



## **Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project Request for Qualifications**

**Mandatory Site Meeting: October 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM**  
**Deadline – SOQ Submittal: November 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (Estuary Partnership) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from firms seeking to construct the Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project (Steigerwald Project). The primary intent of this solicitation is to identify firms that have the capacity and expertise to serve as the prime contractor during implementation of the Steigerwald Project and have a proven track record of successfully implementing projects of similar scale and complexity. The Estuary Partnership will use SOQs submitted to evaluate and pre-qualify approximately five firms to serve as prime contractors and submit bids for the Steigerwald Project. The Estuary Partnership will accept bids only from prime contractors pre-qualified through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Over the past six years, the Estuary Partnership partnered with the Port of Camas-Washougal (Port), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), City of Washougal (City), and other public and private partners to develop the Steigerwald Project. The purpose of the Steigerwald Project is threefold: (1) to restore hydrologic connectivity between Gibbons Creek, the Columbia River, and adjacent floodplain habitats within the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge); (2) to reduce internal flooding and operations costs; and, (3) to improve recreation opportunities at an urban wildlife refuge visited by as many as 90,000 people per year. To accomplish these objectives, the Steigerwald Project would implement the following primary actions:

- (1) remove 11,600 linear feet of the Port's existing levee system;
- (2) construct two setback levees comprised of:
  - a. 7,800 linear feet of earthen levee [total earthwork, including channels and levees, is approximately 1,300,000 cubic yards], and,
  - b. 900 linear feet of concrete flood wall;
- (3) construct four new floodplain channels and regrade 112 acres to expand the site's wetlands;
- (4) restore Gibbons Creek and its floodplain;
- (5) elevate 1,600 linear feet of State Route 14 (maximum of three vertical feet);
- (6) remove a diversion structure, elevated canal, fish ladder, maintenance road, and several culverts and water control structures from within the floodplain;
- (7) install approximately 295 wood habitat structures consisting of approximately 1,400 pieces of large woody debris;
- (8) construct 13,800 linear feet of trail infrastructure, including three new bridges; and,
- (9) relocate the Refuge's existing parking lot and associated infrastructure.

The following project documents may be downloaded from the Estuary Partnership's website:

<https://www.estuarypartnership.org/news/steigerwald-project-rfq-documents>

- Final design plan set, dated October 17, 2019 and consisting of two volumes totaling 186 pages;
- Specifications, dated October 2019 and consisting of 131 pages (including the cover page and table of contents);
- Geotechnical Report, dated August 20, 2018 (revised Jan. 7, 2019) and consisting of 254 pages (including the cover page, table of contents, and addenda); and,
- Draft bid schedule.

Construction must be completed during two seasons: approximately June to October of 2020 and April to December of 2021. Minor follow-up work may be required during summer 2022. The Steigerwald Project's estimated construction cost is approximately \$20,000,000. The project is funded by BPA, Washington Department of Ecology, USFWS, and Western Federal Lands and is subject to prevailing wage law.

The Steigerwald Project's design team is led by Wolf Water Resources, with geotechnical, civil/transportation, and landscape architecture support from Cornforth Consultants, KPFF, and Laura Herbon Landscape Architect. Murraysmith will provide construction management services.

## **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS**

The minimum qualifications applicants should have for this RFQ are:

- Experience coordinating and leading implementation of at least 5 complex, large-scale construction projects in the last 5 to 10 years;
- Experience with large earthworks projects moving approximately 500,000 cubic yards (CY) or more of soil within one construction season (approximately 5 to 7 months);
- Experience constructing large structural earthen fills, preferably U.S. Army Corps of Engineers earthen embankments (levees, dams, etc.);
- Experience with cast-in-place concrete structures;
- Must be included on WSDOT's Class One Prequalified List;
- Experience working on Department of Transportation (DOT) projects;
- Experience with mobile soils testing laboratories and oversight of material quality control programs; and,
- Experience working under regulatory requirements governing work in environmentally sensitive sites and areas, including wetlands, streams that support federally listed salmonids, and preferably the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA).

All applicants must designate and commit one individual to serve as the Project Manager and one individual to serve as the Site Superintendent. The Project Manager and Site Superintendent must be available during all phases of construction and must attend weekly meetings and oversee and document daily progress. The Project Manager will be the point of contact for the Owner's (Estuary Partnership) Project Representative and must have a least ten years of experience working on similar projects.

