



AND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

P057-23

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) is requesting Competitive Sealed Proposals (hereon styled “RFP”) for Customer Service Inspection for BPUB Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention. BPUB’s Purchasing Office located at 1155 FM 511, Olmito, Texas 78575, will accept RFP’s from qualified firms **until 5:00 PM, August 2, 2023. Proposals received after this time will not be considered.**

Vendor’s name will be read aloud on August 3, 2023 at 11:30 A.M. Proposers are invited to call (956) 614-6020 at 11:30 AM, August 3, 2023, to listen to the proposal acknowledgement.

Detailed specifications may be obtained at the following website:
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 Customer Service Inspection for BPUB Cross Connection Control and Backflow Prevention, P057-23, August 2, 2023, 5:00 PM”, c/o Diane Solitaire, Purchasing Department, 1155 FM 511, Olmito, TX 78575.

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

Diane Solitaire
Purchasing and Materials Manager
Brownsville Public Utilities Board
(956) 983-6366 - Phone

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS
Please submit this page upon receipt.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

P057-23 Customer Service Inspection for BPUB Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention

For any clarifications, please contact Nicole Espinoza at the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, Purchasing Department at (956) 983-6353 or via e-mail at nespinoza@brownsville-pub.com.

Please e-mail this page upon receipt of the legal notice. If you only received the legal notice and you want the proposal 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 a RFP; obtained RFP package from website.

Yes, I will be able to send a RFP; please email the RFP package.

Email: _____

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

Carrier: _____

Account: _____

No, I will not be able to send a RFP for the following reason:

If you are unable to send your proposal, kindly indicate your reason for “No response” above and return this form **via email to nespinoza@brownsville-pub.com**. This will ensure you remain active on our vendor list.

Date: _____

Company: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Customer Service Inspection for BPUB Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention

GENERAL BACKGROUND

Under Texas Law (30 Texas Administrative Code §290.46(j)), a Customer Service Inspection for BPUB Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention is required for each service connection before continuous water service can be provided. The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) has approximately 50,000 service connections throughout the City of Brownsville. BPUB is soliciting proposals to perform this inspection. The estimated goal is to complete 2,500 inspections annually for residential and commercial locations.

PURPOSE

BPUB is seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide Customer Service Inspection for BPUB Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention throughout the City of Brownsville for residential and commercial locations.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The project will include:

1. Perform required Customer Service Inspection as required by BPUB. BPUB will provide an inspection list to the service provider;
2. Personnel performing Customer Service Inspections must be a certified Customer Service Inspector or a Plumbing Inspector with a Water Supply Protection Endorsement;
3. Service provider shall submit the Customer Service Inspection Certification Report (TCEQ 20699) and the site's Lead Check Swab to BPUB no later than seven (7) days after the inspection; and
4. BPUB will provide 2 hose bib vacuum breakers to each inspection site.
5. Awarded service provider shall assist customer with installation of hose bib vacuum breakers at site.

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

All proposal envelopes shall contain a signed original and three (3) copies. The original proposals will be opened and only the Firm's name read aloud at the BPUB Purchasing Office located at 1155 FM 511, Olmito, Texas. All proposals will be managed by BPUB in a manner that avoids disclosure of the contents to competing firms and keeps the proposals confidential during any negotiations. All proposals will be open for public inspection as stated in the public information act, after the contract is awarded; however, trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information in the proposals specifically identified by the firms will not be open for public inspection. Accordingly, all pages in the proposal that the Firm considers to be proprietary and confidential should be appropriately marked.

Direct any questions to Nicole Espinoza, Purchasing Department, by phone at (956) 983-6353 or by email at nespinoza@brownsville-pub.com

Candidates must guarantee their Original Proposal or subsequently clarified proposal for at least one hundred twenty (120) days from the Original Proposal opening date. To obtain the best and final offers, the BPUB may require written clarifications and explanations of Firm proposals after Original Proposal submissions when certain candidates have been selected for interviews. The BPUB will not be liable for any of the Firm's costs or expenses incurred in preparation or presentation of the Proposal(s). The BPUB also reserves the right to conduct a pre-award survey, or to require other evidence of technical, production, managerial, financial, or other abilities prior to the award of the contract.

