



**BROWNSVILLE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD**

**Request for Competitive Sealed Proposals**

**FOR**

**A 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION**

**PLAN CONSULTANT**

**P004-24**

**Proposal Due: October 18, 2023 by 5:00 PM**  
Proposal Acknowledgement: October 19, 2023 at 11:00 AM



B R O W N S V I L L E  
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

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LEGAL NOTICE  
AND  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
P004-24

**RESPONDENTS ARE CAUTIONED TO READ THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS RFP CAREFULLY AND TO SUBMIT A COMPLETE RESPONSE TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND QUESTIONS AS DIRECTED.**

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) will accept sealed Proposals for a 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Consultant, **until 5:00 PM, October 18, 2023** in the Brownsville PUB Purchasing Office, 1155 FM 511, Olmito, Texas. **Any responses received after this time shall not be considered and will not be opened. Facsimile and email responses are not acceptable when responding to this Request for Proposals.**

Proposals will be acknowledged by BPUB on October 19, 2023 at 11:00 AM (CST). Firms are invited to listen to the opening via conference call, (956) 214-6020, at 11:00 AM, October 19, 2023.

Detailed specifications may be obtained at the following website [https://www.brownsville-pub.com/rfp\\_status/open/](https://www.brownsville-pub.com/rfp_status/open/)

Please send one (1) original and six (6) copies of the proposal and identify each as an original or copy accordingly, **mark on the outside of the envelope and on any carrier's envelope:** "SEALED PROPOSAL FOR A 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN CONSULTANT, P004-24, OCTOBER 18, 2023, 5:00 PM", and send to the attention of Diane Solitaire, Purchasing Department, 1155 FM 511, Olmito, Texas 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 proposals to the Brownsville Public Utilities Board, Purchasing Office by the given deadline above.

The BPUB reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive irregularities contained therein and to accept any proposals deemed most advantageous to the BPUB. BPUB reserves the right to contact any Respondent for clarification after responses are opened and/or to further negotiate with any Respondent if such clarification is deemed desirable by BPUB. BPUB reserves the right to evaluate the responses submitted, or to reject any or all submittals should it be deemed in BPUB's best interest. BPUB reserves the right to negotiate with any, all or none of the Respondents.

Any Proposal may be withdrawn prior to the above-scheduled time for the opening of Proposals or authorized postponement thereof. All timely proposals become the property of the BPUB upon receipt and shall not be returned. Any information deemed to be confidential by respondent should be clearly noted on the page(s) where the confidential information is contained. BPUB, however, cannot guarantee that it will not be compelled to disclose all or part of any public record under the Texas Public Information Act, since information deemed to be confidential by the respondent may not be considered confidential under Texas law, or pursuant to a Court Order.

*Diane Solitaire*

Brownsville Public Utilities Board  
(956) 983-6366 - Phone

**Please submit this page upon receipt**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM  
457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN CONSULTANT  
**P004-24**

For any clarifications, please contact Diane Solitaire at Brownsville PUB Purchasing Department at (956) 983-6366 or e-mail: [dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com](mailto:dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com)

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 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 above and return this form **via email to:** [dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com](mailto:dsolitaire@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

## 457(b) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN CONSULTANT

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board of the City of Brownsville, Texas (BPUB) is seeking the services of a Section 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan consultant for the purpose of monitoring investment activity in the plan and providing guidance on fund changes and/or additional funds in the plan.

### **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

The BPUB, located in Cameron County on the Rio Grande approximately 23 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, is a home rule city organized and existing under the laws of the state of Texas, including the City's Charter, as amended (the "charter"). The City owns and operates a combined electric, water, and wastewater utilities system (collectively, the "system") serving the City and certain areas outside the city. The City's authority with regard to public utility ownership and services is generally exercised through the Brownsville Public Utilities Board (the "Board"). The Board, created and established by Article VI of the Charter as a separate and distinct agency of the city, has authority to control, manage, and operate the system and to expand and apply System revenues, subject to certain limitations. The BPUB executive administration includes a general manager/chief executive officer, one assistant general manager/chief operating officer and a chief financial officer responsible for specific divisions. The BPUB employs approximately 602 employees. The Board's fiscal year is the 12-month period ended September 30<sup>th</sup> of each year and is referred to herein as the "fiscal year."

Information about BPUB's 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan:

Plan Assets: approximately \$6.9 million (as of June 30, 2023)  
Contract Plan Administrators: Equitable Retirement Plan Services  
Number of Participants: 186 (as of June 30, 2023)  
BPUB Employees: 584 (as of August 2023)

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

This RFP is open to any independent advisory firm that provides 457(b) deferred compensation consulting services that complies with all conditions within this RFP and certifies in its cover letter that it meets the following conditions:

1. Have the resources and commitment to complete all components of the project in a timely manner, including but not limited to: attending review meetings; advising staff on matters specific to the 457(b) deferred compensation plan; preparing documents; and assisting with fee negotiations, if necessary.
2. Is not currently involved in or affiliated with any investment fund providers, financial institutions, or other consultants that might present a conflict of interest.

