

Request for Proposals

For

Marketing, Advertising and Crisis Communication Services

P019-23

Proposals due by 5:00 p.m. (Central Time), January 18, 2023

Brownsville Public Utilities Board 1425 Robinhood Drive, P.O. Box 3270 Brownsville, TX 78523-3270 http://www.brownsville-pub.com

LEGAL NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS P#019-23

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board ("BPUB") is requesting Competitive Sealed Proposals (hereon styled "RFP") for Marketing, Advertising and Crisis Communication Services. BPUB's Purchasing Office located at 1155 FM 511, Olmito, TX, will accept RFP's from qualified firms **until 5:00 PM, January 18, 2023. RFP's received after this time will not be considered.**

RFP's will be acknowledged by BPUB on January 19, 2023 at 11:30 AM (CST). Firms are invited to listen to the opening via conference call, (956) 214-6020, at 11:30 AM, January 19, 2023.

BPUB RFP documents may be obtained from the BPUB website at https://www.brownsville-pub.com/rfp_status/open/

Please mark on the outside of the envelope and on any carrier's envelope: "Sealed Proposal for Marketing, Advertising and Crisis Communication Services, P019-23, January 18, 2023, 5:00 PM", c/o Diane Solitaire, Purchasing Department, 1155 FM 511, Olmito, TX 78575.

BPUB will not be responsible in the event that the U.S. Postal Service or any other courier system fails to deliver the sealed proposal package to the BPUB Purchasing Office by the given RFP deadline above. Electronic transmission or facsimile of RFP's will not be acceptable.

BPUB reserves the right to reject any or all responses and to waive irregularities contained therein and to accept any response deemed most advantageous to BPUB.

Diane Solitaire

Materials/Warehouse Manager Brownsville Public Utilities Board (956) 983-6366 - Phone

Please submit this page upon receipt ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM P#019-23 Marketing, Advertising and Crisis Communication Services

For any clarifications, please contact Diane Solitaire at the BPUB Purchasing Department at (956) 983-6366 or via e-mail at <u>dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com</u>.

Please email this page upon receipt of the RFP package or legal notice. If you only received the legal notice and you want the RFP package mailed please provide a method of shipment with account number in the space designated below.

Check one:

() Yes, I will be able to send an RFP response and obtain the RFP package from website.

() Yes, I will be able to send an RFP response; please email the RFP package. Email:

() Yes, I will be able to send an RFP response; please mail the RFP package using the carrier & account number listed below:

Carrier:	
Account:	

() No, I will not be able to send an RFP response for the following reason:

If you are unable to send your RFP response, kindly indicate your reason above and return this form **via email to <u>dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com</u>**. This will ensure you remain active on our vendor list.

Date		
Company:		
Name:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Phone:	Fax:	
Email:		

P019-23 Marketing, Advertising & Crisis Communication Services Final

INTRODUCTION

Background

As a municipally owned utility, communication with its customers and BPUB's reputation within the community are critical. BPUB has identified the need to expand and enhance customer and stakeholder understanding of the BPUB's value to the community and improve communication with customers and employees. BPUB is seeking support in identifying best practices to disseminate information. BPUB staff identified proactive communication and education as ways to improve customer perception and see the need for expanded internal communications to improve employee relations and morale. Additional information regarding BPUB's mission, programs, projects, and financial structure is available on BPUB's website at <u>www.brownsville-pub.com</u>.

The BPUB System and Organization

BPUB is an agency formed by the City of Brownsville, Texas, under Article VI of its Home Rule Charter. The Board is organized for the purpose of aiding and acting on behalf of the City to manage and control the City's municipally owned electric, water and wastewater systems.

BPUB is governed by the Board of Directors ("Board"), which has control and management supervision of all affairs of the agency as more detailed below. The Board holds a regular meeting once a month, usually on the second Monday, and occasionally holds special meetings and workshops.

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) is a component unit of the City of Brownsville, Texas and is 92.91% participant of the Southmost Regional Water Authority (Authority). The BPUB was formed in 1960 to provide electrical, water, and wastewater services to its customers in the Brownsville area, and the Authority provides treated water to various areas of the lower Cameron County. Pursuant to the City's Charter, management, operation, and control of the City's combined water, wastewater, and electric utilities system is delegated to the BPUB, and the Authority has a mutual agreement with the BPUB authorizing the BPUB to manage all accounting and reporting functions. The Authority is comprised of all of the territory contained within the City of Brownsville, the City of Los Fresnos, the Town of Indian Lake, Brownsville Navigation District of Cameron County, and Valley Municipal Utility District No. 2 of Cameron County.

BPUB executive administration includes a general manager/chief executive officer, an assistant general manager/chief operations officer and a chief financial officer that oversee specific divisions. BPUB employs approximately 602 employees. BPUB's fiscal year is a 12-month period ending September 30th of each year.

The BPUB Board is comprised of seven members, six of whom are appointed by the City Commission for four-year terms, and the seventh member being the City's Mayor serving exofficio. The Board appoints a General Manager and Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for the management of all BPUB employees and for administering all affairs of the BPUB.

The **Electric System** provides retail electric service through its electric facilities to consumers inside and outside the city limits. The existing customer service area of the electric facilities encompasses approximately 133 square miles of Cameron County, including substantially the entire City (estimated by the Public Utilities Board at over 96%). The electric system serves a growing base of about 49,455 customers and serves a peak load of 300 MW. Current resources, mainly owned by the Public Utilities Board, are sufficient to cover peak demand.

