



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF FRESNO**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

BENEFITS BROKER

RFP NUMBER 11-0506-HRBB

**PROPOSALS DUE BY
MAY 6, 2011, 4 P.M.**

LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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I. SUMMARY AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Superior Court of California, County of Fresno ("Court") is issuing this Request for Proposal ("RFP") to provide the Court with competitive bids for Benefits Consulting Services ("Broker").

The Court currently offers its approximately 550 full-time employees the option to purchase health insurance from Kaiser Healthcare, Anthem Blue Cross HMO, or Anthem Blue Cross PPO/HDPPPO plans. Also offered are dental plans from Delta Dental and MetLife, vision plans from MES, life insurance coverage, disability, employee assistance program (EAP), and flexible spending account administration.

Open enrollment for employee health plans begins each year in October. Employee enrollment in one of the available plans is mandatory.

The Court is seeking an employee benefit program consultant to advise on employee benefit plan issues and assist the Court Executive Officer and the Human Resources Department in obtaining and evaluating competitive bids from various providers, including the following services:

- A. Evaluate existing employee benefit plans, research the market and identify other competitive insurance coverage.
- B. Solicit competitive bids for existing employee benefit plans, evaluate proposals, and make recommendations.
- C. Conduct negotiations for adequate coverage for medical, dental, vision, life insurance, long-term disability insurance, flexible spending account administration, EAP and any benefit plan changes.
- D. Review all insurance carrier contracts and assure that the Court is adequately covered with respect to its 2012 benefit plans.
- E. Advise on a continuing basis and in a timely manner of any and all significant matters and developments regarding the progress of carrier service issues.
- F. Assist with union negotiations as required relative to informational requests, studies and surveys, and presentations.
- G. Assure Court compliance with all federal, state and local laws, regulations or rulings regarding employee benefits.
- H. Provide quarterly statistical reports including, but not limited to, rates, aggregate claims, demographic changes and other market trends.
- I. Provide assistance with benefit issues related to coverage, claims, billing and other related matters that may arise during the normal course of business.

The Court intends to award a contract to a vendor that is able to meet the court's needs, as further described in Section II (B) of this RFP. However, the Court reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, submitted in response to this RFP. The Court further reserves the right to make no award and to modify or cancel this RFP, in whole or in part.

The Court hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that all bidders, including minority/disadvantaged business enterprises, will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, creed, sex or national origin in consideration for an award of contract. Any and all bids may be accepted or rejected and all bid proposals for any reason whatsoever, with or without cause.

II. GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE

<u>No.</u>	<u>EVENTS</u>	<u>Key Dates</u>
1	Issue RFP	April 11, 2011
2	Deadline for Requests for Clarifications or Modifications	April 14, 2011, 1 p.m.
3	Clarification/Responses online at Court Website	April 15, 2011, 5 p.m.
4	Proposal Due Date and Time	May 6, 2011, 4 p.m.
5	Potential Interviews and Negotiations	May 11-13, 2011
7	Notice of Intent to Award (estimated)	May 17, 2011
8	Notice of Award (estimated)	May 24, 2010

All deadlines are subject to change at the Court's discretion.

The RFP and any addenda that may be issued will be available on the Court website:

www.fresnosuperiorcourt.org/procurement

Submittal Contact

The only contact a vendor may have with the Court regarding this solicitation is with the Submittal Contact listed immediately below. Vendors are specifically directed NOT to contact any court personnel or consultants for meetings, conferences, or discussions that are specifically related to this RFP at any time prior to any award of a contract. Unauthorized contact with any court personnel or consultants may be cause for rejection of the vendor's response.

Carmen Lango, 1100 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93724. clango@fresno.courts.ca.gov

Pre-Submittal Process

Request for Clarifications or Modifications

Vendors interested in responding to this solicitation may submit questions on procedural matters related to the RFP or requests for clarification or modification of this solicitation document. If the vendor is requesting a change, the request must set forth the recommended change and the vendor's reasons for proposing the change. All questions and requests must be submitted in writing to the Submittal Contact no later than the date specified above. Questions or requests submitted after the due date will not be answered.

Without disclosing the source of the question or request, the Submittal Contact will post a copy of the questions and the Court's responses on the Court website on or before the date and time posted above.

