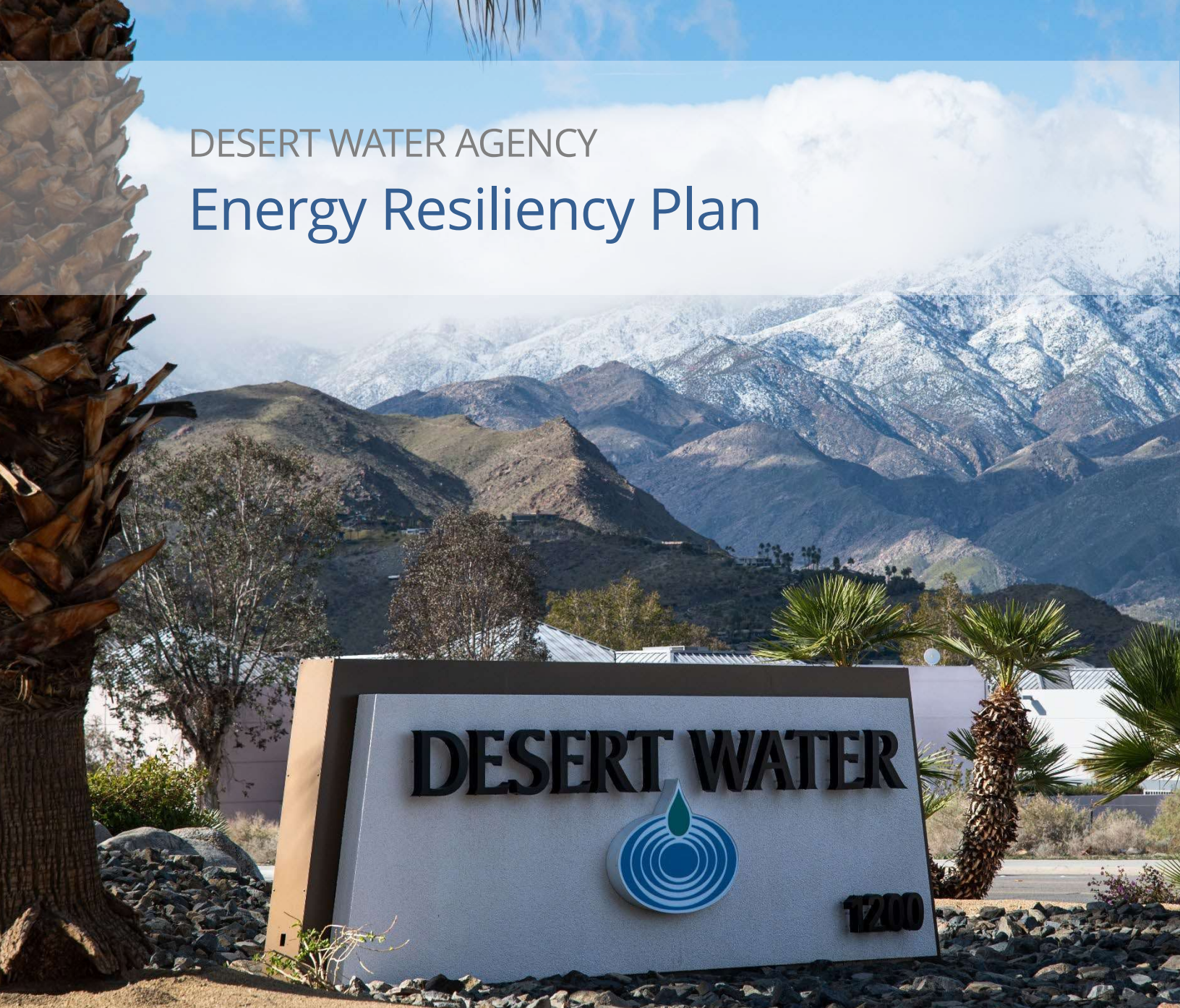


DESERT WATER AGENCY

Energy Resiliency Plan



Request for Proposal

March 4, 2025

DESERT WATER AGENCY
1200 Gene Autry Trail South
Palm Springs, CA 92264

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Energy Resiliency Plan

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I. General

A. Purpose

Desert Water Agency (Agency) has initiated a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify qualified consultants to provide energy resiliency planning services to the Agency. The Energy Resiliency Plan (Plan) will provide information for future decision-making regarding implementation of available technologies and market drivers that surround resiliency projects such as local generation, microgrids, and energy storage systems.