The Public Utilities Board meets its power supply obligations through a combination of resources: (i) the operation of the Silas Ray Power Production Facilities owned and operated by the Public Utilities Board (composed of one conventional steam turbine unit and a re-powered steam turbine in Combined Cycle with a combustion turbine and a GE LM6000 gas turbine generator for an estimated gas fired capability of 115 MW), (ii) the operation of the Calpine/Hidalgo combined cycle Power Plant in which the Public Utilities Board has an ownership interest entitling it to 105 MW of capacity, (iii) a Power Purchase Agreement with Exelon Corporation entitling the Public Utilities Board to purchase 78 MW of renewable energy, (iv) a Power Purchase Agreement with AEP Energy Partners, Inc entitling the Board to an estimated 65 MW of energy, and (v) economy energy purchases through an economy power interchange arrangement.

The Public Utilities Board currently has a gas transportation agreement with Texas Gas Services Company ("TGS"), a division of ONE Gas, Inc. and a gas supply agreement with Tenaska Marketing Ventures ("TMV") for service to its Silas Ray Generation units, and a gas supply agreement with Calpine Energy Services, LP for service to its Calpine/Hidalgo Plant.

Fuel and transportation contracts are in place, limiting the Public Utilities Board's exposure to the volatile fuel commodity markets.

The **Water System** draws raw water from the Rio Grande River and consists of a river rock weir, a river pump station, two reservoirs providing 187 million gallons total capacity, and a raw water transport system. Surface water treatment is achieved by two water treatment plants providing 40 million gallons per day (MGD) of total capacity (20 MGD treatment capacity each). Two clear wells provide 6.84 million gallons storage capacity, and three elevated storage tanks provide 5 million gallons of elevated storage capacity. Water is pumped by three high-service pumping stations into the distribution system which consists of 676 miles of transmission and distribution mains. The Public Utilities Board mainly sells to residential and commercial customers, but also sells treated water on a wholesale basis to three other water distribution companies that amount to approximately 5.64% of revenues. The Public Utilities Board partnered with the Southmost Regional Water Authority (the Authority) and built a 7.5 million gallon per day reverse osmosis water treatment plant of which the Public Utilities Board has 92.91% ownership. The Authority's plant completed an expansion in November 2015 to provide microfiltration pretreatment and a total production capacity up to 10 MGD. The Authority's plant includes a 7.5 million gallon storage tank.

The Public Utilities Board has an annual allocation of municipal priority water rights from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in the amount of 31,442.381 acre-feet of water, which is dependent upon inflow to the Falcon and Amistad Reservoirs. In addition, the

Public Utilities Board holds Permit No. 1838 entitling it the right to 40,000 acre-feet of surplus water.

The Public Utilities Board is subject to regulation of water quality by the TCEQ. The Public Utilities Board presently has a "Superior" water system as determined in accordance with current TCEQ regulations.

The Public Utilities Board's water utility service area is subject to the certification jurisdiction of the TCEQ. The Public Utilities Board has been certified singly to provide water service within the boundaries of the City. A large portion of the area, three and one-half miles surrounding the boundaries (the "extraterritorial jurisdiction") of the City, is dually certified. There is a small water utility system (El Jardin Water Supply Corporation) whose customers are situated adjacent to or within the System. All of its treated water is supplied by the Public Utilities Board's water system.

The Wastewater System, consisting of collection and treatment facilities, includes gravity wastewater collection lines, 178 pumping/lift stations and two treatment plants. Wastewater is transported by pumping stations and associated force mains to one of two wastewater treatment plants - the Robindale Plant or the South Plant. The Robindale Plant was designed to treat 5 MGD in 1980 and expanded to a capacity of 10 MGD in 1995. The Robindale renovation and expansion project completed in July 2014 increased the treatment capacity to 14.5 MGD. The Robindale Plant provides secondary waste treatment utilizing a Modified Ludzack-Ettinger (MLE) process (anoxic and aerobic with an internal nitrate cycle) of activated sludge, turbo blowers (with magnetic bearings) with auto dissolved oxygen control, secondary settling, ultra-violet light system (as alternate source of disinfection), effluent cascade aeration system, sludge thickening, aerobic digestion, mechanical sludge dewatering (via 2-meter belt filter press), a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system, and sludge disposal at a Dedicated Land Disposal (DLD) site of 137 Acres. The South Plant was originally constructed in 1952, with a trickling filter process and anaerobic digestion plant design with a treatment capacity of 5 MGD. South Plant was modified in 1974 with major modifications in 1978 when it was expanded to a capacity of 7.8 MGD and the treatment process design was changed to a variation of activated sludge identified as complete-mix process and anaerobic digesters were converted to aerobic digesters. In 2000, the plant was expanded to 12.8 MGD. The treatment process was changed to reflect the complete mix activated sludge treatment process we have today. It consists of a dual channel mechanical bar screening system, two grit classifiers, compactor washer, a four aerated grit chamber system, three complete mix aeration basins, RAS and WAS pumping stations, four final clarifiers, chlorine contact chamber, chemical feed station with scrubber system, two effluent river pump stations for offsite force main for pumping treated effluent to the Rio Grande River, two gravity thickeners, four aerobic digesters with mechanical sludge dewatering process (via 2meter belt filter press unit that was added in July of 2010) and sludge disposal at a Dedicated Land Disposal (DLD) site of 137 Acres.

