

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 10

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST and QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC, PLANNING, AND PROGRAMMATIC CONSULTING SERVICES FOR GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA 10

March 3, 2023

RFQ #03-23

The Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD), acting administratively on behalf of the Groundwater Management Area 10 (GMA-10) Joint Planning Committee, requests statements of interest and qualifications from qualified consulting firms to perform scientific and programmatic consulting services for GMA-10. The selected applicant will be associated with, or have available for consultation, a Texas licensed Registered Professional Engineer (PE), a Registered Professional Geoscientist (PG), or other certified professionals familiar with the aquifers and underground water bearing formations within GMA 10. The selected applicant will be awarded a contract for the remainder of the fourth DFC planning cycle and anytime after that the cycle ends if a DFC is challenged.

SCOPE OF CONSULTING SERVICES

The selected applicant will provide professional consulting services to GMA 10 regarding consideration of the desired future conditions (DFC) and the modeled available groundwater (MAG) of the aquifers within GMA 10 and whether modifications to existing DFC(s) may be appropriate. The selected applicant will also prepare a report on the required elements within §36.108 of the Texas Water Code (TWC). Once an individual firm is selected, that firm will be asked at the appropriate time to breakout costs for the various components or tasks of the joint planning process. Specifically, the selected applicant will perform the following tasks:

1. Develop work schedule for fourth round of joint DFC planning (2022 - 2027) to be completed from execution of contract, attend and participate in, as necessary, GMA 10 meetings, and support preparation of draft meeting agendas and draft meeting minutes;
2. Compile best available science and develop technical presentations for GMA 10 District Representatives and Participants regarding groundwater resources for all relevant aquifers in GMA 10;
3. Compile, analyze, and present to the GMA 10 District Representatives and Participants all relevant information from the 2022 Texas State Water Plan;
4. Review and evaluate any proposals for new or amended DFCs under the administrative procedures of GMA 10;
5. Prepare technical and supporting information for GMA 10's evaluation of DFC proposals under the statutory criteria in Section 36.108, Texas Water Code, for any DFC proposals that are formally selected for such evaluation by the GMA 10 District Representatives under the administrative procedures adopted by GMA 10;
6. Perform requested groundwater availability modeling simulations using the current TWDB adopted/approved model and present results to GMA 10 District Representatives

- and Participants;
7. Review alternative/complementary groundwater model output developed for a specific GCD for consideration and potential incorporation into revised DFCs and Explanatory Reports.
 8. If additional aquifers are determined to be relevant for the purposes of joint planning by GMA 10 District Representatives, perform necessary analyses using the current TWDB adopted/approved models and present results regarding groundwater availability and potential DFCs;
 9. Provide advice or technical assistance to GMA 10 District Representatives regarding actions taken by the Texas Water Development Board or any other relevant governmental body; and
 10. Provide advice and technical assistance to GMA 10 District Representatives regarding any challenges to the DFCs adopted and choose not to represent entities that may or are challenging GMA 10 DFCs.

EXPERIENCE AND APPROACH

The statement of interest should outline how GMA 10 may accomplish the statutory requirements of Chapter 36 of the TWC. In addition to this statement of interest, the submittal should include: an applicant resume; a general description of experience; a summary of background and experience regarding similar projects; an assessment of qualifications; a list of persons that may assist on the project; and a statement certifying that the applicant is not aware of any existing conflicts of interest with the six voting members of GMA 10 (Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District, Medina County Groundwater Conservation District, Plum Creek Conservation District, Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District and Nonvoting Member, Edwards Aquifer Authority) and their Board(s) of Directors. The statement of interest should provide information demonstrating that the applicant has available engineers, geoscientists or technical staff licensed to practice in the State of Texas.

The GMA 10 strongly encourages minority-owned and women-owned businesses to submit a statement of interest and qualifications. The GMA 10 also encourages applicants, in those instances when joint venturing and/or subcontracting is appropriate, to form joint ventures and/or provide subcontract opportunities to minority and women owned firms.

Interested parties are to submit their statement of interest and qualifications two ways: via email, and secondly with one (1) original (hard-copy) in a sealed envelope via the U.S. Postal Service no later than 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2023, to Dr. Tim Loftus, GMA 10 Coordinator, at the following address:

BSEACD
Attn: Tim Loftus
1124 Regal Row
Austin, TX 78748
(512) 282-8441
tloftus@bseacd.org

Upon receipt by the BSEACD, each envelope will be stamped with the date and time received and stored unopened in a secure place until the statement opening. All statements become the

property of the BSEACD, which will hold the contents of all statements confidential until presented to GMA 10 for review.

Statements received after 5:00 p.m., May 1, 2023 will be declared late and not eligible for opening and consideration. The BSEACD is not responsible for mail, courier or other delivery methods, in-transit time or non-delivery. Late deliveries will be held unopened. Potential applicants will be advised by mail that the statement was late and not accepted and will be allowed to pick up the late statement package or furnish a “call tag” and have the package picked up by a courier.

Applicants are asked to be present for a short presentation and interview by the GMA 10 planning members at the GMA 10 Meeting scheduled for May 10, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. The venue and presentation time(s) will be communicated to applicants who respond to the RFQ.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this solicitation to Tim Loftus as indicated above.