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**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**Request for Qualifications for Geotechnical Site Investigation Services**  
**in the Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line (RFQ)**  
**RFQ Sections 2.0 and 3.1**

**Question No. 4:**

Please clarify which section numbers you wish to be tabbed. We are thinking it should be:

- a. 5.2 Transmittal Letter
- b. 5.3 Executive Summary
- c. 5.4 Contents of the SOQ (this will have a number of sub-sections that will appear in the Table of Contents but will not be tabbed)
- d. 5.5 Scope of Work – this section does not appear in the RFQ, but is it okay to include it?

**Answer No. 4:**

Requirements are provided in Section 5.1, subsections G-J of the RFQ. Provided that SOQ submissions are in compliance with these sections, the Authority does not wish to dictate how Offerors submit their SOQ.

**Question No. 5:**

Attachment D: Sample Agreement is blank in the RFQ. Where can we find this?

**Answer No. 5:**

The blank page titled "Attachment D: Sample Agreement" in the RFQ is a section heading. Attachment D commences on the next page with the Scope of Work (Exhibit A) through Exhibit F.

**Question No. 6:**

Does an 11x17 sheet count as two pages or one?

**Answer No. 6:**

Pursuant to Section 5.1, subsection A of the RFQ (Page 14), an 11x17 one-sided sheet, will count as one page, and should be used sparingly.

**Question No. 7:**

Section 5.2 states that The Offeror must provide three (3) references for the firm per Section 5.4.1.1 (including all required information and/or documentation), and that references shall be attached to the Transmittal Letter. The RFQ also requests that references be included in the submittal section 5.4.1.1. Is it your intent that we include references in both places, or only as attached to the Transmittal Letter?

**Answer No. 7:**

No, the references and contact information attached to the Transmittal Letter do not need to be included in and the body of the SOQ in the same form; however, other information contained in the references should be included in the body of the SOQ as applicable or necessary to describe past performance, etc.

**Question No. 8:**

Section 5.2.1.C (page 16) of the RFQ requires that all Key Personnel submit a signed statement attached to the Transmittal Letter indicating that they understand that the project will be located in the Silicon Valley to Central Valley Line and are willing to work as required at the location as determined by the work schedule, as required by Section 5.4.2.1 of this RFQ. Are the signed statements to be counted towards the 50 page maximum response limit (excluding items listed in Section 5.1.C)?

**Answer No. 8:**

No, the attachments to the Transmittal Letter will not be counted toward the 50 page maximum page limit.

**Question No. 9:**

Section 5.4.1.1 (page 17) of the RFQ requires names, addresses and telephone numbers for at least three (3) clients for whom the Offeror (i.e. the prime consultant submitting an SOQ, the joint venture submitting an SOQ, or each individual prime member of the joint venture) has performed work on Geotechnical Site Investigation projects. Is it acceptable for any of the three references to be from a project that was led by Key Personnel of a relatively large percentage Subconsultant filling an important, relevant, Key Personnel role on the team? Or do all three references need to be from projects that were led by the Prime Consultant?

**Answer No. 9:**

No, the references must apply to the Offeror as described in Section 5.4.1.1, and not be for Subconsultants.

**Question No. 10:**

“Lead Geotechnical Engineer” (page 19) of the RFQ indicates that the individual responsible for the delivery of the technical requirements in the Scope of Work should have at least 10 years of experience in geotechnical investigation and be a California licensed Geotechnical Engineer (GE). Given the size and diversity of conditions along the alignment, is it be acceptable to identify two (or more ) qualified individuals to share the role of “Lead Geotechnical Engineer”?

**Answer No. 10:**

No, as stated in Section 5.4.2.1, sub-section B of the RFQ, this position is for one individual.

**Question No. 11:**

Are the services requested in RFQ No. HSR15-172 considered “low level” as described in the CHSRA Organization Conflict of Interest Policy thereby not precluding the Offering Team from participation in later design-build contracts for the associated Construction Packages?

**Answer No. 11:**

In accordance with the Organizational Conflict of Interest provision in the RFQ Section 3.6 and the Authority’s Conflict of Interest Policy (see [http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/about/doing\\_business/Organizational\\_Conflict\\_Interest\\_Policy\\_Final9152011.pdf](http://hsr.ca.gov/docs/about/doing_business/Organizational_Conflict_Interest_Policy_Final9152011.pdf)), please submit a formal request to the Chief Counsel in order to fully answer your inquiry. You may expedite the inquiry by copying the RFQ Point of Contact with the formal request.

**Question No. 12:**

Traditional geotechnical engineering services contracts permit a markup of subcontractors on the order of 10%. The RFQ Attachment E, Rate Sheet instructions precludes a markup on subconsultants. Can this stipulation be waived?

**Answer No. 12:**

No, a 10% markup for subcontractors will not be allowable under the Agreement resulting from this RFQ.

**Question No. 13:**

Will the High Speed Rail Authority provide an electronic file (CAD or kmz) to the the proposing teams showing the most current project alignment(s) between Silicon Valley and Central Valley? This information may be available to the geotechnical consultants currently working on this segment. Also, will the geotechnical information collected to date on the alignment be provided?

**Answer No. 13:**

No the Authority will not release electronic files to the Offeror Teams. See Figure 1, as it contains all relevant alignment information for this RFQ.

**Question No. 14:**

Is there a minimum qualification requirement for consultant’s contract manager?

**Answer No. 14:**

Attachment D, Exhibit D section 1.1 states the duties and responsibilities of the contract manager.

**Question No. 15:**

How many teams are expected to be shortlisted for interview/discussion?

**Answer No. 15:**

As the Authority has not received or reviewed any Offeror's SOQs, there is no expectation in this regard. No fewer than the top three ranked Offerors as stated in Section 6.4 of the RFQ will be invited to discussions.

**Question No. 16:**

How many task orders are anticipated? And at what frequency?

**Answer No. 16:**

The number of task orders will be sufficient to cover the work identified in the scope of work.

**Question No. 17:**

Section 5.2.A – Do all the subs need to provide business license?

**Answer No. 17:**

No, Subconsultants do not need to provide their business licensees with the SOQ. However, the Prime Consultant must provide their business license pursuant to the section referenced in this question.

**Question No. 18:**

Exhibit A – Section 2.1 – Is the authority going to provide available data prior to SOQ submittal, or is it meant to be provided to the winning proposer?

**Answer No. 18:**

The successful Offeror Team will be provided with the data as specified in the RFQ.