The wastewater system is subject to regulation by the EPA and the TCEQ with regards to operations of the facilities and the water quality of the wastewater plants' effluent.

The Public Utilities Board has the authority to provide wastewater service both inside and outside the city limits. The Brownsville Navigation District owns and operates its own wastewater treatment facilities. There is no competition between the Public Utilities Board's wastewater system and the Brownsville Navigation District since the Brownsville Navigation District operates in defined areas in which the System has no wastewater lines.

BPUB's Fiscal Years 2022-2026 Capital Improvements Plan Budget includes \$107.2 million in Electric spending requirements for transmission, distribution and power production improvements. Funding for the Electric plan is expected to be provided primarily from current revenue with some funding from commercial paper issuance followed by the issuance of long-term debt.

It is also anticipated that the Water and Wastewater System will require approximately \$163.2 million for system improvements. Such improvements will include treatment facility improvements, reservoir, pump station and lift station improvements, and major transmission, distribution and collection improvements. It is anticipated that such improvements will be financed through a combination of current revenues, the issuance of commercial paper followed by the issuance of long-term debt, Impact Fees, and grants.

The BPUB has authorized commercial paper programs for the Combined Utility Systems of \$100 million in tax-exempt and taxable commercial paper.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATING FIRMS

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board of the City of Brownsville, Texas is requesting proposals from firms interested in providing Marketing, Advertising and Crisis Communication Services to the BPUB. Firms with relevant experience and qualifications are encouraged to submit their proposal. Preparation of submittals will be at the expense of the firm.

The agreement period will be for a period of one (1) year with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods under the same terms and conditions of the contract contingent upon mutual agreement by both parties.

The following instructions should be followed:

- 1. RFP responses must include a statement that they are valid for a minimum period of ninety (90) days subsequent to the RFP Response closing date.
- 2. Please limit response to relevant material; additional information must be submitted in the form of an attachment or appendix.
- 3. Identify the question being answered in the introduction to each response.
- 4. After release of this solicitation, Proposer's contact regarding this RFP with members of the RFP evaluation, interview or selection panels, and employees of the BPUB or officials of the BPUB other than the Purchasing Manager or Purchasing Staff is prohibited and may result in disqualification from this

procurement process. No officer, employee, agent or representative of the Proposer shall have any contact or discussion, verbal or written, with any members of the BPUB Board of Directors, members of the RFP evaluation, interview, or selection panels, BPUB staff, or directly or indirectly through others, seek to influence any BPUB Board member, BPUB staff regarding any matters pertaining to this solicitation, except as herein provided. If a representative of any Proposer violates the foregoing prohibition by contacting any of the above listed parties with whom contact is not authorized, such contact may result in the Proposer being disqualified from the procurement process.

- 5. The BPUB is not bound under any contract until it authorizes the General Manager to execute the contract and the contract is executed by both parties.
- 6. It is a policy of the BPUB to refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with an individual, sole proprietorship, joint venture, Limited Liability Company or other entity indebted to BPUB.
- 7. The successful Firm agrees to send a personal representative with binding authority for the company to the BPUB upon request to make adjustments and/or assist with coordination of all transactions as needed.
- 8. The Brownsville PUB has implemented a payment service for vendors by depositing the payment directly to the vendor's bank account. Successful vendor(s) will be required to receive payments directly through Automated Clearing House (ACH) in lieu of a paper check. The awarded vendor must agree to receive payments via ACH (Direct Deposit).
- 9. In accordance with IRS Publication 1220, a W9 form, or a W8 form in cases of a foreign vendor, will be required of all vendors doing business with the Brownsville PUB. If a W9 or W8 form is not made available to Brownsville PUB, the first payment will be subject to income tax withholding at a rate of 28% or 30% depending on the U.S. status and the source of income as per IRS Publication 1220. The W9 or W8 form must be included with proposal response. Attached are sample forms.
- 10. The BPUB is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Sales Tax and Local taxes. Do not include tax in the proposal. If it is determined that tax was included in the proposal, it will not be included in the tabulation or any awards. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
- 11. Failure to sign proposal will disqualify it. Person signing proposal should show title or authority to bind their firm to a contract.
- 12. During the performance of this contract, the Firm agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, national origin, age, religion, gender, marital or veteran status or physically challenging

condition.

- 13. On April 16, 2007, the BPUB Board of Directors approved a local "living wage" policy that requires all Contractors and Subcontractors performing 100% Non-Federally funded Work for the BPUB to pay not less than a minimum wage rate of \$8.00/hour. The BPUB requires that all Contractors and Subcontractors comply with this policy.
- 14. The BPUB will contact prospective firm's references by telephone or email. Complete the attached "Previous Customer Reference Worksheet" for each reference provided.

BPUB RIGHTS

- 1. If only one or no RFP response is received by "submission date", the BPUB has the right to reject, re-propose, accept and/or extend the RFP by up to an additional two (2) weeks from original submission date.
- 2. The right to reject any/or all RFPs and to make award as they may appear to be advantageous to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board.
- 3. The right to hold RFP for 90 days from submission date without action, and to waive all formalities in RFP.
- 4. The right to extend the total RFP beyond the original 90-day period prior to an award if agreed upon in writing by both parties and if RFP holds firm.
- 5. The right to terminate all or any part of the unfinished portion of the work resulting from this solicitation within thirty (30) days written notice; upon default by the firm, for delay or non-performance by the firm, or if it is deemed in the best interest of the Utilities for convenience.
- 6. The BPUB reserves the right to request additional information or to meet with representatives from responding organizations to discuss points in the RFP before and after submission, any and all of which may be used in forming a recommendation.
- 7. The BPUB reserves the right to reject any and all qualification statements, and to accept the RFP it considers in its best interest based upon the requirements and descriptions outlined in this RFP.

