

Tuolumne-Stanislaus

Integrated Regional Water Management Authority

Request for Qualifications

The Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (TSIRWMA) is requesting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified Consultants for the following services:

1. Coordination of a regional survey of disadvantaged community water and wastewater needs.
2. Development of a needs report utilizing survey results.
3. Project development and grant writing for water and wastewater projects.

The TSIRMA expects the responding Consultants will demonstrate their ability to coordinate projects, create professional reports, and develop projects that are ready for funding requests in coordination with diverse stakeholders and partners.

TSIRWMA

The T-Stan Integrated Regional Water Authority oversees the TS-IRWM Plan. The Plan is the first regional watershed management plan of its kind in the Tuolumne-Stanislaus Region and is intended to provide a framework to improve collective understanding and take high priority actions to collaboratively address the many major water-related challenges/needs and conflicts within the Region through the planning horizon.

These issues include water quality, local water supply reliability, better integration of water and land use management, resource stewardship and ecosystem protection. The array of goals, objectives, selected resource management strategies, and prioritized projects in this Plan represent a collective view of how to improve integrated water management throughout the Region.

The Region's boundaries encompass approximately 2,700 square miles, spanning the western slope of the Sierra Nevada, rising from the lower Sierra foothills to the crest of the Sierra Nevada and includes the Upper Tuolumne River, Upper Stanislaus River, and Upper Rock Creek-French Camp Slough watersheds. The Region includes all of Tuolumne County, the southern portion of Calaveras County, and southwestern Alpine County.

UMRWA

The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority oversees the Mokelumne-Amador-Calavera (MAC) IRWM Plan. The MAC Region Plan, like the T-Stan Plan provides the framework for collective regional prioritization of water resource related needs in the 600 sq-mile MAC Region. UMRWA has been the contracting agency and fiscal agent with DWR for many IRWM Program

grants serving the MAC Region. UMRWA also implements grant funded forest health projects in the region.

Project

The TStan and MAC IRWM Regions are working together to create and distribute a water and wastewater needs survey in partnership with the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA.) The survey will take place in Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The regions will then utilize the survey results to develop projects and grant applications specifically for projects that benefit DAC community members.

ATCAA currently provides assistance to DAC community members through income verified program such as Food Banks, housing assistance, energy and water conservation programs. The regions are partnering with ATCAA to develop a survey that specifically addresses water and wastewater related needs and is completed by DAC community members. ATCAA's help with distribution of the survey will ensure the survey reflects DAC needs. The project will result in a survey and report of needs that reflects the needs of DAC community members in the Tuolumne-Stanislaus and Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras.

The consultant's role will include project management, technical review and oversight, survey preparation, analysis and reporting of survey results, and grant writing assistance for follow-on projects identified by the survey.

TSIRWMA will be the fiscal agent for the project and manage the consultant contract. The project will be jointly overseen by TSIRWMA and UMRWA consistent with a Memorandum of Understanding (attached) between these agencies for this effort.

The Sierra Institute recently completed a DAC needs survey that includes the TSTAN and MAC regions. This project is expected to provide greater depth and detail by directly contacting DAC community members, applying a more detailed survey, and developing a list of potential projects to address DAC needs.

Statement of Qualifications

SOQs are to be submitted via email to tsirwm@gmail.com with the Consultant's name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. The email subject should be "TStan MAC DACI Statement of Qualifications." SOQs shall be concise, well-organized and demonstrate the Consultant's qualifications and experience relating to the proposed project. SOQs shall include the following information:

Cover Letter:

- Consultant's legal name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and designated contact person for the remainder of the selection process

- Statements identifying the overall qualifications

Statement:

- Brief description of the Consultant experience, emphasis should be given to highlighting work completed for comparable public agencies.
- Description of Consultant experience with preparation of similar projects. Please include names, current telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of references for existing and past public agency clients.
- Description of Consultant's overall understanding of the project and how Consultant will approach coordination with IRWM Regions, partners, and stakeholders and preparation of materials for public review and community presentations.

Evaluation

TSIRWMA and UMRWA Staff and Subcommittee will evaluate each SOQ for completeness and content as well as expertise and professional qualifications with similar work.

The TSIRWMA-UMRWA team will identify the Consultant that best meets the needs of the Region and enter contract negotiations with that highest ranked Consultant. The team will make a recommendation to the TSIRMA's Board of Directors for the award of the Consultant Services Agreement to the Consultant that best furthers the team's objectives.

The TSIRWMA and UMRWA reserve the right to accept or reject any and all SOQs as well as the right to waive any informality or irregularity in any proposal or as deemed to be in its best interest.

Additionally, the TSIRWMA and UMRWA may, for any reason, decide not to award an agreement as a result of this RFQ or cancel the RFQ process. The TSIRWMA and UMRWA shall not be obligated to respond to any proposal submitted, nor be legally bound in any manner by the submission of the proposal. The TSIRWMA and UMRWA reserve the right to negotiate project deliverables and associated costs.

Statements of Qualifications are to be submitted to the TSIRWMA on or before 4:00 p.m. on October 23, 2020.

