

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

For Consulting Services
Reclaimed Water for Restoration and Community Projects in Big Pine, CA
Inyo County, California

Submittal Deadline:
May 4, 2017



County of Inyo
Water Department
P.O. 337, 135 S. Jackson St.
Independence, California 93526

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The County of Inyo proposes a Project to determine the feasibility of establishing a wastewater reclamation system for the town of Big Pine and the Big Pine Paiute Tribe Reservation (BPPT). The project will produce a Feasibility Study and Improvement Plan to inform plans to produce and distribute non-potable recycled water in conformance with California's Water Recycling Criteria. The Feasibility Study will result in up to three projects that are shovel-ready.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Recycled water would provide irrigation for landscaping, agriculture, and environmental restoration in the Big Pine area that otherwise would be supplied with domestic water. Providing the area with a supply of recycled water augments the domestic supply, while opening up beneficial uses of water for sustainable community improvements that otherwise would not be possible.

The study and plan will also assess the potential of using solar energy to power the treatment plant and water pumps, and reduce long-term operations costs.

It is expected that if the Feasibility Study has positive results, a reclamation facility for recycled water will be constructed and one or more projects will be implemented.

This would be the first of its kind water recycling project in Inyo County, and would serve to demonstrate the potential for similar systems. This system would serve as a blueprint for similar projects that could be built in the area.

California Recycled Water Policy actively promotes the development of water-saving environmentally beneficial projects as expressed in this quote from the State Water Board's Resolution 2013-0003.

"...We strongly encourage local and regional water agencies to move toward clean, abundant, local water for California by emphasizing appropriate water recycling, water conservation, and maintenance of supply infrastructure and the use of stormwater (including dry-weather urban runoff) in these plans; these sources of supply are drought-proof, reliable, and minimize our carbon footprint and can be sustained over the long-term."

The Feasibility Study will evaluate using effluent from the Big Pine Community Services District (BPCSD) and BPPT wastewater treatment plants, to serve irrigation needs at a number of locations within the town of Big Pine and on the Reservation. The BPCSD serves approximately 340 residences and 20 commercial properties. Their 150,000 gallons/day wastewater facility provides primary treatment at an average flow of 90,000 gallons/day (100 afy). The plant now has an aeration channel, two oxidation ponds, and four percolation ponds. Nearby (0.21 miles), the BPPT wastewater facility treats about 20,000 gallons/day (22.4 afy), which is released in evaporation ponds. The BPPT system serves 462 tribal members.

The Feasibility Study will investigate potential uses for reclaimed water in Big Pine. The scope of work for the study will be developed by stakeholders including BPPT Council representatives, environmental staff and managers from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), BPCSD members, Inyo County Supervisors and Water Commissioners, and County staff from the Water Department, Public Works, and Environmental Health offices.

Projects initially discussed include: providing water to revegetate, with native vegetation, up to 180 acres of abandoned agricultural land that is a source of dust affecting the town and Reservation; irrigating pasture for greening a barren parcel; providing irrigation to landscape a park and associated ballfields; providing water to the BPPT Development Corporation to irrigate landscape at a planned commercial park; and possibly serving a community garden or commercial horticultural operation.

A Feasibility Study will look at the potential for supplying these alternative uses. The Feasibility Study will result in a report. The Study will consider the quantity and quality of effluent available, reuse regulations, public health, and the level of treatment required to satisfy state requirements for recycled water for each of the alternatives. The Study will present draft alternatives that will be the subject of an environmental review. The planning committee and the public will participate in a review of the alternatives.

The alternatives selected to move forward will be the "Project" and the subject of an Improvement Plan to be developed and produced by the consultant. The Improvement Plan will include engineering design, and will take the Project through permitting. At the end of the *Reclaimed Water for Restoration and Community Projects* Project there will be up to three shovel-ready recycled water projects in the Big Pine area. Construction and operations and maintenance funding for the chosen projects will be obtained by the recycled water recipient.

Requested Services

The selected consultant shall perform the following tasks:

1. Review any relevant studies and reports related to feasibility of treating wastewater from the BPCSD and BPPT Treatment Plant
2. Review and characterize, water and wastewater uses in Big Pine to determine accuracy of estimated minimum and maximum quantity of water available for recycled treatment.
3. Participate in **stakeholder meetings and field trips**, arranged by the County, to provide background on recycled water development and potential uses. Educate stakeholders on the opportunities and limitations of using recycled water. Work with the group to identify feasible uses of reclaimed water in the Big Pine area.
4. Develop a **Feasibility Study** addressing the technical, organizational, and financial feasibility of recycling waste water, based on identified uses for recycled water in the community.