3. Have a minimum of five (5) years of experience in providing advisory services related to (but not limited to) governmental 457(b) deferred compensation plans with assets of at least \$5,000,000.
4. Not be in bankruptcy or previously filed for bankruptcy, conservatorship, receivership, or in the possession of a regulatory agency.
5. Disclose any professional or personal financial interest, which could be a possible conflict of interest in representing BPUB. Consultant shall further disclose arrangements to derive additional compensation (formal or informal) that your Firm or any of its individuals has with the following parties: investment fund providers, financial institutions, or other consultants.
6. Disclose any investigation (involving your Firm) conducted by the Securities and Exchange Commission or any Federal or State Regulatory body that might impact this contract.
7. Provide a lump sum fee on a not-to-exceed basis, but include the breakdown of hourly charges for each project component.

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

BPUB anticipates contracting with a Firm to provide 457(b) deferred compensation plan (the "Plan") consulting services.

Services Include:

1. Serve as BPUB's analyst and consultant in the review of the 457(b) Plan Services Provider.
2. Provide independent advice and serve solely on behalf of the interests of the BPUB.
3. Provide a quarterly portfolio analysis of the performance of the funds in the plan.
4. Provide guidance on the removal and replacement of underperforming funds in the plan.
5. Provide guidance on fund additions to the plan.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

It is the proposing Firm's responsibility to provide all required information, including required attachments. No information beyond that specifically requested is required, and proposing Firms are requested to keep their submissions to the shortest length consistent with making a complete presentation of qualifications. Unless otherwise indicated, a proposal that does not provide all of the information requested below may be rejected.

To this end, the proposing Firm shall complete and/or submit the following documents as part of the sealed proposal package presented in the following format and order.

The proposals must follow all formats and address all portions of the RFP set forth herein providing all information requested.

### **Proposal Format**

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

1. Table of Contents
2. Section 1.0 - Executive Summary
3. Section 2.0 – Company Information
4. Section 3.0 – Company Background
5. Section 4.0 – Company Qualifications
6. Section 5.0 – References
7. Section 6.0 – Pricing
8. Section 7.0 – Insurance Requirements
9. Section 8.0 – Certified Statement
10. Section 9.0 – Independent Consultant Statement
11. Section 10.0 – Other Required Information

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 labeled.

### **Table of Contents**

All pages are to be numbered and the table of contents should identify each major section.

### **Section 1.0 – Executive Summary**

An Executive Summary of no more than four (4) pages should be included. With the first page dedicated to describing how the Firm meets the minimum qualifications of this RFP, and the remaining three pages identifying and substantiating the basis of the contention that the Firm is the best qualified to provide the requested services for the BPUB. Please address what the Firm offers to the BPUB, that competing Firms cannot offer. Include the location of the office at which the services to be provided hereunder will be performed.

## **Section 2.0 – Company Information**

- 2.1 - Provide the legal entity name.
- 2.2 - Identify if the Firm is a subsidiary of a larger company. If so, whom?
- 2.3 - Provide the proposal contact name, address, phone number, and email address.
- 2.4 - Identify the location of company headquarters, and office which will support the project.
- 2.5 - Identify the location of staff that will be assigned to this project.
- 2.6 - Identify all subcontractors and associated scope of work.
- 2.7- Identify any pending litigation against the Firm.
- 2.8 - Identify if Firm has filed any bankruptcy or insolvency processed in the last 10 years.
- 2.9 - Identify any mergers, acquisitions, or sales of the Firm within the last five years. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.

Firms are required to provide all requested information. Failure to provide a full response may provide a basis for disqualification.

## **Section 3.0 – Company Background**

This section should identify the following:

- 3.1 - A description of the Firm’s background, nature of business and organizational history.
- 3.2 - A statement of how many years of experience the Firm has with 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Consulting Services as required by this RFP.

The Company Background section should not exceed 3 pages.

## **Section 4.0 – Company Qualifications**

In this section of proposal, the Firm should identify company and staff qualifications and experience in implementing solutions. More specifically, this section should identify the following:

- 4.1 - Describe your experience in 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Consulting Services
- 4.2 - Identify your existing client base including the number of clients you provided the services being proposed here.

The Company Qualifications section should not exceed 3 pages.