If a vendor's question relates to a proprietary aspect of its proposal and the question would expose proprietary information if disclosed to competitors, the vendor may submit the question in writing, conspicuously marking it as "CONFIDENTIAL." With the question, the vendor must submit a statement explaining why the question is sensitive. If the Court concurs that the disclosure of the question or answer would expose proprietary information, the question will be answered, and both the question and answer will be kept in confidence. If the Court does not concur regarding the proprietary nature of the question, the question will not be answered in this manner and the vendor will be notified.

Ambiguity, Discrepancies, Omissions

If a vendor submitting a proposal discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error in this solicitation document, the vendor shall immediately provide the Submittal Contact written notice of the problem and request that the solicitation document be clarified or modified. Without disclosing the source of the request, the Court may modify the solicitation document prior to the date fixed for submission of proposals by providing an addendum to potential proposers by posting the addendum on the Court website.

If prior to the date fixed for submission of proposals a vendor submitting a proposal knows of or should have known of an error in the solicitation document but fails to notify the Court of the error, the vendor shall propose at its own risk, and if the vendor is awarded the contract, the vendor shall not be entitled to additional compensation or time by reason of the error or its later correction.

RFP Addenda

The Court may modify this solicitation document prior to the date fixed for submission of proposals by providing notice to potential proposers and by posting an addendum on the Court's website. If any potential vendor determines that an addendum unnecessarily restricts its ability to propose, it must notify the Submittal Contact no later than three (3) business days following the date the addendum is provided or posted.

Pricing shall reflect all addenda issued by the Court. Failure to do so will permit the Court to interpret the proposal to include all addenda issued in any resulting contract.

Disposition of Material and Confidential or Proprietary Information

All materials submitted in response to the solicitation document will become the property of the Court and will be returned only at the Court's option and at the expense of the vendor submitting the proposal. One copy of a submitted proposal will be retained for official files and become a public record. **Any material that a vendor considers as confidential but does not meet the disclosure exemption requirements of California Rule of Court 10.500 should not be**

included in the vendor's proposal as it may be made available to the public.

Newly enacted California Rules of Court, rule 10.500 (CRC 10.500) serves as the Court's guidance in responding to public requests for documents. If a vendor's proposal contains material noted or marked as confidential and/or proprietary that, in the Court's sole opinion, meets the disclosure exemption requirements of CRC 10.500, then that information will not be disclosed pursuant to a written request for public documents. If the Court does not consider such material to be exempt from disclosure, the material may be made available to the public, regardless of the notation or markings. If a vendor is unsure if its confidential and/or proprietary material meets the disclosure exemption requirements of the CRC 10.500, then it should not include such information in its proposal because such information may be disclosed to the public.

Proposal Preparation Costs

Vendors submitting proposals do so entirely at their expense. There is no express or implied obligation by the Court to reimburse a vendor for any costs incurred in preparing or submitting proposals, providing additional information when requested by the Court, participating in any selection interviews, or participating in this procurement.

A. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Vendors responding to this RFP must at least:

- A. Be affiliated with a legal business authorized to do business in the State of California. All required permits and licenses must be in full force at the time Vendor's response is submitted.
- B. Have key personnel who have at least ten (10) years of experience in providing employee benefits consulting and actuarial services to employer groups with at least 550 employees and at least five (5) years of experience providing these services to public entities in the State of California.
- C. Have public sector clients who have a combined annual volume of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) or more in annual health and welfare premiums.

The proposer must state specifically in its Executive Summary (see Section 2-B) how it will comply with each minimum qualification specified above. Subject to the Court's right in its complete discretion to waive minor deviations or defects, only those proposals that meet all of the foregoing minimum qualifications shall be considered for a full evaluation and a possible contract award.

B. PROPOSAL FORMAT AND CONTENT

Responsive proposals should provide straightforward, concise information that satisfies the requirements of this solicitation. Expensive bindings, color displays, and the like are not necessary or desired. Emphasis should be placed on conformity to the Court's instructions, requirements of this solicitation, and the completeness and clarity of content.

Executive Summary

The proposer must provide an Executive Summary of its proposal. The Executive Summary should be a short description of the company and should demonstrate the proposers' understanding of the requirements. The proposer must also address in this section how it meets the minimum qualification requirements in Section 2-A, including submission of copies of any certificates, licenses, etc.