The BPUB will follow Texas Local Government Code procurement procedures found at: Sections 252.021(b)(c); 252.041(b); 252.042; 252.043(h); 252.049(b).

To ensure that the award is made to the Firm whose proposal best meets the needs of the BPUB, discussion may be conducted with the top three (3) rated Firms at BPUB's discretion. After the meeting(s), five (5) working days will be allowed for the Firms to submit all requested additional information and explanations in writing, which shall be deemed a part of their final offer. The Firm shall submit with such clarifications and explanations any revised projected schedule. The Firms shall be treated fairly and equally with respect to any and all opportunities for discussion, clarification, and explanation of proposals.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RFP RESPONDENTS

Firms must submit a signed one (1) paper original and three (3) paper copies of the proposal in a sealed package. Proposals shall be submitted to the BPUB Purchasing Office, 1155 FM 511, Olmito, Texas, no later than **5:00 PM on August 2, 2023**.

Sealed envelope must be clearly labeled as follows:

Brownsville Public Utilities Board

Attention: Diane Solitaire

1155 FM 511

Olmito, TX 78575

"P057-23 Customer Service Inspection for BPUB Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention, August 2, 2023, 5:00 PM"

CONTRACT WITH FIRM/ENTITY INDEBTED TO BPUB

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.

FIRM REPRESENTATIVE

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.

VENDOR ACH (DIRECT DEPOSIT) SERVICES

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).**

TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (TIN)

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.

TAXES

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.

SIGNING OF PROPOSAL

Failure to sign proposal will disqualify it. Person signing proposal should show title or authority to bind their firm to a contract.

EEOC GUIDELINES

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.

LIVING WAGE STATEMENT

On April 16, 2007, the BPUB Board of Directors approved a local "living wage" policy that requires all Contractors 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 comply with this policy.

CONTRACT AND PURCHASE ORDER

The services shall be performed in Brownsville, Texas. A personal services contract for the services will be placed into effect after evaluation and final approval by BPUB Board of Directors. The initial term of this contract will be for 1 year from the date of award. Brownsville PUB may, unilaterally, extend the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year periods if price and services are satisfactory and agreed upon in writing by both parties.

BROWNSVILLE PUB RIGHTS

1. If only one or no proposal is received by "submission date", the BPUB has the right to reject, re-advertise, accept and/or extend the proposal by up to an additional two (2) weeks from original submission date.

2. The right to reject any/or all proposals and to make award as they may appear to be advantageous to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board.
3. The right to hold proposal for up to 120 days from submission date without action, and to waive all formalities in proposal.
4. The right to extend the total proposal beyond the original 120-day period prior to an award, if agreed upon in writing by all parties (BPUB and Firm/contractor) and if proposer/Firm holds original proposal prices firm.
5. The right to terminate for cause or convenience all or any part of the unfinished portion of the Project resulting from this solicitation within thirty (30) calendar days written notice; for cause: upon default by the Firm/contractor, for delay or non-performance by the Firm/contractor; or if it is deemed in the best interest of the BPUB for BPUB's convenience.
6. The right to increase or decrease services. In proposal, stipulate whether an increase or decrease in services will affect proposal price.

CORRECTIONS

Any interpretation, correction, or change to the RFP will be made by ADDENDUM. Changes or corrections will be issued by the BPUB Purchasing Department. **Addenda will be emailed to all who have returned the Proposal Acknowledgement form.** Addenda will be issued as expeditiously as possible. It is the responsibility of the Firms to determine whether all addenda have been received. It will be the responsibility of all respondents to contact the BPUB prior to submitting a response to the RFP to ascertain if any addenda have been issued, and to obtain any all addenda, execute them, and return addenda with the response to the RFP. Addenda may also be posted on the BPUB website.

PROJECTED PROJECT TIMELINE

The BPUB has established the following timeline relating to the selection process. Dates are estimates only and are subject to change.

