

AND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

P025-24

The Brownsville Public Utilities Board (BPUB) is requesting Competitive Sealed Proposals (hereon styled "RFP") for an **Electric System Cost of Service and Rate Study**. BPUB's Purchasing Office located at 1155 FM 511, Olmito, TX 78575, will accept RFP's from qualified firms **until 5:00 PM**, **on February 21, 2024.** RFP's received after this time will not be considered.

RFP's will be acknowledged by BPUB on February 22, 2024 at 10:00 AM (CST). Firms are invited to listen to the opening by calling (956) 214-6020.

BPUB RFP documents may be obtained from the BPUB Purchasing Office, or downloaded from the BPUB website at https://www.brownsville-pub.com/rfp status/open/.

Please mark on the <u>outside of the envelope and on any carrier's envelope</u>: "Sealed Proposal for an Electric Cost of Service and Rate Study, P025-24, February 21, 2024, 5:00 PM", c/o Diane Solitaire, Purchasing Department, Brownsville, Texas 78521.

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 proposal package to the BPUB Purchasing Office by the given RFP deadline above. **Electronic transmission or facsimile of RFP 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

P025-24 Electric Cost of Service and Rate Study

For any clarifications, please contact Diane Solitaire at the BPUB, Purchasing Department at (956) 983-6366 or via e-mail at dsolitaire@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.

Cn	neck 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:							
(carrier & account numbe		e RFP package using the				
() No, I will not be able to se	end a RFP for the follo	owing reason:				
ret act			your reason for "No response" above a pub.com. This will ensure you rem				
Со	ompany:						
Na	ame:						
			Zip Code:				
Ph	none:						
	X:						
	nail·						

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL Electric Cost of Service and Rate Study

GENERAL BACKGROUND

BPUB is located in the City of Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas on the Rio Grande River and approximately 23 miles from the Gulf of Mexico,

The City of Brownsville 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 ("BPUB"). The BPUB, 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, an Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer, a Chief Financial Officer, and a Chief Administrative Officer responsible for specific divisions. The BPUB employs approximately 631 employees. BPUB's fiscal year is the 12-month period ended September 30th of each year and is referred to herein as the "fiscal year."

The **Electric System** provides retail electric service through its electric facilities to consumers inside and outside the city limits. The existing customer service area of the electric facilities encompasses approximately 133 square miles of Cameron County, including substantially the entire City (estimated by the Board as over 96%). The electric system serves a growing base of about 52,410 non-municipal customers and a peak load of 293.43 MW in Fiscal Year 2022. Current resources, consisting of Power Purchase Agreements and ownership in power plants, are sufficient to cover peak demand.

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

Fuel and transportation contracts with a variety of suppliers are in place, limiting the BPUB's exposure to the volatile fuel commodity markets.

BPUB's Fiscal Years 2024-2028 Capital Improvements Plan Budget includes \$116.1 million in Electric spending requirements for transmission, distribution and power production improvements. Funding for the Electric plan is expected to be provided primarily from current revenue with some funding from commercial paper issuance followed by the issuance of long-term debt.

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

PURPOSE

Brownsville Public Utilities Board ("BPUB") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide Electric Cost of Service and Rate Study Services.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

BPUB will contract with a Firm to provide Cost of Service and Rate Study Services for the Electric utility that will include, but not be limited to, the following tasks:

- 1. Project initiation and data collection
- 2. Determination of revenue requirements based on a test year; including any known and measurable adjustments or offsets to the revenue requirements.
- 3. Analysis of operating and maintenance expenses by the following functions: Production, Transmission, Distribution, Customer Service, Administrative & General
- 4. Perform cost of service allocations based on functionalization and classification of costs and customer/rate class.
- 5. Perform class revenue distribution analysis
- 6. Analysis of transmission delivery and power charges
- 7. Analysis of net-metering, distributed energy and green power and the impact they have on rate strategies
- 8. Analysis of a system capacity charge to support substation and grid upgrades needed to support new customers.
- 9. Recommend Rate Designs
- 10. Ensure compliance with financial policies and debt covenants
- 11. Determination of customer bill impacts
- 12. Preparation of an executive summary and final report
- 13. Present a Rate Plan to the BPUB Board
- 14. Present a Rate Plan to the City of Brownsville City Commission

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

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

- 1) Provide description of the Respondent's qualifications and experience and that of key personnel assigned to this account.
- 2) If the proposal is from an Engineering Firm, a copy of the firm's Professional Engineer license, including staff engineers, performing work on this project.