Any interpretation, correction, or change of the RFP will be made by ADDENDUM.

Changes or corrections will be issued by the Brownsville PUB Purchasing Department. Addenda will be emailed to all who have returned the RFP Acknowledgement Form. Addenda will be issued as expeditiously as possible. It is the responsibility of the vendors to determine whether all addenda have been received. It will be the responsibility of all respondents to contact the Brownsville PUB prior to submitting a response to the RFP to ascertain if any addenda have been issued, and to obtain any and/ or all addenda, execute them, and return addenda with the response to the RFP. Addenda may also be posted on BPUB's webpage.

FEES

For services not directly associated with these services, provide either an hourly fee for each person who will provide these services to BPUB. State how out-of-pocket expenses will be billed.

OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROJECT

The objective of this project is to assist the BPUB Communications and Public Relations and Digital Information Platforms Departments with Marketing, Advertising & Crisis Communication Services on an as needed basis and to audit current communications plans for suggested enhancements.

SCOPE OF WORK

The selected VENDOR will work with the BPUB Communications & PR and Digital Information Platforms Managers and staff to:

- 1. Develop Public Awareness Campaigns for BPUB Special Projects, including but not limited to: Forensic Examination Report, Electrical Safety, Hurricane Preparedness, and others as assigned;
- 2. Perform Assessments of current utility's communications plans;
- 3. Provide support with BPUB's communication implementation strategies;
- 4. Assist with editing, writing, and designing support material for specific programs and/or projects;
- 5. Provide employee spokesperson and social media interaction training;
- 6. Review utility's website and social media platforms and provide recommendations on enhancements and messaging;
- 7. Create graphic designs for ongoing projects;
- 8. Create video for ongoing projects;
- 9. Conduct weekly meetings with management and staff to review on going communications;
- 10. Implement Crisis Communications Plan on an as needed basis.

ANTICIPATED SERVICES

The BPUB anticipates contracting with a marketing, advertising and crisis communication services agency to develop specific public awareness and education campaigns and provide consulting services. The campaigns may include, but are not limited to, print advertisements, bill inserts, posters, press releases, social media, and brochures. Services may also include placement of advertisements.

Currently, the BPUB has the following communication outreach projects planned within the next 12 months:

- 1. Rate Adjustments
- 2. Solar Energy
- 3. Forensic Examination Report
- 4. Outage Management System

- 5. Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Implementation
- 6. Drought Contingency Plan
- 7. Resaca Restoration Project
- 8. Public Information Pieces
- 9. Assistance Programs

Additional programs and projects will be conducted during the year on an as needed or requested basis.

PROPOSAL DUE DATE

Proposals are due **January 18, 2023** before 5:00 PM, delivered via mail or courier service, to the BPUB Purchasing Department, 1155 FM 511, Olmito, TX 78575. **Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.**

Proposals will be acknowledged on January 19, 2023 at 11:30 AM.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

A. Request for Information

By submitting a proposal, the respondent agrees to furnish such information as the BPUB may reasonably require. This information includes, but is not limited to, information that indicates financial resources as well as the ability to provide services. To the extent there are any revisions or additions to the information provided or requested in the RFP, an addendum to the RFP will be sent to all respondents that initially received the RFP. Any addenda so issued are to be considered part of the specifications of the RFP. The BPUB reserves the right to make investigations regarding the qualifications of the respondent.

B. Proposals Binding

Any proposal may be withdrawn in writing prior to the date and time set for receipt of proposals. The BPUB anticipates negotiating and executing an agreement with selected respondent(s) by March, 2023. However, any proposal submitted and not withdrawn prior to the date and time set for receipt of proposals will be considered valid until the period ending April, 2023.

C. Incurred Expenses

The BPUB is not responsible for any costs incurred by a respondent to this RFP, including costs of participating in presentations or meetings with the BPUB.

D. Proprietary Information

All materials submitted to the BPUB in response to this RFP are, upon receipt by the BPUB, the property of the BPUB, may not be returned to the submitting party, and are subject to the Public Information Act, Chapter 522, Texas Government Code (the "Act"). Respondents should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Act. In no event shall the BPUB, the City, or any of their agents, representatives, consultants, directors, officers or employees be liable to a respondent for the disclosure of all or a portion of the information submitted in response to this RFP.

If a respondent has special concerns about information which it desires to make available to the BPUB but which it believes constitutes a trade secret, proprietary information, or other information excepted from disclosure, such respondent should specifically and conspicuously designate that information by placing "CONFIDENTIAL" in the center header of each such page affected. Blanket, all-inclusive identifications by designation of whole pages or sections as containing proprietary information, trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information are discouraged and may be deemed invalid.

If the BPUB receives a request for public disclosure of all or any portion of a response, the BPUB will use reasonable efforts to notify the applicable respondent of the request and give such respondent an opportunity to assert, in writing and at its sole expense, a claimed exception under the Act or other applicable law within the time period specified in the notice issued by the BPUB and allowed under the Act.