RFP Issued:	July 17, 2023
Last day to submit questions:	July 25, 2023 by 5:00 PM
Proposals due:	August 2, 2023 by 5:00 PM
Proposals Acknowledgment:	August 3, 2023 at 11:30AM
Proposals evaluated:	August 3- August 20, 2023
Board approval of contract award:	September 11, 2023
Contract Executed:	September 12, 2023
Project Start Date:	TBD

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Proposals shall be accepted only from Firms who meet the following minimum requirements:

- 1) Be independent and non-product affiliated. This does not prohibit the firm from recommending a product or products.

- 2) Provide evidence of at least ten (10) years of experience in plumbing work similar to services requested in this RFP.
- 3) Provide a listing of at least three (3) references with two (2) current clients and one (1) past clients, preferably large public entities, specifying the scope and dates of services, and contact information, including names, addresses, email address and telephone numbers.
- 4) Certified statement that the agency is not debarred, suspended or otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any federal, state or local agency. This form must be submitted with the RFP to be considered (page 4).
- 5) Employee's License or Certification allowing individual to perform Customer Service Inspections shall be submitted with the proposal.

REFERENCE CHECKS

The BPUB will contact prospective firm's references by email or telephone. Complete the attached form for each reference provided.

RFP IS NOT A BASIS FOR OBLIGATIONS

This request for competitive sealed proposals does not constitute an offer to contract and does not commit the BPUB to the award of a contract to anyone or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. The BPUB reserves the right to reject any or all proposals that do not conform to the requirements stated in this document. The BPUB also reserves the right to cancel all or part of this request for proposals for any reason determined by the BPUB to be in the best interest of the rate payers.

RIGHTS TO SUBMITTED MATERIALS

All proposals and material submitted to the BPUB by a firm, in response to this RFP, shall become the property of the BPUB after the proposal submission deadline. The BPUB's return of the proposals/material will be subject to the requirements of the laws of the State of Texas.

UNAUTHORIZED COMMUNICATIONS

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.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

(1) Proposal Format

(a) The proposals must be structured, presented, and labeled in the following manner:

Tab 1 – Table of Contents

Tab 2 – Project Work Plan

Tab 3 – Qualifications

Tab 4 – Key Personnel

Tab 5 – Background and Experience

Tab 6 – Price

Tab 7 – Certifications and Other Required Forms

Failure to follow the specified format, label the responses correctly, or address all of the subsections may, at the BPUB's sole discretion, result in the rejection of the Proposal. Proposals should not contain extraneous information. All information presented in a Proposal must be relevant in response to a requirement of this RFP, must be clearly labeled, and, if not incorporated into the body of the Proposal itself, must be referenced to the appropriate place within the body of the Proposal. The Proposal pages shall be numbered, and each section (tab) labeled.

TAB 1: TABLE OF CONTENTS – Identify each major section (tab), all pages are to be numbered.

TAB 2: PROJECT WORK PLAN –

- (a) Provide the legal entity name for the Firm. Provide the proposal contact name, phone number, email address and physical address(s) from which proposing Firm operates or performs business. Post Office Boxes are not verifiable and shall not be used for the purpose of establishing said physical address.
- (b) Describe the Firm's proposed objectives, processes and methodologies for providing all components included but not limited to the scope of services.
- (c) Provide a plan of implementation for the work to be performed.

TAB 3: QUALIFICATIONS –

- (a) Describe the Firm's qualifications and experience in providing past and present services (brief company history).
- (b) Complete a detailed description of the proposing Firm's qualifications with particular emphasis on experience relative to the services described herein.

TAB 4: KEY PERSONNEL –

- (a) Provide a project staff chart clearly identifying the project manager and key personnel associated with conducting the required Scope of Services.

- (b) Key Personnel- Provide resumes of the project manager and key personnel associated with conducting the required Scope of Services. Firm must ensure that staff has all required licenses, certifications, and training appropriate for such persons' role and function within the Firm. Include information for the individual responsible for overall management and performance under the contract, the individual primarily responsible for the order fulfillment function of the scope of work, and the individual primarily responsible for the direct support function of the proposing Firm.