The proposed Plan will contribute to the resiliency of the Agency by developing a blueprint for energy resiliency technologies, projects, and applications. The Plan will identify critical infrastructure, loads, and identify projects and strategies that will reduce the reliance on Southern California Edison for power production and distribution to assist the Agency in reaching carbon neutral.

The Plan will identify both short and long-term projects and strategies, varying from local generation and energy storage (short term) to development of local power microgrids and energy-independent 'islands' (long term). The services will consist of developing an energy resiliency plan that includes evaluating the energy demands of the Agency, evaluating the energy production potential, evaluating the energy distribution options, and preparing a report with the feasibility of each option, the relative costs of each option, and recommendation for the best option/s.

The Energy Resiliency Plan document is expected to be a concise document for options to become energy resilient, outlining how to implement those options, and will be for the use and guidance of the Agency's Management and Board of Directors.

B. Key Dates

| | |
|--|----------------|
| RFP Issue Date | March 4, 2025 |
| Deadline to Submit Intent to Propose | March 18, 2025 |
| Question Submission Deadline | April 1, 2025 |
| Question Responses Completed | April 11, 2025 |
| Proposal Submission Deadline | May 13, 2025 |
| Executive Committee approval of selected Respondent | May 29, 2025 |
| Notification of Selected Respondent | June 2, 2025 |
| Board Approval of Negotiated Contract | June 17, 2025 |
| Estimated Project Start (on or before) | July 1, 2025 |

C. Agency Background Information

The Desert Water Agency is a Special District of the State of California, founded as a groundwater management agency in the western Coachella Valley in 1961 and started providing retail water service to customers in Palm Springs and a portion of Cathedral City in 1968. The Agency is one of only 29 state water contractors in California. This gives the Agency the ability to import water, which is used to recharge the local groundwater basin (the main source of water in the valley).

The Agency is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected by division within the Agency's boundaries. The General Manager administers the day-to-day operations of the Agency in accordance with resolutions, ordinances and policies established by the Board of Directors.

The Agency currently has approximately 23,000 domestic water connections that serve approximately 72,000 customers (including seasonal population).

The Agency supplies those customers with potable water using 25 active and 4 stand-by vertical turbine deep well pumps disbursed throughout the domestic water system. A typical well is equipped with a 400-horsepower motor and produces around 2,000 gallons per minute of domestic water. Not all the wells are used at the same time, but all wells may be used throughout the year. The Agency also uses 7 different booster stations (ranging from 15 HP to 200 HP) to deliver water to properties located in higher elevations within the city.

To supply and offset the energy demands, the Agency currently owns and operates two hydro-electric plants and two solar arrays. The Snow Creek Hydro-Electric Plant is a 400 kw Pelton wheel that utilizes mountain stream surface water diverted by the Agency. All power produced from the plant is sold to SCE through an interconnection with the SCE grid. The Whitewater Hydro-Electric Plant is a 1 MW Francis turbine that utilizes water from the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct to generate electricity. All power produced from the plant is sold to SCE through an interconnection with the SCE grid. The solar arrays consist of 4,500 ground mounted fixed tilt panels installed in 2 phases (2005 and 2013) that produce 350 kW and 715kW of power. The 350 kW array supplies power to the Agency's Operations Center building and the 715 kW array supplies power to the Agency's 10 MGD Water Recycling Plant. Any excess power is sold to SCE through an interconnection with the SCE grid.

Additional information regarding the Agency is available for review on our website, www.dwa.org.

II. Elements of Proposal

A. Cover Page

The cover page shall include:

1. Respondent's Name
2. Respondent's contact individual name
3. Contact Telephone number
4. Email address
5. Physical Address
6. Proposal Date

B. Table of Contents

C. Transmittal Letter

Proposals shall include a signed letter of transmittal briefly stating the following:

1. Brief statement of understanding of the services to be provided.
2. Commitment to performing the services within the specified time.
3. Statement of why the Respondent believes itself to be the best qualified to perform the engagement.
4. Statement that the proposal is a final and irrevocable offer for a period of sixty (60) calendar days from the submission due date.

