



# **Request for Qualifications**

**For**

**Engineering Services**

**Water Availability Model**

**Issue Date: December 15, 2017**

**Response Deadline: January 29, 2018, 3:00 p.m.**

## General

In accordance with the applicable provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Riverbend Water Resources District (“Riverbend”) is requesting qualifications to contract with a qualified engineer or engineering firm with considerable experience to provide engineering services to a local governmental entity.

Riverbend is located in Bowie, Cass, and Red River Counties and is chartered by the Texas Legislature (2009) as a conservation and reclamation district created under and essential to accomplish the purposes of Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, as set forth in Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, Subtitle L, Municipal Water Districts, Chapter 9601, with statutory powers including the authority to acquire any and all storage rights and storage capacity in a reservoir or other water source inside or outside the boundaries of the district, and to acquire the right to take water from that reservoir or source, subject to the rights or permits held by municipalities or other persons. A primary goal of Riverbend is to provide a sustainable water supply for water user groups within the region.

## Scope

Riverbend is seeking to enter into an engineering services contract with a Professional Engineer or Engineering firm for the development of an updated water availability model (“WAM”) for the Sulphur River Basin in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Texas Water Code and all applicable Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) rules and regulations. The TCEQ previously completed a WAM for the Sulphur River Basin. It is the intent of this effort to update that WAM. The updated WAM is to include additional data which has become available since the completion of the original TCEQ WAM. The new data will include, but is not limited to, additional stream gage/stream flow data and information; an analysis update regarding the drought of record; changes to or additional water rights; additional reservoir storage data and changes in reservoir storage capacities; and applicable environmental flows, if any. The WAM should be a complete update with the capability of being utilized for the evaluation of applications for the request of amending or permitting for water rights. The updated WAM should have its foundation in the current existing TCEQ WAM for the Sulphur River Basin.

This effort will include updating both the existing Run 3 and Run 8 versions of the Sulphur River Basin WAM to include all current water rights, extending the naturalized flow data base through at least 2016 and through 2017 provided the required data are available, and expanding existing WAM data files for reservoir evaporation and other parameters, as necessary. Naturalized flow workbooks from the original development of the Sulphur River Basin WAM will be provided. Data fill-in procedures for missing streamflow and other records shall be fully documented with appropriate comparisons with previous methods used in the development of the WAM. Tables and graphics shall be produced, as appropriate, to display all extended data along with corresponding previous data. The updated Run 3 WAM will be operated with the extended data base and statistics for simulated regulated and unappropriated flows at all primary control points and for simulated reservoir storage and diversion reliabilities for all water rights shall be presented. A complete description of all procedures and methods used in developing the extended WAM data base and developing the updated WAM shall be documented in a report, similar in structure and content to the original report that was produced when the existing Sulphur River Basin WAM was developed.

Maps, tables, and graphs shall be incorporated into the report to display extended data and updated WAM results.

All procedures and methods used in developing the extended WAM data base and developing the updated WAM shall be in accordance with TCEQ standards and guidance. Meetings will be held with Riverbend and TCEQ staff to review these procedures and methods and to coordinate the overall development of the updated WAM.

## Contract

It is the intent of Riverbend to enter into an engineering services contract with the selected provider including a task-by-task scope for the work to be performed under this request.

## Minimum Submission Requirements

The following minimum requirements must be demonstrated in order for the submission to be **considered responsive** to Riverbend. Any response received, which is determined to not meet these mandatory requirements shall be immediately disqualified and rejected as non-responsive.

The Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) shall be provided as one (1) original and five (5) hard copies along with one (1) PDF copy on a flash drive. The SOQ shall be no more than twelve (12) 8-1/2" x 11" pages (Times Roman, 12 font, single-spaced) with 1" margins, excluding an appendix that includes one-page resumes of no more than three team members that would be assigned to the project.

Section 1 of the SOQ shall be no more than 4 pages and shall include the following:

- Information on the firm including office location and a general breakdown of staff (PE's, graduate engineers, techs, etc.) in the office that the work will be performed in.
- Qualifications of the firm and proposed team members.