TAB 5: BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE -

- (a) Provide at least three (3) references with two (2) current clients and one (1) past clients of completed projects which best illustrate the experience of the Firm.
- (b) The following information must be included for each reference: entity name, client contact information (name, title, phone and email), scope of work performed, and identified. BPUB reserves the right to contact references, current or former clients to validate background and experience.

TAB 6: PRICE -

- (a) Complete the BPUB Pricing Proposal Form by providing your best proposed prices provided and placed on the form behind this tab. The Pricing Proposal Form is found on the following pages of the RFP. Pricing shall be inclusive of all materials, travel and expenses required to complete the scope of work described here in.

TAB 7: CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER REQUIRED FORMS - Complete, sign, and submit all certifications and other required forms as listed below and place behind this TAB:

- (a) Proposal Acknowledgement Form (submit this page upon receipt, can include copy in the Proposal). Any modifications or alterations to this form shall not be accepted.
- (b) Ethics Statement
- (c) Conflict of Interest Questionnaire
- (d) W9 or W8-BEN
- (e) Insurance Requirements - Evidence of policy or ability to obtain a professional liability (E&O) policy must be submitted in order to be considered. The Firm will be required to have a professional liability policy with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000.
- (f) Certified Statement - Certified statement that the Firm is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise prohibited from professional practice by any Federal, State, or Local agency. This form must be submitted in order to be considered. (Page 4)
- (g) Cross Connection Control Inspector – Submit copies of all staff members that will be performing Customer Service Inspection
- (h) Personnel performing Customer Service Inspections must be a certified Customer Service Inspector or a Plumbing Inspector with a Water Supply Protection Endorsement

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The vendor is responsible for all insurance requirements including public liability insurance in the minimum amount prescribed by law protecting the Brownsville Public Utilities Board from any and all claims and demands which may be made against said Board as a result of the vendor's delivery of chemical. Brownsville PUB, in its sole discretion, may require at Bidder's expense certain insurance guaranteeing performance and payment of the services to be provided hereunder and may require at Bidder's expense to maintain in force certain types of insurance during the time services are being performed and to name Brownsville PUB together with their board members and employees as additional insured's on all required insurance policies except worker's compensation. Insurance must be underwritten by companies acceptable to Brownsville PUB and authorized to do business in the State of Texas. Insurance Certificate(s) shall provide for 30 days advance notice to Brownsville PUB of any policy cancellation. True and correct copies must be filed with Brownsville PUB prior to the commencement of performing service hereunder.

Bidder shall carry insurance in the following amounts:

1. Comprehensive General Liability
 - a. Bodily Injury \$1,000,000 each occurrence
 - b. Property Damage \$1,000,000 each occurrence
2. Personal Injury Coverage \$1,000,000
3. Worker's Compensation As required by Law
4. Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance (applicable to owned, non-owned and hired vehicles)
 - a. Bodily Injury \$50,000 each person, \$500,000 combined single limit each occurrence
 - b. Property Damage \$1,000,000 each occurrence

All insurance in the above amounts shall name both Bidder and Brownsville PUB/SRWA as insured.

Certificates showing that Bidder has and continues to protect itself and Brownsville PUB by means of such insurance shall be provided to the Brownsville PUB upon request at any time during contract period.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

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 BPUB committee will review the proposals submitted in response to this request and will make recommendations. The BPUB committee will review all proposals in light of the following major evaluation criteria with corresponding weights:

1. Evidence of level of understanding of the scope of work and methodology to carry out project successfully. Weight: 10
2. Firm must have at least 10 years' experience in the related industry. Weight: 5
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 municipality rules and regulations). Weight: 10
4. Evidence of capability to provide services on a timely basis (based on references). Finalist will provide BPUB with a timeline of the proposed services with an expected implementation date of February 1, 2019. Weight: 10
5. Evidence of the firm's ability to perform the work, technical competence, and experience. Weight: 10
6. Evidence of past performance, in terms of cost control and quality of work (based on references, examples of similar projects, and other pertinent information). Weight: 10

Please be advised that cost will not be the sole determining factor in the BPUB's selection of a Firm to provide the services specified in the scope of services in this RFP. The decision to conduct interviews or check references of individual Firms, all Firms, or no Firms is at the sole discretion of the BPUB.