D. Proposer's Capabilities

All proposals must provide a comprehensive description of the Proposer's capabilities including the following:

1. Demonstrate experience with planning and designing energy resiliency plans and strategies that meet IOU and other regulatory requirement and/or guidance.
2. Demonstrate experience with energy efficiency data analysis/market support.
3. Demonstrate experience with local and distributed energy generation and storage projects, as well as demand and load management.
4. Demonstrate experience with overall system and microgrid analysis in regard to existing and/or new planned facilities.
5. Demonstrate experience with and familiarity with applicable legislation and coordination with IOU's and other regulatory agencies.
6. Demonstrate experience in projecting energy savings & cost-effective analysis.
7. Demonstrate direct experience within and understand the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulatory process. Including relevant legislation and regulations applicable to onsite and offsite generation, battery storage systems, microgrids and IOUs.
8. Demonstrate experience with energy efficiency program development and implementation.
9. Demonstrate experience with responding to questions from CPUC (Energy Division), IOU, and any other energy organizations.
10. Demonstrate experience working with local governments and understanding the needs of the region (cost barriers, hard to reach/disadvantaged communities, and pending regulatory legislation).
11. Demonstrate experience with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and City planning/zoning ordinances.

E. Proposer Experience and Staffing

The Respondent shall:

1. Provide the size of Respondent's staff, the location of the office from which the work on this engagement is to be performed, and the number of professional staff to be employed in this engagement.
2. Provide biographies of proposed project team staff to conduct the work, providing experience of each individual, including information on relevant continued education and professional organizations relevant to the performance of this engagement.
3. Provide a list of the most significant engagements (maximum of three) performed in the last five years that are similar to the engagement described in this RFP. Indicate the Scope of Work, date, engagement lead, total hours, and the name, email, and telephone number of the principal client contact. A demonstrated understanding of California special districts and Water Districts/Agencies and their associated opportunities and challenges is of interest.
4. Provide one (1) or two (2) samples of a previously completed Energy Resiliency Plan, preferable one cited as a requirement of Section II.E.3.

F. References

Provide three (3) references, including names and contact information, for which you have performed similar work.

G. Proposed Work Schedule

Please include a detailed schedule which lists milestones and estimated completion dates of each of the tasks and sub-tasks listed in Section III (Scope of Work).

H. Scope of Work

Please refer to Section III (Scope of Work) for detailed response requirements. The Proposer is encouraged to recommend enhancements or procedural or technical innovations to the Scope of Work that do not materially deviate from the objectives or required content of the project. The technical proposal should be prepared simply, providing a straightforward, concise description of the Respondent's capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this RFP.

While additional information may be presented, the following elements are required:

1. Provide a narrative, which addresses the Scope of Work, and shows an understanding of the needs and requirements of the Agency.
2. Describe the approach to completing the tasks specified in the Scope of Work. The work plan shall be of such detail to demonstrate the Proposer's ability to accomplish the project objectives.
3. Sequentially outline the activities that would be undertaken in completing the tasks and specify who would perform them.

4. Furnish a project schedule for completing the tasks in terms of elapsed weeks from the project commencement date.
5. Identify methods that Proposer will use to ensure quality control as well as budget and schedule control for the project.
6. Identify any special issues, problems or risks that are likely to be encountered in this project and how the Proposer would intend to address them.

I. Cost Proposal

The Cost Proposal shall contain all pricing information relative to performing the Energy Resiliency Plan services as described in the RFP including:

1. A schedule of estimated hours and associate rates for tasks identified in Section III (Scope of Work).
2. All direct and indirect costs, inclusive of out-of-pocket expenses, to provide an all-inclusive, not-to-exceed cost.

III. Scope of Work

Intent: As noted in the introduction, Desert Water Agency is soliciting firms to assist with the development and implementation of an Energy Resiliency Plan. The consultant's task is to provide energy resiliency recommendations with regards to specific projects or solutions that could be implemented. This will also include key performance metrics such as capital costs, payback, greenhouse gas reduction, operating costs savings, impact on Agency water/tax rates, impact on Agency staffing requirements, as well as potential funding pathways. This will help staff and decision makers identify the most cost-effective path forward towards their objectives.