- 3) A minimum of one (1) copy of a similar project prepared by the firm.
- 4) A detailed reference list should be provided which documents a minimum of a ten-year history of the firm on utility rate design. The list must include at least six (6) references, consisting of three (3) clients served within the past twelve (12) months and three (3) additional clients, including dates contracts were secured; name, address, phone number and email of primary contact person; and a general description of all services provided.
- 5) Evidence of professional liability (E&O) policy with a minimum limit of \$1,000,000.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RFP RESPONDENTS

Firms must submit a signed one (1) paper original and six (6) paper copies (entire document) of the proposal in a sealed package. Proposals shall be submitted to the BPUB Purchasing Office, 1155 FM 511, Olmito, TX 78575, no later than **5:00 PM on February 21, 2024.**

Sealed envelope must be clearly labeled as follows:

Brownsville Public Utilities Board
Attention: Diane Solitaire
1155 FM 511
Olmito, TX 78575
"P025-24 Electric Cost of Service and Rate Study, February 21, 2024"

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 BPUB 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 BPUB. If a W9 or W8 form is not made available to BPUB, the first payment will be subject to income tax withholding at a rate 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.

CONTRACT AND PURCHASE ORDER

As needed, some of 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.

BPUB 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 BPUB.
- 3. The right to hold proposal for up to 90 days from submission date without action, and to waive all formalities in proposal.
- 4. The right to extend the total proposal beyond the original 90-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:	January 16, 2024
Last day to submit questions:	January 22, 2024 by 5:00 pm
Responses to questions issued	January 29, 2024
Proposals due:	February 21, 2024 by 5:00 pm
Proposals Acknowledgment:	February 22, 2024 at 10:00 am
Proposals evaluated:	February 26 – March 15, 2024
Board approval of contract award:	April 8, 2024
Contract Executed:	TBD
Project Start Date:	TBD

REFERENCE CHECKS

The BPUB will contact prospective firm's references by email or telephone. Provide company name, address, email address, telephone number and contact name for six (6) references. Complete the attached "Previous Customer Reference Worksheet", Page 21, 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 INFORMATION

All proposal envelopes shall contain one (1) signed original and six (6) copies (entire document). 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, Tx. 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 Diane Solitaire, Purchasing Department, by phone at (956) 983-6366 or by email at dsolitaire@brownsville-pub.com.

Candidates must guarantee their Original Proposal or subsequently clarified proposal for at least ninety (90) 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.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- a. 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.
- b. The proposals must follow all formats and address all portions of the RFP set forth herein providing all information requested.
- c. 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:
 - (1) All proposals must be:
 - (a) Clearly legible;
 - (b) Sequentially page-numbered
 - (c) Organized in the sequence outlined following the Table of Contents as listed in the RFP proposal format;
 - (d) Correctly identified with the RFP number and submittal deadline; responsive to all RFP requirements;
 - (e) Typed on 8½ by 11 paper;
 - (f) In Arial or Times New Roman font, size 12 for normal text, no less than size 10 for tables, graphs, and appendices;
 - (g) Bound, no binders; and
 - (h) Submitted as one (1) paper original (entire document); six (6) paper copies (entire document). Proposals may not include materials or pamphlets not specifically requested in this RFP.
 - (2) Proposal Format
 - (a) The proposals must be structured, presented, and labeled in the following manner:
 - Tab 1 Table of Contents
 - Tab 2 Executive Summary
 - Tab 3 Project Work Plan
 - Tab 4 Qualifications
 - Tab 5 Key Personnel
 - Tab 6 Background and Experience
 - Tab 7 Price
 - Tab 8 Value Added Benefits
 - Tab 9 Certifications and Other Required Forms

d. 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.

e. Format and Content

Proposals must be organized as follows:

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

<u>TAB 2: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u> – 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.

TAB 3: 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.

TAB 4: QUALIFICATIONS –

- (a) Describe the Firm's qualifications and experience in performing utility rate study services.
- (b) Complete a detailed description of the proposing Firm's qualifications with particular emphasis on experience relative to the services described herein.

TAB 5: 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/profiles 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 6: BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE -

- (a) Provide at least six (6) references with three (3) current clients and three (3) 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 7: PRICE -

(a) Complete the BPUB Proposal Cost Sheet by providing your best proposed prices. Pricing shall be inclusive of all materials, travel and expenses required to complete the scope of work described here in.

TAB 8: VALUE ADDED BENEFITS -

(a) Describe any services or deliverables that are not required by the RFP that the respondent proposes to provide at no additional cost to BPUB. Firms are not required to propose value-added benefits, but inclusion of such benefits may result in a more favorable evaluation.

<u>TAB 9: CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER REQUIRED FORMS</u> - 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 17).