PROPOSAL COST SHEET P057-23

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	QUANTITY	PRICE PER CONNECTION OR SPECIFY IF HOURLY RATE
1	RESIDENTIAL CONNECTION	2,400	
2	COMMERCIAL CONNECTION	100	
3	ADDITIONAL SERVICES (if applicable) List on separate sheet of paper, if needed		
4	ADDITIONAL FEES (if applicable, attach additional page if needed) ASSISTING CUSTOMERS WITH HOSE BIB INSTALLATION	5,000	
5	TOTAL (WITH ALL FEES)		

Price per connection to include turnkey job, labor, material, and equipment for a complete and functional customer service inspection report.

Note: BPUB reserves the right to award services to one or various vendors based on price and/or references and as deemed most advantageous to BPUB.

Company Name: _____

Authorized Company Representative: _____

Authorized Company Representative: _____
Signature (Failure to sign proposal will disqualify it)

Company Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Email: _____

FORMS CHECKLIST

The following documents are to be submitted as a part of the bid document

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

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER
RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH PROPOSAL)**

Name of Entity: _____

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

- a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
- b) Have not within a three year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or 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;
- c) 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 paragraph (1) (b) of this certification; and
- d) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, Local) terminated for cause or default.

I understand that a false statement on this certification may be grounds for rejection of this proposal 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.

ETHICS STATEMENT (COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH PROPOSAL)

The undersigned Firm, by signing and executing this proposal, 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 proposal; the Firm also certifies and represents that they have 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 proposal, the Firm certifies and represents that they have 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 proposal on the basis of any consideration not authorized by law; the Firm also certifies and represents that they have not received any information not available to other Firms so as to give the undersigned a preferential advantage with respect to this proposal; the Firm further certifies and represents that they have 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 proposal; 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 proposal, the submission of this proposal, the award of this proposal or the performance, delivery or sale pursuant to this proposal.

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 NEGLIGENT ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF CONTRACTOR OR ANY AGENT, EMPLOYEE, SUBCONTRACTOR, OR SUPPLIER OF CONTRACTOR IN THE EXECUTION OR PERFORMANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL.

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

COMPANY: _____
AGENT NAME: _____
AGENT SIGNATURE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
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, PRIOR TO THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL DATE. ANY LISTED DEVIATIONS IN A FINALLY SUBMITTED PROPOSAL MAY ALLOW THE OWNER TO REJECT A PROPOSAL AS NON-RESPONSIVE.

THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN ITS ENTIRETY AND SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL RESPONSE

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity		FORM CIQ
<p>This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.</p> <p>A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.</p>	OFFICE USE ONLY	
<p>1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.</p>	Date Received	
<p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)</p>		
<p>3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Officer</p>		
<p>4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">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?</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p>		
<p>5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.</p>		
<p>6 <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).</p>		
<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> _____ Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity </p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;"> _____ Date </p>		

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

- (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.

**Request for Taxpayer
Identification Number and Certification**

**Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.**

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.	
	2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above	
	3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes.	4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> 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 unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner. <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see instructions) ▶ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate
	Exempt payee code (if any) _____	
	Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____	
	<i>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</i>	
5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.	Requester's name and address (optional)	
6 City, state, and ZIP code		
7 List account number(s) here (optional)		

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number																					
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Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-INT (interest earned or paid)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
 - Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
 - Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
 - Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
 - Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
 - Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
 - Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
 - Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)
- Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident 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.*

**Certificate of Status of Beneficial Owner for
 United States Tax Withholding and Reporting (Entities)**

▶ For use by entities. Individuals must use Form W-8BEN. ▶ Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.
 ▶ Go to www.irs.gov/FormW8BENE for instructions and the latest information.
 ▶ Give this form to the withholding agent or payer. Do not send to the IRS.

