

Pre-Bid Conference Notes

Project: County Service Areas 30 and 32 Water System Improvements

Contract No.: 20-10-C

Date of Meeting: September 14, 2020

Attendance at this meeting was not mandatory to bid.

Bid Opening: October 15, 2020

Oral explanations or interpretations of plans and specifications are not binding. Any explanation, interpretation or clarification of plans and specifications will be in the form of a written addendum to the plans and specifications issued to the planholders of record.

It is the Contractor's responsibility to ask any questions he/she might have regarding this project. No allowance will be made after the bids have been received for any errors or omissions due to any misconceptions made by the Contractor. Requests for Clarification may be submitted using the web-form on the [project website](#).

1. Introductions

Introduction of County Personnel

- Jennica Geddert, Staff Analyst, Design, Department of Public Works and Planning
- Sebastian Artal, Supervising Engineer, Design, Department of Public Works and Planning
- Jeffrey Martin, Analyst, Design, Department of Public Works and Planning
- Cheryl Ou, Staff Analyst, Special Districts, Department of Public Works and Planning
- Iliana Martinez, Engineering Technician, Design, Department of Public Works and Planning
- Erin Haagenson, Senior Staff Analyst, Design, Department of Public Works and Planning

Consultants in Attendance

- Doug Lawler, Provost & Pritchard Engineering

Contractors in attendance:

- Matt Grewal, Sales Rep, RainforRent
- Tina Fitzpatrick, Project Assistant, Dawson-Mauldin, LLC
- Tim Dovali, Steve Dovali Construction
- Raymond Hernandez, Estimator, Teichert Construction
- Diana Rodriguez , Jr Estimating Assistant, HPS Mechanical Inc
- Bruce Jackson, Estimator, Ardent General Inc.
- Leandro Bontogon, West Valley Construction

2. Bid Submission – Jennica Geddert, Staff Analyst

Submission of bids electronically is encouraged. While submitting paper bid bonds and paper bids are still possible, we encourage electronic bid submission. For those who have never submitted an electronic bid, there will be a presentation about using Bid Express at the end of this meeting.

Note: Due to the pandemic, we do not have our usual level of staffing and the public offices are closed. Email us your tracking numbers if you are planning to send paper documents so that we can make arrangements to receive them.

The software used by the County, Bid Express, is free to submit bids for County Public Works & Planning projects but contractors need to select “Pay as you go” to avoid paying subscription fees. In addition, the software allows for saving, submitting, and resubmitting your bids and only the bid that is submitted at the time of the bid opening will be viewed by County staff.

More resources are available on the County website both on the Planholders website:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/planholders>

and the specific project website:

<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-works-and-planning/contractor-bids-plan-holders-electronic-plans-bid-results/20-10-c-county-service-areas-30-and-32-water-system-improvements>

and via DesignServices@fresnocountyca.gov. We encourage bidders to set up their accounts and try the software out in advance. The offices are closed to the public, so communicate with us if you intend to submit a paper bid or bid bond so that we can make arrangements to receive them.

3. DBE Good Faith Effort.

Bidders are advised that their Good Faith Effort implementation, as described pursuant to the Guidelines for Meeting the California State Revolving Fund (CASRF) Programs Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Requirements (Proposal 17 of the Bid Book), will be evaluated to determine bidder responsiveness, regardless of whether fair share objectives have been met. Meeting or exceeding the objectives will not be considered evidence of adequate Good Faith Efforts. Emphasis is placed on the need for contractors to post solicitations for bids or proposals for a minimum of 30 calendar days before the bid opening date. Failure to comply with the Good Faith Efforts requirements will be considered non-responsive.

There is an error in the Proposal number stated in the Notice to Bidder. It is Proposal number 14 instead of 17 as mentioned in the Notice to Bidder. A new Addendum will be issued correcting the error.

Note: If you are going to bid on this project, in order to meet the 30 day requirement, you will need to begin advertising right away. Save the proof of your advertising. Note that these requirements are different from the Caltrans requirement and the Good Faith Efforts will be examined closely, even more closely than meeting the goal.

4. American Iron and Steel Provisions

This project is subject to American Iron and Steel provisions as stated in specifications section 6-1.04. Note the EPA memorandum in the Project Inserts in the Project Details provide some clarity on the American Iron and Steel provisions. These requirements are different from Buy American.

5. Addendum #1

Addendum #1 was issued last Friday, September 14 replacing all plan sheets. There are NO changes in design to the revised set. The revised set addresses sheet labeling errors only. All the revisions are clouded with a Δ symbol and number "1" in it. Such reference can be found on the lower left corner of every sheet dated 9/10/2020.

6. Discussion of Project – Sebastian Artal, Supervising Engineer

The project involves replacements in County Service Area 30 El Porvenir or Three Rocks and County Service Area 32 Cantua Creek. The main intent of the project is to replace all water pipelines, including fire hydrants, valves, etc.

Note: Both systems are providing water during construction. You will need to continue providing water at all times, including during any transitions or switchovers.

The project is funded through the Division of Financial Assistance with the State Water Board and the Department of Water Resources.

Note: Use the bid item as described in the specification and the proposal sheet.

The additive item to the bidding includes private access to beyond the meter.

Note: The County will get temporary access agreements from each property owner.

The system is active so close coordination with us is especially important. This includes a school, which requires access to water 24/7.

7. Questions

Questions and responses will be posted to the project website under Supplemental Information.

8. Electronic Bidding via Bid Express – Jennica Geddert

Setting up your account on Bid Express should be free to bid on County of Fresno Public Works and Planning projects if you choose “I will pay as I go for now.” You will be locked out of your account initially unless you activate your account from the activation email. Digital IDs are not required for this project. Electronic Signatures are already set up on your account and that is sufficient for this project.

We recommend setting up your firm’s account with more than one employee. The invitation for other employees is under My Account.

Adding yourself to a Bid Express Plan Holder List will get you emails from Bid Express. Any change on Bid Express will be called “an Addendum” by Bid Express. Our official addenda are numbered and will be posted on the website as Addenda and emailed from us to plan holders.

Electronic bids can have paper or electronic bid bonds. Setting up an account with one of the two surety agencies that work with Bid Express can take a few days. The Business ID for setting up an account with them is under My Profile.

If you opt to send in a hardcopy bid bond (in advance please!), again, please use the hardcopy protocols such as emailing your tracking numbers to us, etc. and also write “bid bond” on the envelope.

You can submit and resubmit your bid, which we cannot see until the deadline. We recommend bidders try out the software by actually submitting a bid to familiarize yourself with the entire process. You can replace that test bid or withdraw it before the deadline.