Contact Information, Authorized Signature, and Validity Period

The Executive Summary shall include the vendor name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers. The proposal must be signed by a duly authorized officer or employee of the vendor and include the name, title, address, and telephone number of the individual who is the proposer's designated representative.

Proposals will be valid for ninety days (90) after the Proposal Due Date specified above. In the event a final contract has not been timely awarded, the Court reserves the right to negotiate extensions to the Proposal Validity Date.

Company Information

The Court requires the vendor to be a reputable company of strong financial standing and experience in benefits brokerage. The vendor's proposal must provide the information requested below.

- A. Complete name and address.
- B. Federal tax identification number.
- C. If incorporated, state in which incorporated.
- D. A brief description of the history and organization of the bidder's firm.
- E. Principal type of business.
- F. Total number of years in business.
- G. Number of years providing services similar in size and scope to those requested in this RFP.
- H. An audited profit and loss statement and balance sheet for the vendor's last three (3) fiscal years. If a company is privately owned, this information will be kept confidential by the Court. These financial statements must be contained in a separate volume.
- I. Significant transactional events in the past five (5) years such as: bankruptcies, mergers, acquisitions, initial public offerings (IPO's).
- J. Annual contract value of the vendor's three (3) largest contracts for similar services in the past three (3) years.

- K. Percent of turnover of service staff for each of the last three (3) years in the vendor's organization that will be responsible for providing services described in this RFP (e.g. Account Manager, Customer Service personnel, etc.).
- L. All California locations, including a statement as to which location will service this contract.
- M. Qualifications, background, and experience of the project director and other staff proposed to work on the Court's account (see attachment. Attach resumes for the service team members describing their qualifications, including credential, experience, responsibilities, and work on similar engagements.
- N. A general description of the techniques, approaches and methods to be used in completing the project.

If the proposer is a joint venture, the same information must be listed about the prime Contractor and the Subcontractor, separately.

Prior Experience and References

The Court requires the vendor to have prior experience in all aspects of the services described in this RFP for customers similar to or with relevance in the size, complexity and scope of this RFP. Vendor shall:

Describe the vendor's experience as it pertains to providing products and services similar in size, complexity and scope to those required under this RFP and in the manner required pursuant to this RFP.

Provide the names, addresses, and telephone numbers for a minimum of five (5) customers for whom the vendor has provided similar services within the last 18 months. The vendor should include a brief description of the scope of services provided to the customer and the duration of the contract. The Court may contact some or all of the references provided in order to determine the vendor's performance record. The Court reserves the right to contact references other than those provided in the proposal and to use the information gained from them in the evaluation process.

Technical Approach and Methodology

A. Consultant Activities: One time and frequent activities

Activities in this section address probable activities that the Court may request or require of the Broker. Please respond with specific information re your ability to provide each service. If the respondent cannot provide any of the following services, this information must be so indicated.

1. Provide frequent visits as requested by the Court to the Court's Human Resources Department and Court Executive Office for actively assisting in the management of the Court's employee benefits plans and programs.

2. Review and make recommendations to the Court and to the Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (EBAC) for value added benefit plans and programs as well as modifications to the design, cost (rates), and quality of current employee benefit plans and programs.
3. Provide legal opinions pertaining to the Court's employee benefit plans and programs including analysis and application of all relevant laws, statutes, and regulations. If the Vendor subcontracts legal services to another entity and/or person, the Vendor's response must identify that entity or person and a complete resume of experience and training of the person and/or each member of the entity who will provide legal services to the Court must be attached to the response. Refer to section B. Company Background and submit the same information on the entity and/or person.
4. Assist the Court in the separation from their current benefit administrator.
5. Assist the Court in exploring a benefits consortium with other courts or counties in California.
6. Develop RFPs consistent with the Court's policies for review by EBAC and Court Executive Office. Manage the RFP process and prepare a comprehensive report of the proposals received in response to the RFP. Evaluate proposals and recommend those proposals deemed acceptable for further analysis and review by EBAC. Work with EBAC to determine which proposal(s) to recommend to the HR Director, Court Executive Office and the Executive Committee for acceptance. Develop responses to protests from the RFP process. Make presentations regarding the RFP recommendations to EBAC and Court officials.
7. Assist in the design, implementation and administration of new and existing programs.
8. Make recommendations for items of negotiation with benefit plan providers including, but not limited to, plan design, cost (rates), and quality of services.
9. Assist in developing and implementing agreements with selected health, welfare, and TPA providers in accordance with Court timelines and requirements.
10. Review and analyze all benefit plan provider agreements for compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, statutes and regulations and the Court agreement.
11. Assist with the development, negotiation and implementation of

performance standards and guarantees with the Court's various benefit plan providers.

