contractor intends to complete a project using its regular labor force (no H2B or other farm labor source), does that contractor still need to register with these programs to be eligible for award?
- A7: Generally, Yes. While natural area planting-related work tasks may not be the original intent of the State Farm and Forest Labor Contractor Licenses, it is the most applicable license for employees performing these types of labor activities. Demonstrating exemption from the states’ requirements or providing written documentation from a state labor department official explaining why this license is not required for this type of work for your firm would be acceptable.
- Q8: For pricing, is it acceptable to provide ranges instead of fixed pricing?
- A8: No, VMS Contractors need to provide a fixed price for bid items. If specific circumstances relating to a given project are considered significantly outside of a “typical” riparian revegetation restoration project and will significantly impact costs incurred by the selected contractor, the Estuary Partnership may allow for additional cost accommodations.

Specific Service Category Questions

Category 2: Planting

- Q9: What type of vehicle should we assume for the additional delivery lump sum cost? What existing site conditions should we assume?
- A9: Assume a pickup truck with trailer for the additional delivery lump sum cost. Assume delivery could be to a project site requiring 4WD vehicle.
- Q10: Are prices of materials to be included in planting prices?

A10: No. Prices for planting activities (ex. Planting bare root or potted plants) should only include the process of configuring and installing said plants with the VMS contractor's equipment (shovels, augers, planting pouches, etc.)

Category 5: Materials Purchase

Q11: How should we incorporate the cost to store and deliver these materials without a specified quantity?
How long should we assume we will be responsible for the storage of these materials on site?

A11: Assume purchase material quantities are based on planting project sites ranging from 0.5 to 5 acres in size: larger sites requiring larger material quantities will be bid on a project by project basis. Storage of materials onsite will be at the discretion of the contractor based on an agreed upon planting schedule and acceptable project site conditions. VMS Contractor may negotiate storage costs with the Estuary Partnership if extreme site conditions significantly alter the planting schedule.

Q12: Please provide specifications for compost, soil, and mulch.

A12: Specifications for compost, soil, and mulch purchases would be project specific. The Estuary Partnership will provide a list of the materials and the quantities needed in the early stages of the project. Generally speaking, compost should be a well-decomposed compost suitable for incorporation into planting holes. Soil should be sandy loam, free of stones, wood and debris. Mulch should be fresh wood chips from tree chipping, smaller than 2" in any dimension. VMS Contractor may be required to provide the Estuary Partnership with a sample for approval prior to delivery to site.

Q13: Are you looking for Contractor to just provide our markup on the price table?

A13: Yes, please provide a markup percentage your firm will charge to purchase each of the plant-related material line items.

Ex. The VMS contractor cost for procuring 100 lbs. of native seed is \$1000 (not including any taxes) from the supplier. Your firm has quoted **8%** as the "Purchase Native Seed" Cost Plus Percentage markup. Your firm would invoice the Partnership for \$1080 and provide the original receipt from the seed supplier.