The Estuary Partnership will review the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) and will base the selection decision on the following criteria and scoring:

- Firm's qualifications and experience working on large-scale earthwork, roadway, and structure projects (30 points), including:
  1. Mass earthwork requiring sorting, farming, or other conditioning of materials prior to final placement;
  2. Ability to mobilize significant equipment force necessary to meet high earthwork production requirements;
  3. Successful completion of DOT roadway projects;
  4. Adherence to project schedules and budgets;
  5. Collaborative approach with owners, stakeholders, and the public;
  6. Track record of successful permit compliance and minimizing environmental disturbances; and,
  7. History related to change orders, claims, and litigation.
- Firm's proposed approach to implementing the Steigerwald Project (30 points), including, but not limited to, the following:
  1. Availability of and commitment to use key staff proposed, including persons of color, women, and veterans;
  2. Committing the specific equipment and labor necessary to achieve required earthwork production rates;

3. Proposed staging and sequencing of work and any proposed deviations from the sequencing described in project plans and specifications that could accelerate schedule, reduce costs, and/or reduce schedule risk;
  4. Approach and ability to plan for, forecast, and implement increased work rates (i.e., accelerate the schedule) should work proceed slower than anticipated;
  5. Understanding of the site's native materials and proposed means to manage soil types while achieving levee embankment compaction requirements;
  6. Subcontracted work and the coordination of key subcontractors, including minority and woman owned businesses;
  7. Project documentation including proposed document management software, if applicable;
  8. Approach to implementing a field-testing quality control program; and,
  9. Anticipated challenges and proposed solutions.
- References (15 points);
  - Qualifications and experience of the Project Manager and Site Superintendent (15 points); and,
  - The applicant's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, as evidenced through the applicant's diversity in demographics, as well as efforts the applicant has made to ensure a diverse workforce, including policies and practices to promote both diversity in hiring and partnering with women and minority owned firms (10 points).

The Estuary Partnership and project team will evaluate SOQ submittals using the above scoring framework to identify approximately five firms to pre-qualify as the only prime contractors that will be eligible to submit bids for the Steigerwald Project. The final selection, if any, will be the applicants, which in the opinion of the Estuary Partnership, best meet the qualifications set forth in this RFQ.

#### **ANTICIPATED PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

##### Phase 1: Pre-qualification

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) Issuance: October 22, 2019

Mandatory On-site Pre-submittal Meeting: October 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM (test pits will be available for viewing)

RFQ Question Period Closing: November 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM

Final Addenda Issued (if required): No later than November 19, 2019

RFQ Closing (SOQ Submittal Deadline): November 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM

Notice of Award (pre-qualified contractors identified): No later than December 20, 2019

##### Phase 2: Bid Solicitation (pre-qualified bidders only)

Request for Bids (RFB) Issued: December 20, 2019

Mandatory On-site Pre-bid Meeting: January 6, 2020

Optional Self-directed Site Tour: January 10, 2020 (full site open for bidder access)

Bid Closing: February 4, 2020

Interviews: February 12 and 13, 2020

Notice of Award: No later than February 24, 2020

#### **MANDATORY ON-SITE PRE-SUBMITTAL MEETING**

A pre-submittal meeting will be held on Monday October 28, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge parking lot, the entrance to which is located on the south side of State Route 14 approximately 0.1 miles east Gibbons Creek and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area boundary. Representatives of the Estuary Partnership, design and construction management team, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be present to discuss project details. Anyone interested in submitting an SOQ is required to attend, sign in, and participate in the entire meeting, which will include a site tour and will last approximately four to five hours. Attendees should be prepared to access all portions of the site, which will include hiking across fields and wetlands and viewing soil

test pits. The Estuary Partnership will transmit to all attendees such addenda as the Estuary Partnership considers necessary in response to questions arising at the meeting. Oral statements made during the meeting or at any other time may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective. Submittals from firms who did not attend the pre-submittal meeting, sign in, and participate in the entire meeting/site visit will not be accepted.

### **AQUATIC HABITAT RESTORATION SPECIALIST**

The Estuary Partnership is implementing a separate procurement process to identify firms qualified to serve as Aquatic Habitat Restoration Specialists (AHRS) on the Steigerwald Project. During implementation of the Steigerwald Project, the prime contractor will be required to partner with (subcontract) one or more pre-qualified AHRS(s) to perform the following tasks:

- Fish salvage and exclusion;
- Stream diversion and work area isolation;
- Reconstruct approximately 1,700 linear feet of Gibbons Creek;
- Installation of one groundwater well system and one equipment bridge;
- Removal of rip-rap along the bank of the existing levee; and,
- Installation of approximately 295 wood habitat structures, 12 riffles, and other habitat features.