12. At designated intervals, evaluate and report the performance of plan providers to HR, Court Executive Office and EBAC.
13. Assist HR in the preparation and/or review and updating of benefit plan documents and benefit summary plan descriptions for self-funded benefit plans.
14. Regularly and timely communicate to the Court changes and proposed changes in state and federal laws, statutes and regulations that may impact the Court's employee benefit plans and programs. Recommend procedures and/or policies the Court should implement to comply with federal and state statutes and regulations.
15. Review and prepare an analysis of all reports submitted by plan providers and TPAs. Make recommendations regarding the format and content of the reports. Recommend additional reports as needed.
16. Provide actuary services as needed. Recommend appropriate premium rates and reserves to maintain the viability of the plans, insuring quality and cost-effective benefits are provided by the plans.
17. Provide actuarial costing of legislative proposals for mandated benefit programs.
18. Provide research and responses to technical questions posed by HR staff.
19. Provide financial and/or performance reviews of self-funded and fully insured plans and programs, as well as the Court's TPA.
20. Provide HR Benefits & Payroll Administrator with general guidance on items such as trends in benefit plans, methods for improving cost containment, financial arrangements, and administration.
21. Develop and/or assist in developing and evaluating employee needs and satisfaction surveys.
22. As requested by Director of HR, provide comparison reports of other employers benefit plans and programs to determine competitiveness.
23. Provide, as a minimum, two (2) annual on-site training programs regarding legislation updates and best practice seminars for HR and associated staff.
24. Provide assistance, technically and creatively, in the on-going

development and preparation of various employee communication materials.

25. Provide day to day consultation on matters such as, but not limited to, plan interpretation and problem resolution, including attendance at periodic meetings to facilitate and assist in the management of the Court's health and welfare plans and programs.
26. Participate in negotiations with health and welfare providers on matters such as, but not limited to, premium rates, benefit levels, performance standards and guarantees, agreement terms and conditions, quality assurance standards, utilization and performance reports, statistical and/or financial reports, and plan specific data such as medical conditions, prescription drugs, high cost procedures, in-patient data, etc.
27. Provide such other reports and services as requested by the Director of Human Resources based upon mutual agreement for hourly rates for services.
28. Maintain full and accurate records with respect to all matters and services provided to the Court's benefit plans and programs. At the request of Court staff or Court officials, provide all spreadsheets, assumptions, and calculations upon completion of any project performed on behalf of the Court's benefit plans and programs.

B. Consultant Activities: Larger Projects

Projects in this section will be required quarterly, annually, or every few years. Following is a sample of Administration services that might be required of the broker.

1. Coordination of and participation in Insurance/TPA meetings.
2. Coordination of and participation in Employee Benefits Advisory Committee (EBAC) meetings.
3. Review and Renewal of Insured Health Plans.
4. Review and Renewal of Insured Dental Plans.
5. Review and Renewal of Vision Plans.
6. Review for the Optional Short-Term Disability Plan for revision.
7. Coordinate RFP for Life Insurance Policies.
8. Support all aspects of the Section 125 Plans (DCAP).
9. Ensure legal compliance of all programs (e.g., HIPAA, COBRA, Section 125, FSA, STD).
10. Conduct training of HR staff, as needed.
11. Support all aspects of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
12. Provide support for the rollout of new programs.

Please provide any other materials, suggestions, and discussion you deem appropriate.