E. Acceptance/Rejection/Modification to Proposals

- 1. The BPUB reserves the right to negotiate modifications to the proposals, to reject any or all proposals, to request and consider additional information from any respondent, and to waive minor irregularities and technical defects. The BPUB will not waive non-compliance with the deadline to submit the response to the RFP.
- 2. The BPUB reserves the right to seek new proposals when it determines that it is in the BPUB's best interest to do so.
- 3. The BPUB reserves the right to accept the written proposal as an offer.
- 4. The BPUB reserves the right to award the contract to other qualified respondent(s) if the primary respondent chosen does not execute an agreement with the BPUB within thirty (30) days of being notified of selection.

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals must be completed and convey all of the information requested in order to be considered responsive. If the proposal fails to conform to the essential requirements of the RFP, the Brownsville PUB alone will determine whether the variance is significant enough to consider the proposal susceptible to being made acceptable and therefore a candidate for further consideration, or not susceptible to being made acceptable and therefore not considered for award. Only the information provided with the proposal, subsequent discussions and clarifications provided in writing, and the proposer's written Best and Final Offer, is used in the evaluation process and award determination. Only these criteria will be considered on the award determination.

A committee made up of members of the BPUB Staff will review, score and rank all the SOQ submittals received based on the criteria specified below and develop a shortlist of up to three (3) responsive companies. In the event of a tie for 3rd place, the firm with the highest score under "Experience" will prevail.

The short list of firms may be required to make final presentations, which may include an interview, to the BPUB Board. The BPUB Board will make the final selection and authorization for General Manager and CEO and BPUB staff to negotiate a contract and later possible actual contract award.

The BPUB Board exercises its discretion in the final selection of a candidate for contract negotiations, and will not be bound by the BPUB staff recommendation, scoring and ranking. The BPUB staff's preliminary reviews and scoring of submittals merely determines the top ranked firms who are most technically qualified as finalists and are eligible for interviews by the Board.

A. Evaluation Criteria

1.	Evidence of level of understanding of the scope of work methodology to carry out project successfully.	25
2.	Firm must have at least 10 years experience conducting similar projects, preferably in the utility industry.	20
3.	Evidence as to whether the firm has a good understanding of BPUB's type of organization, its special needs, its facilities, regulations, and other aspects (to include knowledge of municipalities).	20
4.	Evidence of the firm's ability to perform the work, as indicated by profiles of the principal's and staff's professional and technical competence and experience.	20

5. Evidence of past performance, in terms of cost control, quality of work and timeliness (based on references, examples of similar projects, and other pertinent information).

POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINTS 100

Any questions regarding this RFP or requests for available materials should be directed in writing via e-mail to:

dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com

Please understand that all fees (including respondent counsel fees, if any) that the BPUB is expected to pay are contingent upon the final approval by the BPUB Board of Directors, and that the laws of the State of Texas will govern the obligations of the BPUB.

Information submitted relative to this RFP will not be released by the BPUB during the evaluation process or prior to contract award, unless the BPUB is required to do so by law.

B. Tentative Schedule

- 1. RFP issued January 3, 2023.
- 2. Proposals due no later than 5:00 p.m., Central Time, on January 18, 2023.
- 3. Anticipated selection of preferred respondent(s) by February, 2023.
- 4. If applicable, execute an agreement by March, 2023

FORMAT AND CONTENT OF RFP

This section of the RFP describes the required format and content for the respondent's proposal. This standardization will facilitate evaluation of all proposals. Failure to comply with the required organization outlined in this RFP may result in a lowered evaluation. Proposals that are substantially incomplete or lack key information may be rejected. A proposal will be considered incomplete if the response to requested information states that the respondent considers the information to be proprietary and as such the information is not disclosed.

Proposals should be prepared in a manner that is simple and straightforward, with a concise description of capabilities to satisfy requirements of the RFP. Emphasis should be placed on completeness and clarity of content.

Proposals should be organized in the order in which the requirements are presented in this RFP. Each paragraph of the response should reference the section of the corresponding section of the RFP. Respondent should respond to all information requested in this RFP or indicate why no response is given. It is also helpful to repeat the text of the requirements as it appears in the RFP prior to your answer to that question. Proposals that are not organized in this manner risk elimination for consideration if the evaluators cannot determine where the answer to a particular question is located within the response.

A. General Information

Please provide the following general information about the firm and contact information for the person who is authorized to answer questions and to negotiate final terms and conditions on behalf of the respondent:

Name of Respondent Corporate Office Address Names and Addresses of Authorized Representatives Telephone Number, Facsimile Number, E-mail Address

B. Disclosure Requirements

For all products, please list any offering documents or other types of disclosure requirements.

C. Ability to Meet the BPUB's Schedule

Please confirm that the respondent can meet the BPUB's expectations as disclosed in the "Tentative Schedule" found on Page 14.

D. Conditions and Covenants

- 1. By acceptance of the respondent's proposal, the BPUB reserves the right to negotiate any proposed conditions and covenants.
- 2. Please provide any conditions and covenants that will affect your response to Section B above.

E. Information Relating to the Respondent

Please provide the following:

1. An electronic copy or website reference to the respondent's most recent

audited financial statements.