Task List:

Task 1 – Literature Review and Explore Regional Hazards:

This task will identify regional instabilities resulting from power interruptions. This task will also include a literature review of existing efforts and plans, and other policies, programs and initiatives related to climate action planning and energy resilience at the local, regional, and state levels; review of existing data; and review of existing case studies and pilot projects related to microgrids, energy storage systems, and other energy resiliency projects.

| Task | Deliverable |
|------|---|
| 1 | Develop database and bibliography with items such as table of contents, identifying titles and source information for all items reviewed, and a high-level description of covered topics. |

Task 2 – Goals and Objectives:

The Consultant and Project Team will develop a set of goals and objectives to frame the vision for the Agency regarding energy resiliency and climate-related events resulting in power disruptions and will correlate with all short and long-term strategies proposed to build overall resiliency to power disruptions. The goals and objectives will be based on Agency Management needs and Board of Director's input, the literature review, and vulnerability assessment. The Consultant and Project Team will develop the goals and objectives during the project kickoff phase and will revisit this task throughout the Plan development following project milestones.

| Task | Deliverable |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 2 | Detailed List of Goals and Objectives |

Task 3 – Agency Board of Directors Committee Meetings:

The Agency's Ad-hoc Energy Resiliency Plan Committee will serve as the Steering Committee for the Energy Resiliency Plan project. The Project Team may lead presentations at up to five (5) meetings and synchronize each meeting to coincide with work products and processes in progress.

| Task | Deliverables |
|------|---|
| 3 | The Project Team may lead presentations at up to five (5) meetings and synchronize each meeting to coincide with work products and processes in progress. |

Task 4 – Vulnerability Assessment:

The Consultant will assess the subregion's vulnerability to climate change impacts and correlated impacts from PSPS or loss of power during climate-related events. The Vulnerability Assessment will include the following considerations:

- **Determine Regional Exposure:** Identify top climate change impacts to the subregion and the Agency.
- **Identify Regional Sensitivities and Assets:** Identify communities, people, operations, economies, and their assets which will be impacted by the exposure to climate-related events and/or resulting power shutoffs. This task will also include identifying critical energy loads at the identified assets by coordinating with the Agency, Southern California Edison, and other local municipalities and utilities (such as City of Palm Springs, City of Cathedral City, City of Desert Hot Springs, Mission Springs Water District, and Coachella Valley Water District). Such assets may include but not be limited to:

- Municipal facilities.
- Emergency Operations Center.
- Critical public infrastructure as identified by other local municipalities and utilities.
- Public Safety facilities such as fire stations, hospitals, and law enforcement facilities.
- **Potential Impacts:** The Consultant Team and Agency Staff will identify critical thresholds and assess the potential impacts of climate change-related events and resulting PSPS by developing general descriptive scenarios for each asset. Each description should include analyses such as the following for each identified point of sensitivity:

| Task | Deliverable |
|------|--|
| 4 | Vulnerability Assessment Report to include: list of top climate-change impacts to critical facilities and/or infrastructure; list of identified sensitive communities, structure, operations, and economies; list of critical infrastructure and potential impacts, database of energy data; list of existing resiliency efforts; Risk and Onset Report. |

Task 5 – Adaptation Strategy:

The Consultant Team, with input from Agency staff and Ad-Hoc committee, will develop an Adaption Strategy Report, which will include short- and long-term strategies to build energy resilience. This will include the following:

- **Prioritize Adaptive Needs:** The Consultant will identify which impacts/threats require action to ensure resiliency and prioritize needs according to severity and probability of impacts. This will include impacts from climate-related events and power interruptions. Prioritization of adaptation needs combines three pieces of information from vulnerability assessment: potential impact, adaptive capacity, and risk and onset. This process will also include consideration for resiliency infrastructure and other technologies or strategies that may already exist in any local jurisdiction or are planned by the local utilities.
- **Identify Strategies:** The Consultant team and Staff, with input from Ad-hoc Committee, will research and develop a list of strategies to address identified climate-related impacts, threats, and resulting power interruptions. The Consultant team will identify short- and long-term solutions for energy resilience in response to climate-related events and power interruptions with a focus on microgrids, local generation and energy storage, becoming carbon neutral, and limiting reliance on Southern California Edison for power production and distribution. This will include the following considerations and tasks:

