



# CHABOT- LAS POSITAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Facilities Planning & Management Department

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April 27, 2011

## **RFI RESPONSE No. 2** **RFQ NO.: G-11** **Photovoltaic Solar Project, Las Positas College**

All Prospective Participants:

This RFI response is issued to clarify, add, delete, correct and/or change the documents to the extent indicated and is hereby made a part of the above noted documents on which the contract will be based. Any modifications/changes made by this response affect only the portions or paragraphs specifically identified herein; all remaining portions of the qualification proposal to remain in force. It is the responsibility of all participants to conform to these responses.

RFI #1: Is there any Geotechnical Information about the site available at this time?

**Response:** We have geotechnical information that will be made available to the pre-qualified firms.

RFI #2: In the RFQ, it states that "The district is seeking statements of qualifications from firms to develop, design, engineer, procure, supply, construct, commission, connect and warranty a fully integrated and operational photovoltaic system(s) on the Las Positas College Campus." What exactly do you mean by develop? We are a Design-Build Commercial Solar Contractor, but are not a Development firm; would we still qualify to bid on this job?

**Response:** By "develop", we mean to organize and integrate the planning, design, construction, commissioning and warranty work rather than just the design and build portions of the project. You will qualify to bid on this job if you have performed those tasks to deliver a PV system.

RFI #3: The RFQ also states that the Proposer must have the minimum experience, one of these is installing at least 2 ground mount systems greater than 250 kw DC. We have installed over 6 MW of PV in the past five years, we have installed about 5 ground mount systems, but none of these systems were over 100 kw DC systems. Most of the systems we do are Carport-Mounted, grid-tied PV Systems and a few of these systems have been about 1 MW each. Would we still prequalify to bid on this project with the experience we do have?

**Response:** We are interested in firms that have experience with larger systems and experience with utility companies and interconnection agreements. We

would consider the ground mount systems if they were scalable to 250kw using the same components and were developed for commercial users.

RFI #4: On Page 13 of the Statement of Qualifications, Section 3.3 asks to “list all construction projects your organization has in progress and for each project listed....” Is the request intended to list all **PV** projects in progress?

**Response:** List all projects which will demonstrate that your firm was responsible for the planning, design, construction and start-up of PV systems.

RFI #5: I don't see any bonding or insurance requirements in this RFP. Where there any specifications provided for these sections?

**Response:** This is an RFQ which is a Request for Qualification. The purpose is to develop a short-list of qualified bidders to respond to the RFP. The Request for Proposal will contain bonding and insurance requirements.

RFI #6: Pg 4 of the RFQ, under “Contractors License Classification”, states the requirement for License B – General Building. However, will a C-10 and/or Class A license be accepted?

**Response:** Class C-10 and Class A licenses are acceptable.

RFI #7: 

1. Can you please identify the 6 acre location?
2. In parking lot P - are you going to move the mobile structure, or you want to include this in our bid.
3. Who built the carport Shades that are on site today?
4. Can you share basic schematic of the existing shades - as it make sense to stay consistent with it.
5. Please consider reducing your minimum required experience - Page 6 serve for the hands of large corporation with large overheads that you will end up paying for.

**Responses:** The details of the current PV system will be included in the RFP provided to the short-listed qualified firms. This RFQ is to identify qualified firms only. We intend to select between three (3) and six (6) firms with the appropriate level of experience.

RFI #8: Tab 4 requests a project schedule from the vendors. Does this schedule need to adhere to the proposed schedule on page 5, where the system is accepted by PG&E in January, 2012?

**Response:** Yes

Page 5 of the RFQ states the following: "The base proposal shall be a ground mounted system. Proposers shall prepare an alternate proposal for a structure mounted system to be located in the Parking Lot “P”. What information does the District want in the RFQ responses for these two options and where in our response should we include this information? Alternatively, is this information that will be requested by the selected vendors only in response to the RFP?

**Response:** Proposers should address any time impacts arising from a parking lot PV system in the project approach section and what the proposer could do to mitigate those impacts.

RFI #9: In the description of Tab 5: Proposed Typical System Components, on page 7, it requests the "quantity" of major components including PV modules, inverters, metering, DAS and monitoring system, etc. The typical components will be included, however, I am unsure of the requested system size, budget, grants, previously reserved rebates, etc., and don't have enough information to submit quantity of components. Is the quantity required with the RFQ or will this be reserved until RFP/shortlist?

**Response:** This will be addressed in the RFP/shortlist.

RFI #10: Regarding the Project Synopsis on p. 5: No requested system size has been identified. Is there a particular size you would like to see, or would you prefer it to be as large as will fit in the allotted six acres?

**Response:** The physical layout and system size will be part of the priced proposal submitted by the pre-qualified firms.

Regarding the alternate proposal for Parking Lot "P", is it possible to provide a site map identifying this parking lot? Additionally, would you like to see a schedule for this alternate proposal?

**Response:** As part of the project approach section, address any time impacts arising from an optional parking lot system.

RFI #11: In the "Proposal Requirements and Selection Criteria" section, tab #4 is calling out for a preliminary schedule. What size of a system would you like to see this schedule conformed to? How many modules? Should we figure on the array being 200' or closer to the meter?

**Response:** The projected system is 1 megawatt DC. The number of modules will be determined by the proposer, as well as final location. However, for the schedule 200' is a reasonable assumption.

Tab #5 is calling for typical system components with a proposed equipment list including manufacturers. If we list certain manufacturers in this prequalification packet, are we locked into these manufacturers if we do become prequalified and are able to bid?

**Response:** The District is interested in recommended equipment by the proposer based on prior projects. The proposer will not be locked into supplying that recommended equipment.

RFI #12:

1. What is the financial structure of the project? i.e. PPA, cash, lease?
2. What is the target system size for the ground mount system?
3. What is the target system size for the parking lot system?
4. Pg. 5 of the RFP states: "Proposers shall prepare an alternate proposal for a structure mounted system in Parking Lot "P"" – How should this be incorporated into the Statement of Qualifications? Should the proposer provide two statements of qualifications? Can the proposer just include 2 versions of tabs 4 and 5?
5. Pg. 7 of the RFP states (in Tab 5) that proposers should include "*quantity*" of major components. This would require a target system size and specific location. As of yet, none has been provided. Should the statement of qualifications include quantities of major components?
6. Are there any construction deadlines for this project, such as Commercial Operation Date (COD), substantial completion or others?
7. When the RFP refers to "structure mounted PV systems" does this refer to both shade canopy systems and roof mounted systems?

**Responses:** 1) The District will purchase the entire system. 2) The projected system is 1 megawatt DC. 3) The parking lot would be the same size. 4) This was addressed in previous response number RFI #8. 5) Quantities are not required for this RFQ (pre-qualifying firms). 6) See schedule in the RFQ. 7) Any parking lot structure.

RFI #13: Does the district have a map or aerial photo of the proposed location for the sites? In the RFP it says that they are considering both a ground mount or a mounted canopy parking structure. Could you please identify possible locations for each alternative as well as other pertinent information such as:

- the electrical room
- point of interconnect
- path of the 21kV line

**Response:** This information will be supplied to the pre-qualified firms.

All other terms and conditions of RFQ No. G-11 shall remain the same.

Regards,

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