OMB No. 1545-1621

Do NOT use this form for:

Instead use Form:

- U.S. entity or U.S. citizen or resident W-9
- A foreign individual W-8BEN (Individual) or Form 8233
- A foreign individual or entity claiming that income is effectively connected with the conduct of trade or business within the United States (unless claiming treaty benefits) W-8ECI
- A foreign partnership, a foreign simple trust, or a foreign grantor trust (unless claiming treaty benefits) (see instructions for exceptions) W-8IMY
- A foreign government, international organization, foreign central bank of issue, foreign tax-exempt organization, foreign private foundation, or government of a U.S. possession claiming that income is effectively connected U.S. income or that is claiming the applicability of section(s) 115(2), 501(c), 892, 895, or 1443(b) (unless claiming treaty benefits) (see instructions for other exceptions) W-8ECI or W-8EXP
- Any person acting as an intermediary (including a qualified intermediary acting as a qualified derivatives dealer) W-8IMY

Part I Identification of Beneficial Owner

<p>1 Name of organization that is the beneficial owner</p>	<p>2 Country of incorporation or organization</p>																
<p>3 Name of disregarded entity receiving the payment (if applicable, see instructions)</p>																	
<p>4 Chapter 3 Status (entity type) (Must check one box only):</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Simple trust</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Tax-exempt organization</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Corporation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Partnership</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Central Bank of Issue</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Private foundation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Complex trust</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Government - Controlled Entity</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Grantor trust</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Disregarded entity</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Estate</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Government - Integral Part</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> International organization</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>If you entered disregarded entity, partnership, simple trust, or grantor trust above, is the entity a hybrid making a treaty claim? If "Yes," complete Part III. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		<input type="checkbox"/> Simple trust	<input type="checkbox"/> Tax-exempt organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Central Bank of Issue	<input type="checkbox"/> Private foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Complex trust	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Government - Controlled Entity	<input type="checkbox"/> Grantor trust	<input type="checkbox"/> Disregarded entity	<input type="checkbox"/> Estate	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Government - Integral Part			<input type="checkbox"/> International organization	
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<p>5 Chapter 4 Status (FATCA status) (See instructions for details and complete the certification below for the entity's applicable status.)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Nonparticipating FFI (including an FFI related to a Reporting IGA FFI other than a deemed-compliant FFI, participating FFI, or exempt beneficial owner). <input type="checkbox"/> Participating FFI. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting Model 1 FFI. <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting Model 2 FFI. <input type="checkbox"/> Registered deemed-compliant FFI (other than a reporting Model 1 FFI, sponsored FFI, or nonreporting IGA FFI covered in Part XII). See instructions. <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsored FFI. Complete Part IV. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified deemed-compliant nonregistering local bank. Complete Part V. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified deemed-compliant FFI with only low-value accounts. Complete Part VI. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified deemed-compliant sponsored, closely held investment vehicle. Complete Part VII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified deemed-compliant limited life debt investment entity. Complete Part VIII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain investment entities that do not maintain financial accounts. Complete Part IX. <input type="checkbox"/> Owner-documented FFI. Complete Part X. <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted distributor. Complete Part XI. </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Nonreporting IGA FFI. Complete Part XII. <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign government, government of a U.S. possession, or foreign central bank of issue. Complete Part XIII. <input type="checkbox"/> International organization. Complete Part XIV. <input type="checkbox"/> Exempt retirement plans. Complete Part XV. <input type="checkbox"/> Entity wholly owned by exempt beneficial owners. 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<p>6 Permanent residence address (street, apt. or suite no., or rural route). Do not use a P.O. box or in-care-of address (other than a registered address).</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">City or town, state or province. Include postal code where appropriate.</td> <td style="width: 30%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Country</td> </tr> </table>		City or town, state or province. Include postal code where appropriate.	Country														
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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: _____

I 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: _____

