

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PREQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR ANNUAL PREQUALIFICATION

Notice is hereby given that Public Contract Code section 20111.6 requires ALL general contractors, and mechanical, engineering, and plumbing first-tier subcontractors holding C-4, C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-34, C-36, C-38, C-42, C-43, and/or C-46 licenses (collectively "Contractors") to be prequalified with a public entity if a public works project (1) uses the lease-leaseback project delivery method or (2) involves a projected expenditure of \$1 million or more and is funded completely or in part with State facility bond funds.

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District ("District") has contracted with Colbi Technologies, Inc. to provide a web-based process for prequalification called QualityBidders. Accordingly, it is mandatory that all Contractors who intend to submit bids for the aforementioned District projects fully complete the online prequalification questionnaire, provide all materials requested therein, and be placed by the District on the approved bidders list. No bid will be accepted from a Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements. If two or more business entities submit a bid on a project as a joint venture or expect to submit a bid as part of a joint venture, each entity within the joint venture must be separately prequalified to bid.

Electronic prequalification applications are accepted throughout the calendar year. **Contractors are encouraged to complete the prequalification application process as soon as possible**, however, so that they may be notified of prequalification status well in advance of upcoming projects. The prequalification application can be accessed at www.qualitybidders.com. Contractors who complete the electronic prequalification application process will be notified by email of their qualification status.

The prequalification application process includes answering the questions contained in the questionnaire including, but not limited to, general requirements (business structure, business information), company history and performance, recent construction projects and the most recent reviewed or audited financial statements, with accompanying notes and supplemental information. The District reserves the right to check other sources available. The District's decision will be based on objective evaluation criteria.

Prequalification approval will remain valid for **one (1) calendar year from the date of initial prequalification**.

While the prequalification questionnaire and documents required therewith may provide information concerning bidder responsibility, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the District from a post-bid consideration and determination on a specific project of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

The prequalification packages (questionnaire answers and financial statements) submitted by Contractors are not public records and are not open to public inspection. All information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law, although the contents may be disclosed to third parties for the purpose of verification, investigation of substantial allegations, and in the process of an appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure.

The electronic prequalification application shall be submitted under penalty of perjury by an individual who has the legal authority to bind the Contractor on whose behalf that person is completing the application. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the District and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The District reserves the right to waive irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted, to make all final determinations, and to determine at any time that the prequalification procedures will not be applied to a future public works project.

A Contractor who has completed the application process and receives a rating of “not qualified” from the District may appeal that determination by giving written notice to the District no later than five (5) business days after receipt of notice of its prequalification status. There is no appeal from a finding that a Contractor is not prequalified because of a failure to submit required information, but re-application is permitted. Unless a Contractor submits a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the qualification decision of the District, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding.

The date for submission and opening of bids for a specific project will not be delayed or postponed to allow for completion of an appeal process.

Note: A Contractor may be found not prequalified for either:

- (1) Omission of requested information, or
- (2) Falsification of information.

The Santa Maria Joint Union High School District website may be accessed at www.smjuhsd.org.

Advertisement date Wednesday, November 8, 2023.

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