

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR
MADERA COUNTY
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Rate Study Consulting Services
RFP 2020-04**

ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the intent of the Madera County Department of Water and Natural Resources to secure a qualified firm/professional to rate study services over a five year period beginning immediately.

DATE OF ADVERTISEMENT: Tuesday, March 24, 2020

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: Friday, April 10, 2020

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Madera County has been referred to as “ground zero” for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The amount of historical overdraft for the County as a whole is estimated at 260,000 acre-feet per year. Of the historical overdraft of 260,000 acre feet per year, at least 160,000 acre-feet per year is attributed to the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies due to the lack of surface water supply. Like most of the San Joaquin Valley, the native sustainable yield is approximately 0.5 acre-feet per acre.

In order to become sustainable the Madera County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies will need both projects (e.g., on-farm and dedicated recharge basins, import of surface water) as well as significant demand management (e.g., allocations, water markets, or purchasing and resting/retiring land). Each project and management actions has significant costs attached to it and would need to go through a Proposition 218 proceeding. The rate consultant would both develop a strategy for success as well as lead this effort in cooperation with County staff.

Madera County needs rate study services for immediate needs to slightly amend the GSA fee based on improved mapping data of parcels within the County GSAs. It also needs longer-term services to develop and implement a strategy to fund projects and management actions.

SCOPE OF WORK

Madera County is interested in a five year contract for rate consulting services. During this time period, there would be substantial work completed in these areas:

- Immediate re-calculation of the GSA fee based on improved mapping;
- Immediate review of GSA fee appeal process;
- Feedback on efforts to adjust the GSA fee each year;

We assume that the above work is approximately \$15,000.

There is more long-term work to be done in terms of assessing rates for the following efforts:

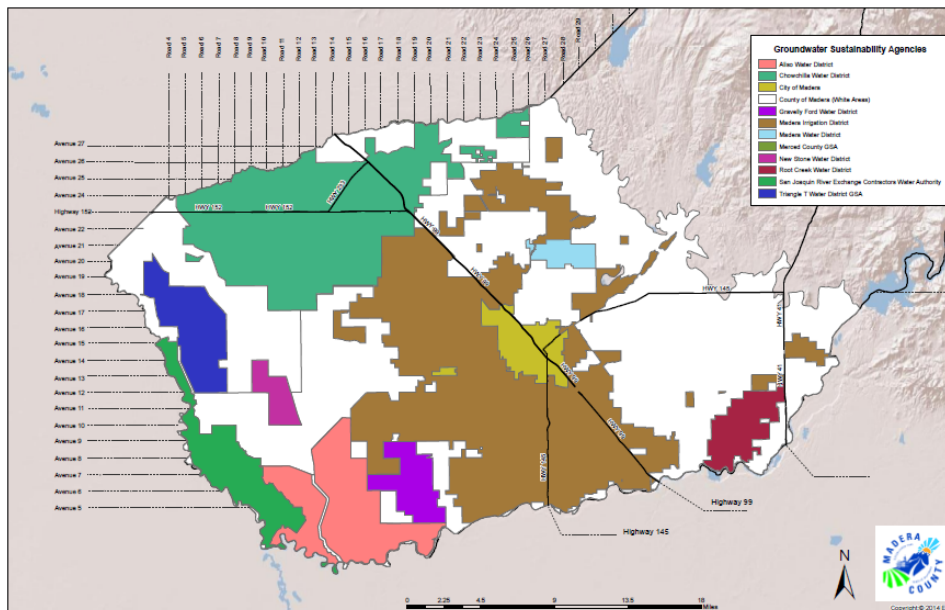
- Designing, permitting and construction of recharge basins
- Contracting and purchasing imported surface water
- Administrating and funding one, two or three of these efforts depending on Board direction:
 - Allocations
 - Water markets
 - Land resting and/or retirement

There is a dynamic group of residents in Madera County that would like to be part of rate setting efforts with a public engagement effort.

PROJECT LOCATION

Work for the County Department of Water and Natural Resources will be on GSP implementation within the “white areas” or undistricted land in all three Subbasins: Chowchilla, Madera, and Delta Mendota.

Figure 1. Project Area Map (Location of Madera County “White Areas”)



Additional work for the County Community and Economic Department in water supply assessments and water impact analysis will potentially be county-wide.

SCHEDULE (schedule subject to change)

	High Level Task	Start Date	End Date
--	-----------------	------------	----------

1	RFPs will be accepted	03/24/2020	4/10/2020
2	Question and answer period	3/24/2020	4/3/2020
3	Evaluation period of the RFPs	4/13/2020	4/17/2020
4	Contract negotiation	4/20/2020	4/24/2020
5	Contract goes to the Board of Supervisors	May 2020	May 2020
6	Work begins	May 2020	May 2020
7	GSA Fee Amendment is complete and a board packet is create	June 2020	June 2020
8	GSA Fee Amendment to Board of Supervisors	July 2020	July 2020
9	GSA Fees sent to Tax Collector's Office	August 1, 2020	
10	Rate Strategy Analysis for additional funding efforts	August 2020	
11	218 Proceedings	2021	

ELIGIBILITY

1. In addition to other requirements stated in this document, to be eligible to respond to this RFQ, the Consultant must have successfully completed, within the past three years, similar services to those in this RFP.
2. The County reserves the right to make investigations of the Consultants' qualifications or any of its sub-consultants, to contact former employers or clients to confirm qualifications as it deems appropriate.
3. Proposals are to be concise and include only those items that are relevant to the Project Scope.
4. Only one firm shall be identified as the Primary Consultant for each Response. If other firms are part of the same Response, they shall be identified as sub-consultants. A Primary Consultant shall not be a part of any other team as a sub-consultant. Sub-consultants can join any number of Primary consultants submitting a Response to this RFQ.
5. All proposals must be emailed to Stephanie Anagnoson at Stephanie.Anagnoson@maderacounty.com by **April 10, 2020 by 3:00 p.m. PDT**. All Responses received after the due date and time will be returned to the Consultant unopened.

QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

1. Written requests regarding information or clarification in reference to this RFQ must be submitted, in writing, within the timeframe identified. Send all questions by e-mail by

April 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. PDT to: Stephanie Anagnoson

Stephanie.Anagnoson@maderacounty.com

2. Consultants must clearly understand that the only official answer or position of the County will be the one stated in writing. Questions seeking clarification or interpretation of the RFQ must be made in writing via email to the contact persons listed above. No inquiries received after the deadline will be considered. The question asked, along with any written response made thereto by the County, will be distributed as an amendment to the RFQ to all the persons on the bidders list. However, the County is not obligated to respond to any question asked, and the County's failure to respond to any such question will not relieve the Consultants of any obligations or conditions imposed by this RFQ. Written response to the questions will be issued as an amendment no later than seven (7) calendar days before the Proposal due date.
3. If the County finds it necessary to add to, or amend this document prior to the Response submittal deadline, the County will issue written addenda/addendum and distribute it to all the persons on the bidders list.
4. The County shall keep a record of the proposers list. To be on the County's proposers list please contact:

Jeannie Habben
Madera County
Department of Water & Natural Resources
E-mail : jeannie.habben@maderacounty.com

FEES AND INSURANCE

1. Submit an itemized fee schedule or rate sheet as a basis for all proposed service.
2. Insurance coverage for proposed services shall include general liability and property damage insurance that shall include automobile liability insurance in a combined single limit of not less than \$1 million dollars. Professional Liability Insurance (E&O) coverage of \$1 million is also required.
3. The selected firm shall provide within ten (10) calendar days after the notice of award is issued a copy of their existing liability insurance certificate naming the County of Madera and its officers and employees as an additionally named insured on said policies. Such insurance coverage shall be maintained in full force and effect for the duration of the Contract and must be in a form satisfactory to the County.

PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

1. All proposals must be received via email to Stephanie.Anagnoson@maderacounty.com, by **April 10, 2020 by 3:00 p.m. PDT**. All proposals received after the due date and time will be returned to the Consultant unopened.
2. No material other than that listed in this Section shall be included in the Response.
3. Cover Letter – A cover letter (limited to two pages) indicating the interest in providing the services to the County and a statement on why the consultant should be selected for the award. The letter shall include the name of the Prime Consultant and any sub-consultant.

4. Table of Contents – A one-page table of contents identifying the sections and page numbers.
5. Organization Chart – A one-page, proposed organization chart identifying key professionals and sub-consultants, and their area(s) of responsibility.
6. Qualifications – Up to five (5) pages, for resumes of the persons, including a Registered Civil Engineer that will be assigned to the projects. The resumes shall include a description of projects providing services similar to those identified in the scope of services, and will identify individuals’ roles and responsibilities on those projects.
7. Project Understanding and Approach – Up to five (5) pages, summary of the approach to be taken for the project. A definitive work program and schedule, including schedule for completion of the major milestones. List any information and tasks expected from the County.
8. Project Experience, Success and References – Up to five (5) pages, a description of projects providing services similar to those identified in the scope of services. The emphasis shall be given to the projects in California AND the tasks performed by the persons identified in the Response. Include in the project descriptions (a) the length of the contract; (b) the scope of services provided; (c) the type of contract (pro bono, retainer, project-based fee, other); (d) specific accomplishments, if any; and (e) a contact name, phone number and e-mail address for each client to serve as a reference. If the consultant team includes sub-consultant(s), there must be at least one project for each sub-consultant.
9. All costs for preparation of proposals shall be borne by the proposer.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The County will select one firm for the outlined Scope of Service on the basis of qualifications and experience. Designated staff of the County will conduct a review and evaluation of all proposals and may, if necessary, invite proposers to interview. The County will review and evaluate proposals against the following criteria:

#	Description	Points
1	Qualifications: Do the qualifications of key personnel to be assigned to working on the Project Scope demonstrate sufficient experience and expertise?	25
2	Understanding and Approach: Based on the information provided and other available information, does the proposer understand the needs and goals and the obligation to minimize costs while at the same time achieving optimum results?	30
3	Project Experience and Success: Has the proposing firm demonstrated that they, or the staff assigned to the engagement, successfully completed services, similar to those specified in the Project Scope section of this RFQ?	25
4	References: Are the firm's references from past clients and associates favorable?	20

1. County staff will review the proposals and select the one that they believe is most advantageous to the County.
2. The County may elect to conduct an oral presentation/interview of the shortlisted firms. In which case, the three (3) highest ranking proposals will be short listed and invited to an oral presentation/interview. Additional details on the oral presentations will be provided to the short-listed Consultants.
3. The County reserves the right to award the consultant service contract to the firm that, in the sole judgment of the County, can best accomplish the desired results. Selection criteria include, but are not limited to, consideration of the Consultant's qualifications and experience, the Consultant's understanding of and approach to the project, and the negotiated fee for services.
4. This request does not constitute an offer of employment or to contract for services.
5. The County reserves the option to reject any or all proposals received in response to this request for Proposals, wholly or in part.
6. The County reserves the right to retain all proposals, whether selected or rejected.
7. The successful Consultant will be expected to enter into a contract of substantially the same format as the attached sample form.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

A copy of the County's Master Contract template is attached (Attachment A) for review. It is expected that the proposer will be required to comply with the terms of the template agreement including all insurance and indemnity provisions. The County reserves the right to modify the attached Standard Template as it deems appropriate.

Attachments

Attachment A: Madera County's Professional Services Agreement