The Feasibility Study should:

- a. Characterize quantity and quality of effluent from the BPCSD and BPPT treatment facilities
- b. characterize the need and end use of recycled water
- c. estimate the volume and quality of water required for such use(s)
- d. Identify the type and level of treatment required for such purpose(s)
- e. Include a detailed description of the feasible method(s) for treating the required volume and quality of water

- f. Describe in detail the technical, managerial, and financial requirements of feasible method(s)
 - g. If multiple methods are identified, a comparison of the advantages, disadvantages, and feasibility of the methods should be provided
 - h. Identify permitting and licensing requirements for siting, constructing, and operating the identified feasible method(s) and facility
 - i. Provide cost estimates for treating and delivering treated water to the above use(s) and disposing of any waste generated in the treatment process
 - j. Include a map showing the footprint of the recycling facility and a proposed path of water from the treatment plant to the end user
 - k. Assess the financial viability and cost-effectiveness of designing, constructing, and operating the facility to supply treated water for the determined use(s)
 - l. Assess the organizational requirements for designing, constructing, and operating treatment facility
 - m. Include cost estimates for operating and maintaining the facility, related improvements, and water delivery systems.
 - n. Evaluate feasibility of using solar energy to supply Project electrical needs.
5. From the uses identified by the parties and the results for the Feasibility Study, describe a Project.
 6. Formulate an **Improvement Plan** with **Engineering Design** detail required to provide recycled water for the Project.
 7. Provide the County with seven paper copies of the Feasibility Study and Improvement Plan with Engineering Design, and electronic copies in pdf format. The consultant shall also provide to the County all electronic files developed as part of this Project, including water records, and GIS and field data.
 8. If Project is feasible conduct appropriate **CEQA/NEPA** on the project and obtain all necessary **permits**. The County will fund the permit costs.
 9. Provide written quarterly progress updates.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY INYO COUNTY

The County of Inyo will provide the services listed below in support of the consulting firm's services:

- A. Furnish preliminary information on water availability.
- B. Schedule and facilitate meetings between the County, Consultant, and stakeholders.
- C. Provide use of our geographical information system data.

- D. Review interim and draft documents and provide direction, as required.
- E. Participate in meetings with the consultant and other parties as required.

RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST FOR SOQS

The respondent's SOQ must include, but may not be limited to, the following:

1. Identification of staff capabilities along with the resumes of key personnel and staff who will be assigned to each portion of the work.
2. A description of the respondent's recent experience with projects similar to the one proposed. Including experience with small-scale recycled water systems, or familiarity with such systems.
3. A proposed scope of work for accomplishing the tasks required to complete the project, with a proposed schedule for completion.
4. A listing of references that may be contacted regarding the firm's experience for projects completed during the last 5 years, including a description of similar documents prepared by the firm. The listing shall include the names and addresses of the owners and the names and telephone numbers of persons in charge of the projects for the owners.
5. A list of any specialty subconsultants being considered by the respondent for use on the project and the information requested in items 1 through 3 above for each subconsultant.
6. Based on the proposed scope of work, a project timeline and budget based on the information presented in this RFQ.
7. The respondent's experience and history in meeting deadlines on similar projects.
8. A statement as to the respondent's ability to enter into County of Inyo Standard Contract No. 118 (Attachment 3), which will govern the selected respondent's work.
9. Additional information if the respondent feels the information may be useful and is applicable to this project.
10. The response shall be signed by the responding firm's project manager for this project.

CONTRACT

The successful respondent will be required to enter into an agreement with the County on Inyo County Standard Contract No. 118 (Attachment 3). The contract will specify the scope of service,

schedule of work, and a mutually agreed schedule of payment. The selected respondent will be required to prepare a scope of work for the project, which will be inserted into the contract as an attachment.

All respondents are required to review the contract and verify that they can satisfy all requirements contained therein. Concerns with the contract or any of its terms or requirements should be addressed in the SOQ.

EVALUATION CRITERIA/SELECTION PROCESS

It is the intent of the County to evaluate all SOQs received in response to this request. To be considered, SOQs must be received before to the close of business on May 4, 2017 at the Inyo County Water Department, 135 S. Jackson St., P.O. Box 337, Independence CA 93526.

The responding firms or individuals will be evaluated by a selection committee to assess and rank each firm’s capability, experience, staffing level, availability, history, past clientele, and ability to meet deadlines, budgets and work with public agencies. Following the review, the county will commence contract negotiations with the highest ranked respondent, as more fully described below.

A selection committee composed of staff of the County of Inyo will evaluate all submitted SOQs. The information provided in the SOQ will be the basis for selecting a consultant firm. The criteria for selection will be determined from the following areas with the weights for each specific area as indicated.

- A. Demonstrated understanding of the scope and objectives of project.....30%
 - B. Qualifications of key personnel and specialty consultants, and experience with projects of similar nature.....30%
 - C. Familiarity with current methods, standards, and practices for producing and distributing reclaimed water.....30%
 - D. Reference check.....10%
- Total = 100%

The County may request that the three respondents receiving the highest preliminary ranks from the review committee make a presentation to the committee. Following those presentations, the committee will make a final ranking of those three respondents and the county will commence contract negotiations with the firm receiving the highest final ranking.

If the County and that firm are unable to reach an agreement, the County will reject that firm and begin negotiations with the firm receiving the second highest rank from the committee. This process shall continue until the County reaches an agreement with a consultant.

After an agreement is reached, the successful consultant shall execute Standard County Contract No. 118, which will then be submitted to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors for approval. The execution of the contract by the chairperson of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors will constitute notice to the consultant to proceed with the work.

INQUIRIES

Please direct questions to: Larry Freilich, Project Manager, Water Department, email: lfreilich@inyocounty.us; phone: (760) 878-0011.

Those firms wishing to submit SOQs should send them to:

US Postal Service:

Larry Freilich
Inyo County Water Department
PO Box 337
Independence, CA 93526

Other (Federal Express, etc.):

Larry Freilich
Inyo County Water Department
135 S. Jackson St., Independence, CA 93526

DEADLINE: To be considered, five (5) copies of the SOQ must be received at the above address by 5:00 pm, May 4, 2017. Postmarks and facsimiles are not acceptable.