- 2. Detail any criminal investigations or pertinent litigation against the respondent, either pending or concluded within the past three years. Specifically address any litigation or administrative proceedings involving the Department.
- 3. Disclose any possible conflicts of interest or circumstances that could create the appearance of a conflict of interest. Disclose all contractual or informal business arrangements or relationships, including fee arrangements and consulting agreements, as well as any personal relationships, between your firm, including professional staff, and any BPUB staff and/or members of the City.

AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The BPUB reserves the right to reject any proposed form of agreement that does not conform to the RFP or any of the BPUB's requirements for agreements and contracts. The conclusion of any agreement resulting from the acceptance of a proposal must be approved by the BPUB.

PROPOSAL COST SHEET P019-23

The undersigned Firm, having read and examined the requirements and specifications for the above, proposes to perform the services set forth in the Original Proposal. The undersigned Firm hereby proposes to furnish the following product, as described herein, for the hourly rate of:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	EST. HOURS TO COMPLETE	HOURLY RATE	TOTAL COST
1	Marketing, Advertising and Crisis Communication Services			
3	Additional Services (If applicable) List on separate sheet of paper, if needed.			
	TOTAL			

Company Name:	
Authorized Company Representative:	
Authorized Company Representative: Signature (Failure to sign proposal will disqualify it)	
Company Address:	
Telephone #:	
Fax #:	
Email:	

Required Forms FORMS CHECKLIST

The following documents are to be submitted as a part of the Bid/RFP/RFQ document

NAME	FORM DESCRIPTION	SUBMITTED WITH BID		
		YES	NO	
	Acknowledgement Form			
Legal Notice	Debarment Certificate			
6	Ethic Statement			
	Conflict of Interest Questionnaire			
	W9 or W8 Form			
	Direct Deposit Form (will be provided to the awarded vendor)			
	Residence Certification			
Special Instructions	Bid Schedule/Cost sheet completed and signed			
(if applicable)	Cashier Check or Bid Bond of 5% of Total Amount of Bid			
	OSHA 300 Log			
	Contractor Pre-Bid Disclosure completed, signed and notarized			
	Sub-Contractor Pre-Bid Disclosure completed, signed, and notarized			
References	Complete the Previous Customer Reference Worksheet for each reference provided			
Addenda				

ETHICS STATEMENT (Complete and Return this form with Response)

The undersigned firm, by signing and executing this RFP, certifies and represents to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board that firm has not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit, as defined by (1.07 (a) (6) of the Texas Penal Code, or any other thing of value as consideration for the receipt of information or any special treatment of advantage relating to this RFP; the firm also certifies and represents that the firm has not offered, conferred or agreed to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value as consideration for the recipient's decision, opinion, recommendation, vote or other exercise of discretion concerning this RFP, the firm certifies and represents that firm has neither coerced nor attempted to influence the exercise of discretion by any officer, trustee, agent or employee of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board concerning this RFP on the basis of any consideration not authorized by law; the firm also certifies and represents that firm has not received any information not available to other firms so as to give the undersigned a preferential advantage with respect to this RFP; the firm further certifies and represents that firm has not violated any state, federal, or local law, regulation or ordinance relating to bribery, improper influence, collusion or the like and that firm will not in the future offer, confer, or agree to confer any pecuniary benefit or other thing of value of any officer, trustee, agent or employee of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board in return for the person having exercised their person's official discretion, power or duty with respect to this RFP; the firm certifies and represents that it has not now and will not in the future offer, confer, or agree to confer a pecuniary benefit or other thing of value to any officer, trustee, agent, or employee of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board in connection with information regarding this RFP, the submission of this RFP, the award of this RFP or the performance, delivery or sale pursuant to this RFP.

THE FIRM SHALL DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE BROWNSVILLE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD, ALL OF ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES FROM AND AGAINST ALL CLAIMS, ACTIONS, SUITS, DEMANDS, PROCEEDING, COSTS, DAMAGES, AND LIABILITIES, ARISING OUT OF, CONNECTED WITH, OR RESULTING FROM ANY ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF FIRM OR ANY AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF FIRM IN THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF THIS RFP.

I have read all of the specifications and general RFP requirements and do hereby certify that all items submitted meet specifications.

COMPANY: _____

AGENT NAME:			

AGENT SIGNATURE:_____

ADDRESS:	

CITY:			
CITY:			

STATE:	
--------	--

ZIP CODE:	

TELEPHONE:	TELEFAX:	

FEDERAL ID#: AND/OR SOCIAL SECURITY #:

DEVIATIONS FROM SPECIFICATIONS IF ANY:

NOTE: QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FROM PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS SHOULD BE RAISED WITH OWNER AND ITS CONSULTANT (IF APPLICABLE) AND RESOLVED IF POSSIBLE, <u>PRIOR TO</u> THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DATE. ANY LISTED DEVIATIONS IN A FINALLY SUBMITTED PROPOSAL MAY ALLOW THE OWNER TO REJECT A PROPOSAL AS NON-RESPONSIVE.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (Complete and Return this form with Response)

Name of Entity:

The prospective participant certifies to the best of their knowledge and belief that they and their principals:

Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment or suspension by The State Bar of Texas or any Federal court.

Have not within a three year period preceding this RFP been convicted of, had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (Federal, State, Local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in this paragraph of the certification; and

I understand that a false statement on this certification may be grounds for rejection of this RFP or termination of the award. In addition, under 18 USC Section 1001, a false statement may result in a fine up to a \$10,000.00 or imprisonment for up to five (5) years, or both.