- Identification of existing distributed energy resources (DER's) in the subregion, critical facilities with onsite generation, public and private local generation sites, etc.
- Feasibility of distributed microgrids for maintaining operation of subregional critical infrastructure.
 - Identify requirements for microgrid interconnectivity with grid at each critical load/facility, in each local municipalities and utilities.
- Feasibility of installing new distributed energy resources (DER's) or other infrastructure changes in the subregion and implementation of microgrids.
- Identify a coordinated operation of resiliency solutions to support necessary Agency activities within the greater community.
- Identify the critical loads at each Agency owned facility and the length of time needed to be powered by back-up energy generation or storage.
- Identify energy storage system/back-up generation requirements based on selected critical power loads (kW), energy requirements (kWh), and generation sources (DER's, centralized generation sites, local generation sites, etc.).
- Provide high overview concepts, drawings, or designs.
- Evaluate and Prioritize: The Consultant will evaluate needs and strategies and develop a list of priority projects. The Consultant will analyze the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to determine its applications to the resiliency projects and strategies, as well as determine the appropriate steps for compliance.
- Phase and Implement: The Consultant will identify a menu of options for implementation of and phasing of projects.
- Human Resources Impact on Agency: The Consultant will analyze the expected staffing impact on the Agency for each strategy.

Task 5.1 – Case Studies:

The Consultant Team will develop detailed case studies for the top options by Agency Staff and Ad-Hoc Committee. Each Case Study Report will expand on the Task 5 items, providing greater detail, including but not limited to analysis and simulations, annual electricity consumption and billing charges, electrical load heat map, component drawings, single line diagrams, aerial and ground view images with proposed options overlayed, potential property to be used/purchased, potential financial expenditures listed in task 6, relationship to task 2 and task 4, and results and recommendations.

| Task | Deliverable |
|------|---|
| 5 | Adaptation Strategy Report to include but not limited to: list of prioritized needs; list of short- and long-term strategies, feasibility analyses of microgrid and DER in subregion; identified coordinated operation of energy; list of prioritized projects by jurisdiction; Phasing and Implementation Report. -Conceptual design package. -Stability and system integration study for selected resiliency applications |
| 5.1 | Case Studies for each options, to be included in Appendix of ERP |

Task 6 – Develop Financing Plan for Projects:

The Consultant will develop a Financing/Business Plan for identifying proposed projects with economic modeling and a menu of financing sources to feasibly support project implementation. The Team will consider multiple sources, including grant funding (FEMA/CalOES, CEC, EPIC, SGIP, Federal ITC, etc.), and working with local jurisdictions to capitalize on government incentives, developer financing, and third-party financing, public support/investment, bond proceeds, or issuance of new bonds. This shall include, but not limited to:

- Rate analysis of local and distributed energy generation rates.
- Local, State, and Federal grants and incentives.
- Utility backed programs and deployment.
- Private funding
- Rate analysis on Agency water/tax rates.

| Task | Deliverable |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 6 | Financing Plan for Projects |

Task 7 – Develop Energy Resiliency Plan:

The Consultant team will develop the draft Energy Resiliency Plan, which will include deliverables developed during Task 2 through 6, such as community-driven goals and objectives; vulnerability assessments; and an adaptation strategy that will provide a list of short- and long-term projects to meet identified goals.

Task 7.1 – Present Draft Plan for Feedback

Project Staff and the Consultant Team will present the draft Energy Resiliency Plan to Ad-Hoc committee, and Agency Board of Directors to collect feedback. The Consultant Team shall incorporate feedback to inform and finalize the Plan.

| Task | Deliverable |
|------|---|
| 7 | Draft Plan and Presentations |
| 7.1 | Presentation slides; list of meeting(s) agenda and attendees; notes on feedback |

Task 8 – Prepare Final Energy Resiliency Plan:

The Consultant Team will develop the final Plan based on feedback received from the Draft presentation.