Section 2 of the SOQ shall be no more than 8 pages and shall include the following:

- A description of your understanding of a typical water availability model under Texas water law and TCEQ rules and regulations;
- A discussion of water supply and availability in Texas and more specifically in the Sulphur River Basin with particular attention to Wright Patman Lake;
- A list of tasks to be performed under this request to complete the WAM;
- A proposed schedule and the ability to meet this schedule;
- A list and description of similar projects involving developing, modifying, and updating WAMs that the proposed team members have completed; and
- Other information the responder deems pertinent.

The SOQ shall be sent by mail or hand delivery no later than **Monday, January 29, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.** SOQs received after the above date and time will be considered non-responsive and will be returned unopened. All SOQs shall be placed in an opaque envelope identified with the following information visible on the envelope:

**Water Availability Model Engineering Services on the Sulphur River Basin for Riverbend Water Resources District**

**Firm Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Due Date:** Monday, January 29, 2018

**Time Due:** 3:00 p.m.

The SOQ shall be delivered to the following address:

**Riverbend Water Resources District  
Attn: Liz Fazio  
228 Texas Avenue, Suite A  
New Boston, TX 75570**

### **Deadlines and Approximate Timeline**

<b>Publication of Notice - Begin</b>	December 15, 2017
<b>Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting</b>	N/A
<b>Deadline for Submitting Bids/Opening of Bids</b>	January 29, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Riverbend Main Office 228 Texas Avenue, Suite A New Boston, TX 75570
<b>Contract Negotiations - Begin</b>	February 5, 2018
<b>Board of Directors Selects Firm to Begin Contract Negotiations</b>	February 28, 2018
<b>Notice to Proceed</b>	March 1, 2018

### **Selection Process and Evaluation Factors**

Riverbend may select an individual, firm, or a team that it determines to be the most qualified to perform the work as defined in the scope of work. If a team of firms is proposed for the project, the team must be structured in a manner where one firm is the prime (contracting party) and the other(s) will be a sub-contractor to the prime. **Please be advised that an individual, firm, or team determined to be the most qualified to perform the work may be required to submit information pursuant to Chapter 2252 of the Texas Government Code and in compliance with HB 1295 as passed by the 84th Regular Legislative Session.**

All proposals received will be evaluated by a committee. The committee will rank all proposals. Riverbend reserves the right to conduct interviews with the top ranked firms if deemed appropriate to further aid in the selection of the best qualified firm.

The SOQ's will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the Response 15%
- Team Organization
  - Project Leadership Team (PM, PIC, Technical Experts) 25%
  - Technical Support Staff 15%
- Project Experience 15%
- Project Approach\* and Projection Implementation Timeline 30%

**\*All Project approaches must include a proposed timeline for completion.**

After evaluation by the selection committee, a recommendation will be made to the Riverbend Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval by the board of directors, negotiations will commence with the selected firm. If a satisfactory contract cannot be negotiated with that firm, Riverbend shall formally end negotiations with that firm and consider the next most favored provider and attempt to negotiate with that firm. Riverbend reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any and/or all technicalities and informalities received in response to this RFQ.

**Lobbying of selection committee members, RWRD Board Members and staff will not be permitted nor tolerated during the RFP solicitation period.**

If Riverbend decides to interview selected firms, the interview will consist of a 15 to 20 minute presentation, followed by a 15 to 20 minute question-and-answer session with an interview panel. The presentation your consultant team will make may be of a content/format of your choosing, but it should illustrate your overall work approach, experience, scope highlights, and personnel to be applied to the project. Up to three members of your consultant team may be present at the interview which shall include the proposed project manager.

## **Reservation of Rights and Contact Person**

Riverbend reserves the right to:

- Reject any and all qualifications received.
- Issue a subsequent RFQ.
- Amend the RFQ or cancel the entire RFQ.
- Remedy technical errors in the RFQ process.
- Negotiate with any, all or none of the Respondents to the RFQ.
- Waive informalities and irregularities.

This RFQ does not commit Riverbend to enter into a Contract, nor does it obligate it to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals or in anticipation of a contract.

All questions should be directed to Liz Fazio Hale in writing at [lizfazio@rwrdd.org](mailto:lizfazio@rwrdd.org).