## **Section 5.0 – References**

The Firm must provide at least six (6) references. At least two (2) of the references should be for services that have been provided in the last two (2) years. To the extent possible, BPUB prefers



references from local government or utility agencies with similar demographics. For each reference, Firm should provide the following information:

5.1 - Entity name

5.2 - Customer contact information (name, title, phone number, and email)

5.3 - Scope of work performed identifying the services provided and solutions implemented

5.4 - Project start and end date

## **Section 6.0 – Pricing**

The BPUB is seeking a clear and comprehensive understanding of all costs associated with the services. In this section, the Firm must itemize all costs and the methodology for calculation of fees.

## **Section 7.0 - 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 awarded the project will be required to have a professional liability (E&O) policy with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000.

## **Section 8.0 – 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 18).

## **Section 9.0 – Independent Consultant Statement**

A statement stating that the consultant is independent from any investment fund providers, financial institutions, or other consultants that might present a conflict of interest. The statement must be submitted to be considered.

## **Section 10.0 – Other Required Information**

Proposal Acknowledgement Form (Page 4) completed and to be submitted upon receipt of proposal document; Ethics Statement (Page 17) completed and submitted with proposal response; Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Page 19); Residence Certification (Page 21); and Certificate of Interested Parties, Form 1295 (Page 23) to be completed, if applicable, and submitted with proposal response;. If not applicable, mark N/A and submit with proposal response. The W9 or W8-BEN (Pages 25 or 26) must be completed, signed and submitted with proposal response.

## **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, 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. The Firm's qualifications and resources to efficiently provide the consulting services requested by BPUB in relation to the 457(b) deferred compensation plan, weight: 4
2. The Firm's experience in providing consulting services for 457(b) deferred compensation plans for similar type and size entities, weight: 4
3. The Firm's proposed methodology for providing services requested in the scope of services, weight 5
4. The Firm's proposed cost for services and the methodology stated for setting compensation, weight: 2

Finalist Firms may be required to conduct a presentation of their proposals.

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

## **PROPOSAL INFORMATION**

All proposal envelopes shall contain a signed original and six (6) copies. The original proposals will be opened and only the Firm's name read aloud at the BPUB Purchasing Office located at 1495 Robinhood Drive, Brownsville, 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 open records 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 Diane Solitaire, Purchasing Department, by phone at (956) 983-6366 or by email at [dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com](mailto:dsolitaire@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. The BPUB may require more than one meeting be held with the top three (3) rated Firms. 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.

Any Firm may be required, at the option of the BPUB, to demonstrate successful performance of similar services. The services to be demonstrated shall have similar functional and performance characteristics as those required in these specifications. The potential demonstration(s) shall occur at a mutually agreed upon time and location.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO RFP RESPONDENTS**

Firms must submit a signed original and six (6) 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 October 18, 2023**.

Sealed envelope must be clearly labeled as follows:

**Brownsville Public Utilities Board**

**Attention: Diane Solitaire**

**1155 FM 511**

**Olmito, TX 78575**

**“P004-24 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan Consultant, October 18, 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, Aw9 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 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.

### **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.

## **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 vendor/contractor) and if proposer/vendor 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 vendor/contractor, for delay or non-performance by the vendor/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.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>
RFP issued:	October 2, 2023
Proposals due:	<b>October 18, 2023 by 5:00 PM</b>
Proposals acknowledgment:	October 19, 2023 at 11:00 AM
Proposals evaluated:	October 19 – October 27, 2023
Board Committee	TBD
Board Approval:	TBD
Project start date:	TBD

## **REFERENCE CHECKS**

The BPUB will contact prospective firm’s references by telephone.

### **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 COST SHEET**

P004-24

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 cost of:

DESCRIPTION	HOURLY RATE	LUMP SUM (Not-to-Exceed)
<b>PHASE I</b>		
Analyst and consultant services related to the 457(b) deferred compensation plan services as specified in the Scope of Services		
<b>MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES:</b> (list any additional expenses)		
1.		
2.		
3.		

NOTE: Hourly rate should include proposed fees for the items described under the Scope of Services section, to include travel, lodging, and miscellaneous expenses.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Company Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Company Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature (Failure to sign proposal will disqualify it)**

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED 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
Required Forms (if applicable)	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"/>
	Direct Deposit Form (Will be provided to awarded vendor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Residence Certification Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Certificate of Interested Parties Form 1295	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<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"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
References	Complete the Previous Customer Reference Worksheet for each reference provided	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Addenda		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEFAX: \_\_\_\_\_

FEDERAL ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ AND/OR SOCIAL SECURITY #: \_\_\_\_\_

**DEVIATIONS FROM SPECIFICATIONS IF ANY:**

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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.

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**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**

<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE</b> For vendor doing business with local governmental entity		<b>FORM CIQ</b>
<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>	<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b>	
<p><b>1</b> Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.</p>	Date Received	
<p><b>2</b> <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><b>3</b> 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><b>4</b> 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><b>5</b> 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><b>6</b> <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><b>7</b></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>		

**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.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Certificate of Interested Parties-Form 1295

Special message: Please read the Special Notification regarding HB 1295 effective January 1, 2016, implemented by the Texas Ethics Commission, which requires business entities to provide a completed Form 1295 to Brownsville PUB with signed contracts in order to execute them.