Name and Title of Authorized Representative (Typed)

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

□ I am unable to certify to the above statements. My explanation is attached.

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN ITS ENTIRETY & SUBMITTED WITH BID RESPONSE

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity	FORM CIQ								
This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.	OFFICE USE ONLY								
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).	Date Received								
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. <i>See</i> Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.									
A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.									
1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.									
Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law re completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th busines you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)	ss day after the date on which								
³ Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.									
Name of Officer									
4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government offi officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attact CIQ as necessary.	th the local government officer.								
A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or l other than investment income, from the vendor?	ikely to receive taxable income,								
Yes No									
B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?									
Yes No									
Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 m other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an o ownership interest of one percent or more.									
6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.									
7									
Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity	Date								
Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission www.ethics.state.tx.us	Revised 1/1/2021								

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/ Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

(A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;

(B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or

(C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that

 $(\tilde{\mathbf{i}})$ a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

(1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);

(2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or

(3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

(A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or

(B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

(A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);

(B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or

(C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission

www.ethics.state.tx.us

Revised 1/1/2021

BROWNSVILLE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

In accordance with Art. 601g, as passed by the 1985 Texas Legislature, the following will apply. The pertinent portion of the Act has been extracted and is as follows:

Section 1. (a)

(1) "Nonresident bidder" means a bidder whose principal place of business is not in this state, but excludes a contractor whose ultimate parent company or majority owner has its principal place of business in this state.

(2) "Texas resident bidder " means a bidder whose principal place of business is in this state, and includes a contractor whose ultimate parent company or majority owner has its principal place of business in this state.

Section 1. (b)

The state or governmental agency of the state may not award a contract for general construction, improvements, services, or public works projects or purchases of supplies, materials or equipment to a nonresident bidder unless the nonresident's bid is lower than the lowest bid submitted by a responsible Texas resident bidder by the same amount that a Texas resident bidder would be required to underbid a nonresident bidder to obtain a comparable contract in the state in which the nonresident's principal place of business is located.

I certify that

(Company Name) is a resident Texas bidder as defined in Art. 601g.

Signature:
Print Name:
certify that Company Name) is a nonresident bidder as defined in Art. 601g. and our principal place of business is:
(City and State)
Signature:
Print Name:

Previous Customer Reference Worksheet

Name of Customer:		Customer Contact:						
Customer Address:		Customer Phone Number:						
		Customer Email:						
Name of Company Performing Referenced Work:								

What was the Period of Performance?	What was the Final Acceptance Date?
From:	
То:	
Dollar Value of Contract?	What Type of Contract?
	Firm Fixed Price
\$	Time and Material
	Not to Exceed
	Cost Plus Fixed Fee
	Other, Specify:
Provide a brief description of the work performed for t	this customer (add additional page if required)

Departn	W-9 Request for Taxpayer vv. October 2018) Identification Number and Certification partment of the Treasury Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information. I Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.											Give Form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.						
	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above																	
s on page 3.	following seven boxes. certain ent instruction: Individual/sole proprietor or C Corporation S Corporation Partnership Trust/estate											tions (codes apply only to titites, not individuals; see ns on page 3): ayee code (if any)						
Print or type. Specific Instructions on page	Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is disregarded from the owner of the LLC is is disregarded from the owner for LLC is classification of its owner. Do not check like the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner of the LLC is another should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.										n from FATCA reporting							
pec	Other (see ins				•		es to acco			ad outs	ide the	U.S.)						
See S	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. 6 City, state, and ZIP code																	
	7 List account num	ber(s) here (optional)																
Par		yer Identification Number (TIN)																
		propriate box. The TIN provided must match the name individuals, this is generally your social security num			Social se	curity	numb	ər				_						
		rietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for P yer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a n		t 9		-	•		-									
IN, la	ter.		amber, see now to ge	0	-	-		_										
		more than one name, see the instructions for line 1.	Also see What Name	and 🛛	mploye	ident	ificatio	n nu	mber	1	_							
ump	er to Give the Red	quester for guidelines on whose number to enter.				_												
Part	Certifi	cation																
	penalties of perju																	
2. I am Ser	n not subject to ba vice (IRS) that I an	n this form is my correct taxpayer identification numb tckup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from back a subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure ackup withholding; and	kup withholding, or (b)	I have no	t been r	notifie	d by t	ne In	terna									
		other U.S. person (defined below); and																
	Cite Index Commence Strengthered Commence	ntered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exemp	2411 Chevrolation Colorest Chevrolation Colorest Colorest	-														
ou ha	ve failed to report a ition or abandonme	s. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been no all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real est ent of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributio vidends, you are not required to sign the certification, but	ate transactions, item 2 ons to an individual retir	does not ement arra	apply. F angemer	or mo it (IRA	rtgage), and	inter gene	rest p erally,	paid, pay	ment	s						
Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶	•	1	Date 🕨														
		eral Instructions • Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those fro							cks c	or mu	utual							
noted.		o the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise	 Form 1099-MISC (proceeds) 				105				r gro	SS						
elated	uture developments. For the latest information about developments lated to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted for they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.									er								
Duri	oose of For	m	 Form 1099-S (proc Form 1099-K (men 							near	tiop	2)						
An ind	ividual or entity (F	orm W-9 requester) who is required to file an he IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer	 Form 1098 (home 1098-T (tuition) 									·						
dentif	ication number (TI	N) which may be your social security number	• Form 1099-C (can	celed deb	t)													
axpay EIN), 1	ver identification n to report on an inf	er identification number (ITIN), adoption umber (ATIN), or employer identification number ormation return the amount paid to you, or other	• Form 1099-A (acqu Use Form W-9 on	y if you a	re a U.S													
eturns		n information return. Examples of information not limited to, the following. st earned or paid)	alien), to provide your correct TIN. If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding,															
			later.								52.3	1000000						