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 BPUB 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.

Evaluation Criteria	Possible Points
Demonstrated understanding of BPUB's needs	30
Prior demonstrated applicable experience	30
Qualifications and availability of staff	20
References	10
Fee schedule	10
Total Points	100

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 Firm is at the sole discretion of the BPUB.

PROPOSAL COST SHEET P025-24

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 hourly rate of:

DESCRIPTION	EST. HOURS	HOURLY		
	TO COMPLETE	RATE		
Rate Study Services for the Electric utility that will include, but				
not be limited to, the following tasks:				
 Project initiation and data collection 				
- Determination of revenue requirements based on a test				
year; including any known and measurable				
adjustments or offsets to the revenue requirements				
Analysis of operating and maintenance expenses by				
the following functions: Production, Transmission,				
Distribution, Customer Service, Administrative &				
General				
- Perform cost of service allocations based on				
functionalization and classification of costs and				
customer/rate class.				
- Perform class revenue distribution analysis				
- Analysis of transmission delivery and power charges				
- Analysis of net-metering, distributed energy and				
green power and the impact they have on rate				
strategies				
- Analysis of a system capacity charge to support				
substation and grid upgrades needed to support new				
customers.				
- Recommend Rate Designs				
- Ensure compliance with financial policies and debt				
covenants				
- Determination of customer bill impacts				
- Preparation of an executive summary and final report				
- Present a Rate Plan to the BPUB Board				
- Present a Rate Plan to the City of Brownsville City				
Commission				
ADDITIONAL SERVICES				
(if applicable)				
List on separate sheet of paper, if needed				

NOTE:	Hourly	rate s	hould	include	proposed	d fees	for	the	items	described	under	the	scope	of
services	section	, to inc	lude tr	aining,	travel, lo	lging,	and	mis	cellan	eous exper	ises.			

Company Name:				
Authorized Compar	ny Representativ	e:		
Authorized Compar	ny Representativ	· · ·		
		Signature (Failure to sig	n 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		
	Acknowledgement Form					
Legal Notice	Debarment Certificate					
C	Ethic Statement					
	Conflict of Interest Questionnaire					
	W9 or W8 Form					
	Direct Deposit Form (will be provide awarded firm)	d to the				
	Residence Certification Form					
Special Instructions	Bid Schedule/Cost sheet completed a signed	nd				
(if applicable)	Cashier Check or Bid Bond of 5% of Amount of Bid					
	OSHA 300 Log					
	Contractor Pre-Bid Disclosure compl signed and notarized	eted,				
	Sub-Contractor Pre-Bid Disclosure completed, signed, and notarized					
References	Complete the Previous Customer Ref Worksheet for each reference provide					
Addenda						

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 SEC	CURITY #:
DEVIATIONS :	FROM SPECIFICATIONS IF A	aNY:

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

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS (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.

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				
This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Sess	ion. OFFICE USE ONLY				
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendas a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).					
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the stateme filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.					
A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government C offense under this section is a misdemeanor.	ode. An				
Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.					
Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (T completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccomplete.	business day after the date on which				
Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.					
Name of Officer	-				
4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government 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.					
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?					
Yes No					
	B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?				
Yes No					
Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 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.					
Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176					
7					
Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity	Date				
Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission www.ethics.state.tx.us	Revised 1/1/2021				

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

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

<u>Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a)</u>: "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
 - $(\bar{\textbf{i}})$ 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) Avendor 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.

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

Previous Customer Reference Worksheet

Name of Customer:	Customer Contact:
Customer Address:	Customer Phone Number:
	Customer Email:
Name of Company Performing Referenced Work:	
What was the Period of Performance?	What was the Final Acceptance Date?
From:	
То:	
Dollar Value of Contract?	What Type of Contract?
	Firm Fixed Price
\$	☐Time and Material ☐Not to Exceed
	Cost Plus Fixed Fee
	Other, Specify:
Provide a brief description of the work performed f	
Trovide a orier description of the work performed i	tor this customer (and additional page if required)

Form W-9
(Rev. October 2018)
Department of the Treasury

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

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

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

	Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.	·		
Print or type. Specific Instructions on page 3.	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):		
	Individual/sole proprietor or C Corporation S Corporation Partnership Trust/estate single-member LLC	Exempt payee code (if any)		
	☐ 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	Exemption from FATCA reporting		
	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.	code (if any)		
	☐ Other (see instructions) ►	(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)		
S	5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. Requester's name at	nd address (optional)		
See				
(I)	6 City, state, and ZIP code			
	7 List account number(s) here (optional)			
	F Los accours munice(s) nere (operation)			
Par	Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)			
Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid Social security number				
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 <i>How to get a</i>				
TIN, later. or				
	The decodition in more than one mane, see the instructions for line 1.7450 see What Mane and	dentification number		
Numb	er To Give the Requester for guidelines on whose number to enter.			
_	0. 110. 11			

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- 1. 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
- 3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
- 4. 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 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 (TIN), 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.