Cost Proposal

Vendor must submit pricing as required by the Cost Proposal, Attachment C. The Court recognizes that a Broker of record would normally derive their compensation from the insurance provider based on a percentage of the overall account value. To objectively compare the proposals from the bidders for purposes of selecting how the Court will pursue its goal of achieving the best value in health benefits for its employees, we request that bidders identify their total compensation package for services rendered and how it will be derived (e.g., direct payments from the Court or insurance companies, percentage of the total insurance premium paid, direct commissions, or any other form of quantifiable compensation expected by the respondent). Also advise how the Court will be charged for services within the scope of this contract and the rate for any additional consulting services requested.

All travel, lodging and miscellaneous support costs are to be included in these rates. If travel is required, the Travel Rate Guidelines may be found in the Cost Proposal details, Attachment C. As the Court may award a contract based on the initial offer, a bidder should make its initial offer on the most favorable terms available. The Court reserves the right, however, to negotiate with bidders falling within a competitive range, and to request revised pricing offers from them and to make an award or conduct negotiations thereafter.

Required Forms and Documents

- a. Executive Summary complete with Technical Approach items and a description of the chronology for completing the work, including a time line and deadlines for each task;
- b. Statement of Acceptance of Terms (re Attachment A, see immediately below);
- c. Vendor Certification Form – Attachment B; and
- d. A detailed Cost Proposal (Attachment C), including any travel costs and other expenses, itemized by flat rate, hourly and/or commission-based compensation - **sealed in a separate envelope**.

Acceptance of Terms

The vendor's proposal must include a statement as to whether the vendor accepts the General Terms and Conditions in Section V (Attachment A) or whether the vendor takes any exception to those terms. The vendor will be deemed to have accepted such terms and conditions, except as expressly called out in the vendor's proposal. If exceptions are taken, vendor must submit a "redlined" version of the term or condition showing all modifications proposed by the vendor.

The vendor must provide an explanation as to why the modification is required. The vendor's willingness to accept the General Terms and Conditions, with minor clarifications, shall be an affirmative factor in the evaluation of the vendor's proposal.

Although the Court will consider alternate language proposed by a vendor, the Court will not be bound by language received as part of a proposer's response. If the proposer requires that the Court be bound by some or all of the vendor's proposed contract language, the proposal may be considered non-responsive and may be rejected.

C. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Delivery

The following must be received by the Submittal Contact no later than the Proposal Due Date and time at the address listed above:

- One unbound original of the technical and a separate unbound original of the cost proposal;
- Ten bound hard copies of both the technical and the cost proposals;
- One electronic copy of the Technical proposal in MS Word or PDF format;
- One electronic copy of the Cost proposal in MS Word or PDF format;
- Two sheets with Proposal information clearly marked including: RFP Number, Project Title, the Proposal Due Date, and the proposer's name. These sheets will be date & time-stamped for proof of receipt: one copy for you, one copy for the court file.

All proposals must be submitted in an envelope clearly marked with the RFP Number, Project Title, the Proposal Due Date, and the proposer's name. **The cost proposal must be included in the proposal in a separately sealed envelope and should be marked with "Cost Proposal" and the proposer's name.**

The hard copies and electronic copies of the technical proposal must not include any pricing information. Proposals received prior to the Proposal Closing Time that are marked properly will be securely kept, unopened until the Proposal Closing Time. Late proposals will not be considered.

All proposals must be delivered via U.S. Mail, common carrier, or hand delivery. A receipt should be requested for hand delivered material.

The proposer is solely responsible for ensuring that the full proposal is received by the Court in accordance with the solicitation requirements, prior to the date and time specified in the solicitation, and at the place specified. The Court shall not be responsible for any delays in mail or by common carriers or by transmission errors or delays or missed delivery.

Amendment or Withdrawal of Proposals

A vendor may amend its proposal prior to the Proposal Closing Time. All amendments must be in writing and received by the Court prior to the Proposal Closing Time.

A vendor may withdraw its proposal at any time prior to the Proposal Closing Time by notifying the Submittal Contact in writing of its withdrawal. Amendments or withdrawals offered in any other manner, than described above will not be considered. Proposals cannot be amended or withdrawn after the Proposal Closing Time.

