



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1524, **Agenda Item #:** 11.

3/26/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of a professional services agreement with the following five staff recommended firms (or other qualified responders) for Request for Qualifications Solicitation No. CLMP277: Half Associates, Inc., Austin Modeling and Mapping Partners, HDR Engineering, Inc., AECOM Technical Services, Inc., and Scheibe Consulting, LLC., for floodplain mapping and modeling services for the 2020 Stormwater Mapping and Modeling Rotation List in an amount not to exceed \$14,000,000.

[Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals with 15.80% MBE and 15.80% WBE participation.].

Lead Department

Capital Contracting Office

Managing Department

Watershed Protection Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$6,800,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Purchasing Language:

Staff recommendation is selection of the five most qualified firms out of 12 firms evaluated through the City's qualification-based selection process.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov <<mailto:AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov>>.

NOTE: Respondents to this solicitation, and their representatives, shall direct inquiries to Rolando Fernandez, 512-974-7749, Beverly Mendez, 512-974-3596, or the Project Manager, Karl McArthur, 512-974-9126.

Additional Backup Information:

As a standard business practice, the City routinely engages the services of professional engineering firms to perform analysis, design and support services associated with construction or improvement of City capital assets. Rotation List contracting allows the City to always have a group of qualified consultants available to perform a specific type of recurring work in a timely manner to meet the project and operational needs of the City.

Prior to issuance, this solicitation was reviewed by the City's Rotation List Advisory Committee, which is made up of staff from the Capital Contracting Office, Small and Minority Business Resource Department, Public

Works Department, and the Watershed Development Department. The total authorization amount, the number of firms to be recommended for selection, and the authorization amount per firm were discussed and reviewed by the Committee. The Capital Contracting Office expects that user departments will require these services to meet current and future engineering needs.

The publication of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlas 14, Volume 11 in September 2018 has significantly changed the understanding of flood risk in the Austin area. The City of Austin's 1% annual chance, 24-hour rainfall has increased from 10.2 inches to almost 13 inches in some areas. In response to this revised understanding of rainfall the City, in cooperation with Travis County and in coordination with other communities, has initiated three related processes to incorporate this new data into our floodplain regulations. In support of the updates for the City's floodplain regulations and drainage criteria associated with Atlas 14, this rotation list will be used to perform a citywide update of the regulatory floodplain models and maps.

The engineering services needs for the Watershed Protection Department's (WPD) Floodplain Modeling and Mapping mission are highly specialized. The selected firms have the personnel, technical knowledge and experience to provide the surveying, modeling, floodplain mapping, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) coordination required for the update of the City's floodplains. Additionally, the top scoring consultant will be awarded additional scope assignments related to independent quality assurance/quality control and work related to management of the projects through the FEMA-funded study process resulting in an additional \$2,000,000 in authorization. The services provided through this rotation list, include, but are not limited to:

- Develop new or update existing geo-referenced hydrologic models, Hydrologic Engineering Center-Hydrologic Modeling System (HEC-HMS)
- Develop new or update existing geo-referenced hydraulic models, Hydrologic Engineering Center-River Analysis System (HEC-RAS)
- Update existing hydrologic and hydraulic models to the most recent versions of HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS
- Incorporate new Light Detection and Ranging and survey topographic data where appropriate
- Incorporate floodplain modeling and mapping information and survey data from other recent City projects
- Map the 100-yr and 500-yr floodplains for existing land-use conditions and the 25-yr and 100-yr floodplains for fully developed land-use conditions
- Provide independent technical reviews for floodplain modeling and mapping studies
- Provide technical assistance for review or development of two-dimensional hydraulic models (HEC-RAS 2D and InfoWorks ICM-integrated catchment modeling)
- Prepare and submit floodplain mapping data to FEMA for incorporation into new Flood Insurance Rate Maps and respond to FEMA and City review comments until both FEMA and the City accept the study results
- Prepare and submit various FEMA flood risk datasets and products

The work performed under this rotation list will provide updated modeling and mapping that will accurately reflect our new understanding of flood risk based on the Atlas 14 data. It will also provide flood risk information for many streams that have not previously been mapped. Approval of rotation list selections will provide WPD with the resources needed to perform this updated modeling and mapping. If the rotation list is not approved, WPD will not have the resources needed to update the City's floodplains in a timely fashion and could place the burden of floodplain updates on the development community.

This request allows for the development of a professional services agreement with each of the five

recommended firms until financial authorization is expended. Initial project assignments will be based on the firm's final ranking as determined during the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) evaluation (highest to lowest), the maximum cumulative contracted amount in comparison to the estimated task budget for that firm, and the firm's qualifications and availability of expertise at time of project need. Per firm authorizations may be increased or decreased, through the life of the contract, based on the needs of an assignment and will follow the established rotation list policies and procedures. If the City is unsuccessful in negotiating a satisfactory agreement with a recommended firm(s), if a selected firm ceases practice during the contract period, or if the City elects to terminate its agreement with one of the selected firms, the remaining assignments will be assigned to the remaining firm(s) for the duration of the contract period.

The Watershed Protection Department also anticipates the potential for federal grant funding through the FEMA Cooperating Technical Partner program for a portion of the project cost. If the City receives a grant award, the federal funds would be available beginning in October of 2020.

RECOMMENDED FIRMS:

Half Associates, Inc. is located in Austin, TX
Austin Modeling and Mapping Partners is located in Austin, TX
HDR Engineering, Inc. is located in Austin, TX
AECOM Technical Services, Inc. is located in Austin, TX
Scheibe Consulting, LLC is located in Bee Cave, TX

Safety; Health and Environment.