



## QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES – PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL QUESTIONS

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### Engineering Design Services, Environmental Studies and Construction Support

San Joaquin Valley I-5 Electric Freight Corridor (Valley EFC) Project Near Taft, CA  
RFP Number VEFC-TAF

Federal Award No. 693JJ32440836 under Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)  
(Pub. L. 117-58, § 11401 November 15, 2021) codified at 23 U.S.C. 151 CTIPS ID: 204-0000-1025

The following represents the answers to questions received by prospective bidders submitted after the Question/Answer period. WattEV understands the questions received after the Question/Answer period relate to preparing the actual bid documents and were not related to the substance of the scope of work. WattEV appreciates being able to provide clarity on the issue of bid production only, as the substance of the scope of work has been adequately addressed in the Question/Answer document published March 6, 2025. This document includes all questions received after the March 6, 2025 question and answer period through 5 pm March 19, 2025.

All bidders should acknowledge in the proposal that they reviewed all addendums and questions and answers provided.

Question/ Answer No.	Question/Response
1	<i>Fire protection is not specified in the proposal, but you mentioned in the Q&amp;A that it is required. However, the cost summary sheet does not include a section for fire protection. Could you please advise on how we should enter this data.</i>
Answer	Attachment E, Price Forms for Submittal included a “Cost Summary” form. Task 9 is included on the form as Optional Services. As identified in Task 9, Consultant should provide line items in the cost proposal for the Optional Services for services that the Consultant believes would add value to the project. As Fire Protection was not specifically called out in the RFP, prospective Consultants should either place a line item for Fire Protection in the Task 9 line item, or include it in one of the other tasks where the cost for Fire Protection is specially called out.
2	<i>Form 10H does not allow us to enter rows for different roles, so we decided to list the rates for only four roles without specifying names. Is this acceptable?</i>
Answer	Section 4.2 identifies that the consultant shall complete the Price Forms in Attachment E in their entirety, with supplemental sheets containing more detailed costs. Consultants are free to modify the forms as long as they are in substantial conformance with the forms as provided in Attachment E. Attached to this Question and Answer is a sample Excel workbook. It is only a sample to assist bidders and should not be construed as the final submittal, nor should any formulas in this sample be construed as correct. All work should be independent of what is provided in this example. It should be noted that all billing by the successful bidder must be in alignment with the final forms submitted.
3	<i>In the Cost Proposal 10-H sample spreadsheet, the total in "Sum" tab and the "Hours" tab do not match. For the life of me, I can't find the error/discrepancy.</i>
Answer	A new spreadsheet is attached to this QA where the escalation formula was corrected. When opening the Excel sheet, select “Do Not Update Links” if prompted. As stated in Question 2, this spreadsheet is only an example and consultants are responsible for all calculations. Any modified spreadsheet must contain the same elements as form 10-H.

4	<i>Are we required to use this sample 10H form (excel spreadsheet) for the cost proposal? We have a similar version (excel spreadsheet) we use for other projects that we've already started to use for the Gustine and Taft projects.</i>
Answer	The published guidance is that you can use similar. As long as it contains all the same elements, which help the FHWA audit the contract. They will look at the base rates, the indirect, fringe, etc and the fixed fee, profit which is 10 percent. If you have bid Caltrans and FHWA contracts before, you will understand. So just make sure you have it as close to the 10H form elements as possible but similar is fine.
5	<i>Could you please clarify if the paper copy and electronic drive submittal just needs to be post marked by 3/19?</i>
Answer	Per Addendum 4, the Proposal Due Date is March 24, 2025. The Proposals must be postmarked by March 24, 2025 as long as the electronic version was uploaded by 4 pm on March 24, 2025. However, it is strongly recommended that the paper copy and USB drive also be received in our office by Monday March 24, 2025.
6	<i>The RFP (section 4.1) states that a 5% markup is allowed for subconsultants. Where does this 5% markup get added in the 10H form or in the cost proposal?</i>
Answer	Based on some recent guidance, Addendum 5 will be issued that removes the 5% markup for subconsultants. However, adding hours to manage the subconsultant is an allowed expense.
7	<i>The provided Cost Summary Schedule of Values has Task 9 (optional services) fee greyed out. This summary indicates the Bid Total shall match the 10H form, however, this summary also has the optional services greyed out. Please confirm that any optional service fees are to be on a separate cost summary sheet and are not to be included on the 10H form.</i>
Answer	Optional service fees are to be on a separate cost summary sheet and are not to be included on the 10H form. The successful Consultant may be asked to revise the 10-H form, or the equivalent, to include the optional tasks, if FHWA asks for this information.
8	<i>For the Debarment and Suspension form, there is a section designated for an attorney's signature. Could you confirm whether this section must be signed for submission, or if it can be left blank? If required, does it specifically need to be signed by an attorney, or would notarization be an acceptable alternative?</i>
Answer	The Debarment and Suspension form does not need to be signed by the firm's attorney and can be left blank. However, the form should be signed by a company principal or project manager where indicated.
9	<i>Regarding the conflict of interest form, are subconsultants expected to list all other subconsultants on this contract in the form? Or was this space underneath section 23 CFR 172.7 (b)(4) intended only for the prime?</i>
Answer	The Prime should identify the subconsultants. The subconsultants do not need to fill out this section.
10	<i>Could you please confirm what you would like us to enter for Question 1 (Local Agency) on Form 5 DBE?</i>
Answer	The Local Agency is San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. The Contract DBE Goal is 0%
11	<i>I am reviewing the conflict of interest disclosure requirements and wanted to clarify one of the statements: "I certify that I have no contractual relationship with any of the firms (including the subconsultants) that are the subject of this evaluation." I am currently working with one of the listed firms on a separate, unrelated project. Does this existing contractual relationship require me to check this box, or not?"</i>
Answer	No. Unrelated projects do not qualify as a conflict of interest.

Parties interested in obtaining a full copy of this solicitation may do so by downloading the RFP and attachments from <https://www.wattev.com/rfp/rfp-taft>