Task 8.1 – Present Final Energy Resiliency Plan Agency Board of Directors

Project Staff and the Consultant Team will present the final Energy Resiliency Plan to the Agency Board of Directors.

| Task | Deliverable |
|------|---|
| 8 | Final Energy Resiliency Plan |
| 8.1 | Presentation slides; list of meeting(s) agenda and attendees. |

IV. Proposal Submission Instructions

A. Submission Deadline

Proposals must be submitted on or before:

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm PST

B. Submission Method

Proposals must be submitted electronically to:

David Tate

Assistant General Manager

dtate@dwa.org

C. RFP Questions

Questions from RFP respondents are due by:

Date: Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Time: 4:00 pm PST

D. Amendments to Proposals

Proposals may be revised by written amendment or revised proposal, via electronic submission at any time before the Submission Deadline but not after. The amendment or revised proposal must indicate the change in the proposal price, if any.

E. Inquiries

All inquiries related to this RFP shall be directed in writing to the person(s) named below (Agency Representative).

Name: David Tate
Title: Assistant General Manager
Address: PO Box 1710
Palm Springs, CA 92263
Email: dtate@dwa.org

Information obtained from any person or source other than this Agency Representative(s) may not be relied upon. The Agency reserves the right to not respond to inquiries made after the due date for questions provided.

Contact with personnel of the Agency other than the above regarding this request for proposal may be grounds for elimination from the selection process.

F. Opening of Proposals

The Agency intends to open and evaluate Proposals internally. There will not be a public opening.

V. Evaluation & Selection

A. Evaluation Team

The Evaluation of Proposals will be undertaken on behalf of the Agency by the Evaluation Team. The Evaluation Team will consist of Agency staff. The Evaluation Team may consult with others including Agency staff members, third-party consultants, and references, as the Evaluation Team may, at its discretion, decide what is required. The Evaluation Team will select a Preferred Proposal utilizing the Evaluation Criteria outlined below.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The Agency's Evaluation Team will review and evaluate proposals based on the response to the RFP, including adherence to the outlined directions. A final score will be calculated for each submitted proposal which will be used to determine ranking.

The weighted criterion for evaluating the submitted proposals is as follows:

1 – Technical Approach:

Demonstrate knowledge of the scope of work and exhibit ability to identify and perform tasks and approaches that will efficiently meet the Agency’s needs regarding implementation and creation of an Energy Resiliency Plan.

- Tasks & approach are clearly described.
- Creative/innovative approach.
- Project intent has been met.

2 – Proposer Capabilities:

Qualifications of project staff, particularly key personnel, including Project Manager. Demonstrate competence with completing projects of similar scopes of work.

- Familiar with regional and local issues.
- Experience with similar projects of the same size and scope.
- Demonstrate competence in working with public and private entities.

3 – Proposer Experience and Staffing:

Overall, quality of logic of organization and staffing plan; appropriateness of labor distribution among the tasks; resources; and ability to meet project deadlines.

- Qualifications of key individuals.
- Time commitment of key individuals.
- Demonstrate experience in each discipline proposed.

4 – Project Costs:

Provided realistic costs for services to be performed with inclusion of fee itemization by Section III phases, tasks, and deliverables.

- Realistic cost for services to be performed.
- Inclusion of fee itemization by Scope of Work phases, tasks, and deliverables.

5 – Project Schedule:

Anticipated timeline to complete each task in the Scope of Work Section.

- Realistic time for services to be performed.
- Inclusion of time/schedule itemization by Scope of Work phases, tasks, and deliverables.

6 – References:

- Similar projects completed on time and within budget.

| Evaluation Criteria | Weight |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Technical Approach | 40% |
| Proposer Capabilities | 15% |
| Proposer Experience and Staffing | 15% |
| Fee | 20% |
| Schedule | 5% |
| References | 5% |

C. Additional Information

The Evaluation Team may, at its discretion, request clarification, additional information, or allow corrections of errors or omissions from a Proponent with respect to any Proposal.

At the discretion of the Agency, firms submitting proposals may be requested to make oral presentations as part of the evaluation process.

D. Negotiation & Contract Award

Once a preferred Proposal is identified, the Agency will notify the preferred service provider and enter into discussions to finalize the terms of the contract.

If, in the event that no proposal is selected, the Agency may elect not to engage with a service provider pending further analysis of alternatives to meet the expressed need, or to issue a new RFP to attempt to expand the pool of potential respondents.

E. Right to Accept or Reject Proposals

The Agency reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.