The Estuary Partnership will provide a list of pre-qualified AHRS's to pre-qualified prime contractors. The same construction contracting firm may not serve as both the prime contractor and AHRS on the Steigerwald Project.

### **QUESTION SUBMITTAL FORMAT AND DEADLINE**

Questions must be submitted in writing (via e-mail) to Tom Argent, Finance Manager ([targent@estuarypartnership.org](mailto:targent@estuarypartnership.org)) by 10:00 AM on November 12, 2019. The Estuary Partnership will provide a written response (sent via e-mail) to all firms that signed in and attended the entire pre-submittal meeting held at the site on October 28, 2019. The Estuary Partnership will not respond to oral questions or written questions submitted to other Estuary Partnership employees.

### **SOQ SUBMITTAL FORMAT AND DEADLINE**

SOQ submittals (electronic only; Adobe Acrobat PDF format; 10MB maximum file size) should be directed to Tom Argent, Finance Manager, [targent@estuarypartnership.org](mailto:targent@estuarypartnership.org). Electronic submittals must be a single file and must be received on or before November 25, 2019 at 4:00 PM. Submittals received after this time will not be accepted. The Estuary Partnership will provide a confirmation of receipt when SOQs are received. The Estuary Partnership also will notify all applicants once the pre-qualified firms have been selected; however, the Estuary Partnership will not respond to individual inquiries about the selection status of any submitted SOQs.

### **PROPRIETARY INFORMATION/PUBLIC DISCLOSURE**

Materials submitted in response to this RFQ shall become the property of the Estuary Partnership. Any information in the proposal that the applicant desires to claim as proprietary and exempt from disclosure consistent with Oregon law must be clearly designated. The page must be identified and each particular exception from disclosure upon which the Contractor is making the claim. Each page claimed to be exempt from disclosure must be clearly identified by the word "Confidential" printed on the lower right hand corner of the page. The Estuary Partnership will consider an applicant's request for exemption from disclosure. Marking the entire proposal exempt from disclosure will not be honored. The applicant must be reasonable in designating information as confidential.

### **MINORITY & WOMEN PARTICIPATION**

The Estuary Partnership strongly encourages participation in all of its contracts by certified Minority, Women, or Emerging Small Business Enterprises (M/W/ESBE) firms and firms with diversity in demographics, e.g., race,

religion, gender, veteran status, and disability, and/or that have made efforts to ensure a diverse workforce, including policies and practices to promote both diversity in hiring and partnering with M/W/ESBE firms.

**Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership  
Steigerwald Floodplain Restoration Project  
Construction Management Services**

**SOQ Submittal Format**

**A. COMPANY INFORMATION**

Business Name:  
Address:  
City, State, Zip Code:  
Email Address:

Corporation:                      Partnership:                      Sole Owner:

Principle Place of Business:  
Washington/Oregon State Contractor's License Number:

Has the applicant had a contract terminated for default in the last five years? If yes, please describe the full details of the terms for default including the other party's name, address, and phone number.

**B. QUALIFICATIONS**

Provide a description (ten pages maximum) of the firm's qualifications and experience addressing the minimum and preferred qualifications identified in this RFQ. The description shall provide specific examples of similar projects completed within the past 10 years, identify the Project Manager and Site Superintendent, commit to the availability of the Project Manager and Superintendent during the 2020 and 2021 construction seasons, provide a description of the firm's approach to performing the tasks identified in this RFQ, and describe the firm's diversity in demographics, e.g., race, religion, gender, veteran status, and disability, including examples of comparable projects that included a diverse project team and policies and practices to promote both diversity in hiring and partnering with M/W/ESBE firms. The description also must list all environmental non-compliance issues in the past five years, including local, state, or federal environmental permit violations/notices of non-compliance, cease and desist orders, environmental land use violations, and/or environmental-related legal challenges.

**C. RESUMES**

Attach resumes for the Project Manager and Site Superintendent. Each resume shall be no more than two pages in length. Resumes do not count towards the Qualifications page limit.

**D. REFERENCES**

List names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of references for four projects completed within the past 10 years. Briefly name and describe the related project, location, the work accomplished, applicant's and reference's roles in the project, contract value, and name/address/phone of contact person. If the applicant has performed work for the Estuary Partnership or Murraysmith in the past 10 years, the applicant must include the Estuary Partnership or Murraysmith project manager as one of the four references. Reference information is included in the 10-page maximum described in Section B. Qualifications.

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY**

The final proposal should include the following statement as well as the printed name, signature, title, and date of the person authorized to submit a bid:

"I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct and that I am legally authorized to submit this information on behalf of the applicant."

Printed Name	Signature
Title	Date