Cat. No. 10231X Form W-9 (Rev. 10-2018)

Form W-8BEN-E

(Rev. October 2021) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Certificate of Status of Beneficial Owner for
United States Tax Withholding and Reporting (Entities)

For use by entities. Individuals must use Form W-BBEN. 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 NO	OT use this form for:		Instead use Form	
 U.S. 	entity or U.S. citizen or resident			
 A for 	reign individual		W-8BEN (Individual) or Form 823	
• A for	reign individual or entity claiming that income is effectively connected with	the conduct o	of trade or business within the United States	
(unle	ss claiming treaty benefits)		W-8EC	
	reign partnership, a foreign simple trust, or a foreign grantor trust (unless or reign government, international organization, foreign central bank of issue.			
gove	errment of a U.S. possession claiming that income is effectively connected; c), 892, 895, or 1443(b) (unless claiming treaty benefits) (see instructions for	d U.S. income	or that is claiming the applicability of section(s) 115(2),	
• Any	person acting as an intermediary (including a qualified intermediary acting	as a qualified	derivatives dealer)	
Pai	Identification of Beneficial Owner			
1	Name of organization that is the beneficial owner		2 Country of incorporation or organization	
	There of organization that is the serious of the		2 Country of most portation of organization	
3	Name of disregarded entity receiving the payment (if applicable, see inst	tructions)		
4	Chapter 3 Status (entity type) (Must check one box only):	oration	Partnership	
		plex trust	Foreign Government - Controlled Entity	
	Central Bank of Issue Private foundation Estat		Foreign Government - Integral Part	
	Grantor trust Disregarded entity Intern	national organiz	_	
	If you entered disregarded entity, partnership, simple trust, or grantor trust above, is the	_		
5	Chapter 4 Status (FATCA status) (See instructions for details and compl			
•	Nonparticipating FFI (including an FFI related to a Reporting IGA	_	ting IGA FFI. Complete Part XII.	
	FFI other than a deemed-compliant FFI, participating FFI, or		overnment, government of a U.S. possession, or foreign	
	exempt beneficial owner).		ank of issue. Complete Part XIII.	
	Participating FFI.	Internation	nal organization. Complete Part XIV.	
	Reporting Model 1 FFI.		etirement plans. Complete Part XV.	
	Reporting Model 2 FFI.		olly owned by exempt beneficial owners. Complete Part XVI	
	Registered deemed-compliant FFI (other than a reporting Model 1 FFI, sponsored FFI, or nonreporting IGA FFI covered in Part XII).		financial institution. Complete Part XVII.	
	See instructions.		I nonfinancial group entity. Complete Part XVIII.	
	□ 0	_	I nonfinancial start-up company. Complete Part XIX.	
	Sponsored FFI. Complete Part IV.		cepted nonfinancial entity in liquidation or bankruptcy. mplete Part XX.	
	Certified deemed-compliant nonregistering local bank. Complete	_		
	Part V.	_	ganization. Complete Part XXI.	
	Certified deemed-compliant FFI with only low-value accounts.		profit organization. Complete Part XXII.	
	Complete Part VI.		raded NFFE or NFFE affiliate of a publicly traded	
	Certified deemed-compliant sponsored, closely held investment	_	on. Complete Part XXIII.	
	vehicle. Complete Part VII.	_	I territory NFFE. Complete Part XXIV.	
	Certified deemed-compliant limited life debt investment entity.	_	FE. Complete Part XXV.	
	Complete Part VIII.	Passive N	NFFE. Complete Part XXVI.	
	Certain investment entities that do not maintain financial accounts.	_	I inter-affiliate FFI. Complete Part XXVII.	
	Complete Part IX.	Direct rep	porting NFFE.	
	Owner-documented FFI. Complete Part X.	Sponsore	ed direct reporting NFFE. Complete Part XXVIII.	
	Restricted distributor. Complete Part XI.		that is not a financial account.	
6	Permanent residence address (street, apt. or suite no., or rural route). Do no	t use a P.O. box	x or in-care-of address (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	
Only of town, state of province, and doe postal code where appropriate.				
For Pa	aperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions.	Cat. No. 5	9689N Form W-8BEN-E (Rev. 10-2021	