In 2015, the Texas Legislature adopted House Bill 1295. The law states that a governmental entity or state agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the governmental entity or state agency at the time the business entity submits the signed contract to the governmental entity or state agency. The law applies to a contract of a governmental entity or state agency that either (1) requires an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency before the contract may be signed or (2) has a value of at least \$1 million. The disclosure requirement applies to a contract entered into on or after January 1, 2016.

To implement the law, the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) adopted new rules necessary to prescribe the disclosure of interested parties form, and post a copy of the form on the commission's website. The commission adopted the Certificate of Interested Parties form, Form 1295, on October 5, 2015. The commission also adopted new rules as part of Chapter 46 of the Texas Administrative Code on November 30, 2015.

On January 1, 2016, TEC made a new filing application available on their website for business entities to use to both create and file Form 1295. Business entities will enter the required information on Form 1295 within the application and print a copy of the completed form, which will include a certification of filing with a unique certification number. An authorized agent of the business entity will need to sign the printed copy of the form and have the form notarized. The completed Form 1295 with the certification of filing must be included with the signed contract to the governmental body or state agency in order for the governmental body to execute the contract.

Brownsville PUB will then notify the commission, using TEC's filing application, of the receipt of the filed Form 1295 with the certification of filing not later than the 30th day after the date the contract binds all parties to the contract.

TEC will then post the business entity's completed Form 1295 to its website within seven (7) business days after receiving notice from Brownsville PUB acknowledging that it was received.

To obtain additional information on HB 1295, to learn more about TEC's process to create a new account or to complete an electronic version of Form 1295 for submission with a signed contract, please go to the following link: [https://ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf\\_info\\_form1295.htm](https://ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm)

NOTE: IF AWARDED THIS CONTRACT, FORM 1295 WILL BE SUBMITTED AT THE TIME THE SIGNED CONTRACT IS SUBMITTED TO BPUB.      \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

# CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

# FORM 1295

Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if there are interested parties.  
 Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 if there are no interested parties.

OFFICE USE ONLY

**1 Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.**

**2 Name of governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the contract for which the form is being filed.**

**3 Provide the identification number used by the governmental entity or state agency to track or identify the contract, and provide a description of the goods or services to be provided under the contract.**

4 Name of Interested Party	City, State, Country (place of business)	Nature of Interest (check applicable)	
		Controlling	Intermediary

**5 Check only if there is NO Interested Party.**

**6 UNSWORN DECLARATION**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and my date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_.

My address is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.  
 (street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in \_\_\_\_\_ County, State of \_\_\_\_\_, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.  
 (month) (year)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of authorized agent of contracting business entity  
 (Declarant)

**ADD ADDITIONAL PAGES AS NECESSARY**







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

OMB No. 1545-1621

► For use by entities. Individuals must use Form W-8BEN. ► Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.  
 ► Go to [www.irs.gov/FormW8BENE](http://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.

**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**

1 Name of organization that is the beneficial owner	2 Country of incorporation or organization																
3 Name of disregarded entity receiving the payment (if applicable, see instructions)																	
4 Chapter 3 Status (entity type) (Must check one box only): <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></td> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> International organization</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> 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		<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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		<input type="checkbox"/> International organization															
5 Chapter 4 Status (FATCA status) (See instructions for details and complete the certification below for the entity's applicable status.) <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. Complete Part XVI.  <input type="checkbox"/> Territory financial institution. Complete Part XVII.  <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted nonfinancial group entity. Complete Part XVIII.  <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted nonfinancial start-up company. Complete Part XIX.  <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted nonfinancial entity in liquidation or bankruptcy. Complete Part XX.  <input type="checkbox"/> 501(c) organization. Complete Part XXI.  <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit organization. Complete Part XXII.  <input type="checkbox"/> Publicly traded NFFE or NFFE affiliate of a publicly traded corporation. Complete Part XXIII.  <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted territory NFFE. Complete Part XXIV.  <input type="checkbox"/> Active NFFE. Complete Part XXV.  <input type="checkbox"/> Passive NFFE. Complete Part XXVI.  <input type="checkbox"/> Excepted inter-affiliate FFI. Complete Part XXVII.  <input type="checkbox"/> Direct reporting NFFE.  <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsored direct reporting NFFE. 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6 Permanent residence address (street, apt. or suite no., or rural route). <b>Do not use a P.O. box or in-care-of address</b> (other than a registered address).																	
City or town, state or province. Include postal code where appropriate.	Country																
7 Mailing address (if different from above)																	
City or town, state or province. Include postal code where appropriate.	Country																