Cat. No. 10231X

Form **W-9** (Rev. 10-2018)

	N-8BEN-E October 2021)	Ur ► For use b	Certificate of Sta ited States Tax Wit	hholdiı	ng and Repo	orting (Ent	ities) al Bevenue Code.	OMB No. 1545-1621			
	ment of the Treasury I Revenue Service		y entities. Individuals must use Form ▶ Go to <i>www.irs.gov/FormW8</i> ▶ Give this form to the with	BENE for in	nstructions and the	altest informat	ion.				
	OT use this form fo							Instead use Form			
• U.S.	entity or U.S. citizer	n or residen	t					W·			
• A for	reign individual						W-8BEI	N (Individual) or Form 823			
	reign individual or er ess claiming treaty b		g that income is effectively co	nnected w	vith the conduct o	f trade or busir	ness within the l	Jnited States			
			ble trust, or a foreign grantor ti	· · · · rust (unles	s claiming treaty l	benefits) (see ii	nstructions for e				
gove 501(ernment of a U.S. po c), 892, 895, or 1443	ossession cl 3(b) (unless	organization, foreign central b aiming that income is effective claiming treaty benefits) (see in	ely connection	ted U.S. income of s for other except	or that is claimi ions)	ng the applicab	ility of section(s) 115(2), W-8ECI or W-8EX			
			y (including a qualified interm	ediary act	ing as a qualified	derivatives dea	aler)	W-8IM			
			Beneficial Owner								
1	Name of organizat	tion that is t	he beneficial owner			2 Country of	of incorporation	or organization			
3	Name of disregard	ded entity re	ceiving the payment (if applica	able, see i	nstructions)						
4	Chapter 3 Status ((entity type)	(Must check one box only):		orporation		Partnership				
	Simple trust		Tax-exempt organization	mplex trust			mment - Controlled Entity				
	Central Bank	of Issue	Private foundation	Es	tate] Foreign Gover	rnment - Integral Part			
	Grantor trust		Disregarded entity	🗌 Int	ernational organiz	zation	Ŭ	Ū.			
	If you entered disrega	rded entity, pa	rtnership, simple trust, or grantor trus		0		? If "Yes," complete	Part III. 🏾 Yes 🗌 No			
5	Chapter 4 Status	(FATCA stat	us) (See instructions for detail	s and con	nplete the certific	ation below for	the entity's apr	plicable status.)			
		a deemed-	uding an FFI related to a Repo compliant FFI, participating FI		Foreign ge	overnment, gov	omplete Part XII vernment of a U omplete Part XIII	.S. possession, or foreigr			
	Participating F	FFI.			Internation	nal organizatio	n. Complete Par	t XIV.			
	Reporting Mo	del 1 FFI.			Exempt re	etirement plans	. Complete Part	XV.			
	Reporting Mo	del 2 FFI.			Entity who	lly owned by ex	empt beneficial	owners. Complete Part XV			
	Registered de	emed-com	oliant FFI (other than a reportir	ng Model	1 🗌 Territory fi	inancial institut	ion. Complete F	Part XVII.			
			nreporting IGA FFI covered in	Part XII).	Excepted	Excepted nonfinancial group entity. Complete Part XVIII.					
	See instruction	ns.			Excepted	nonfinancial st	art-up company	/. Complete Part XIX.			
	Sponsored FF	I. Complete	Part IV.		Excepted	nonfinancial er	ntity in liquidatic	n or bankruptcy.			
	Certified deen	ned-complia	ant nonregistering local bank.	Complete	Complete	Part XX.					
	Part V.				🗌 501(c) org	anization. Con	plete Part XXI.				
	Certified deen	ned-complia	ant FFI with only low-value acc	counts.	Nonprofit	organization. C	Complete Part X	XII.			
	Complete Par		,					f a publicly traded			
	Certified deen vehicle. Comp		ant sponsored, closely held inv I	vestment		on. Complete P					
							. Complete Part	XXIV.			
	Certified deem Complete Part		nt limited life debt investment er	ntity.	_	FE. Complete I					
	_ '					FFE. Complete					
	Certain investre Complete Part		that do not maintain financial a	ccounts.		inter-affiliate F orting NFFE.	FI. Complete Pa	art XXVII.			
	Owner-docum	nented FFI.	Complete Part X.			-	ng NFFE. Comp	olete Part XXVIII.			
	Restricted dis	tributor. Co	mplete Part XI.		Account t	hat is not a fina	ancial account.				
6			street, apt. or suite no., or rural r	route). Do				nan a registered address).			
	City or town, state	or province	e. Include postal code where a	appropriat	9.		Country				
7	Mailing address (if	f different fro	om above)				1				
	City or town, state	e or province	e. Include postal code where a	ppropriat	9.		Country				
For Pa	aperwork Reductio	on Act Notic	e, see separate instructions		Cat. No. 5	9689N	Form	V-8BEN-E (Rev. 10-202			