Mistake in Proposal

If prior to a contract award, a proposer discovers a mistake in their proposal that renders the proposer unwilling to perform under any resulting contract, the proposer must immediately notify the Submittal Contact in writing and request to withdraw the proposal. It shall be solely within the Court's discretion as to whether withdrawal will be permitted. If the solicitation contemplated evaluation and award of "all or none" of the items, then any withdrawal must be for the entire proposal. If the solicitation provided for evaluation and award on a line item or combination of items basis, the Court may consider permitting withdrawal of specific line item(s) or combination of items.

Error in Submitted Proposals

If an error is discovered in a vendor's proposal, the Court may at its sole option retain the proposal and allow the proposer to submit certain arithmetic corrections. The Court may, at its sole option, allow the proposer to correct obvious clerical errors. In determining if a correction will be allowed, the Court will consider the conformance of the proposal to the format and content required by the solicitation, the significance and magnitude of the correction, and any unusual complexity of the format and content required by the solicitation.

If the proposer's intent is clearly established based on review of the complete proposal submitted, the Court may, at its sole option, allow the proposer to correct an error based on that established intent.

Knowledge of Requirements

The vendor shall carefully review all documents referenced and made a part of the solicitation document to ensure that all information required to properly respond has been submitted or made available and all requirements are priced in the proposal. Failure to examine any document or instruction will be at the proposer's sole risk.

Proposers shall be responsible for knowledge of all items and conditions contained in their proposals and in this RFP, including any Court issued clarifications, modifications, amendments, or addenda. The Court will post addenda and clarifications to the Court website; however, it is the proposer's responsibility to ascertain that the proposal includes all addenda issued prior to the Proposal Due Date.

Independence of Proposal and Joint Proposals

Unless a proposer is submitting a joint proposal, the proposer represents and warrants that by submitting its proposal it did not conspire with any other vendor to set prices in violation of anti-trust laws.

A proposal submitted by two or more vendors participating jointly in one proposal may be submitted, but one vendor must be identified as the prime contractor and the other as the subcontractor. The Court assumes no responsibility or obligation for the division of orders or purchases among joint subcontractors.

Covenant Against Gratuities

Proposer warrants by signing its proposal that no gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered by the proposer or any agent, director, or representative of the proposer, to any officer, official, agent, or employee of any Court with a view toward securing award of or securing favorable treatment with respect to any determinations concerning the performance of any resulting contract. For breach or violation of this warranty, the Court will have the right to terminate any resulting contract in whole or in part. The right and remedies of the Court provided in this provision shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under the resulting contract.

III. EVALUATION PROCESS

Evaluation Committee

The Court will conduct a comprehensive, fair, and impartial evaluation of proposals received in response to this RFP. All proposals received from vendors will be reviewed and evaluated by a committee of qualified personnel. The name, information, or experience of the individual members will not be made available to any vendor. The Evaluation Committee will first review and screen all proposals submitted, except for the cost proposals, according to the minimum qualifications set forth above.

Vendors satisfying the minimum qualifications will then be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth immediately below. The Evaluation Committee will first review and complete the evaluation of the technical proposals, without the cost proposal. Thereafter, the cost proposals will be opened, reviewed, and evaluated to determine an overall evaluation score.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated to determine the proposal that offers the best value to the Court. The following criteria will be used in reviewing and comparing the proposals and in determining the highest scoring bid. The weight to be assigned to each criterion appears following each item.

- a. Responsiveness of the proposal to the submission requirements set forth in the RFP (10%).
- b. Agreement with the Court's contracting requirements (10%).
- c. The technical ability, capacity, financial viability and flexibility of the bidder to perform the contract in a timely manner and on budget, as verified by,

e.g., the quality of any demonstration, client references, demonstrated success in projects with similar requirements (40%).

- d. The total cost of the proposal solution. If the proposal contains itemized rates, per piece pricing, or commission-based pricing, the Court reserves the right to calculate total contracted cost by calculating rates using either previous known usage activity or future projected volume. Costs will be evaluated only if a proposal is determined to be otherwise qualified. Costs should be itemized by type to allow the Court to implement the solution over the term of the contract (40%).

Reservation of Rights

The Court, in its complete discretion, may eliminate proposals that do not meet the minimum qualifications or have not scored adequately in relation to other proposals to warrant further consideration. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, and may or may not waive any immaterial deviation or defect in a proposal.

The Court's waiver of an immaterial deviation or defect shall in no way modify the solicitation document or excuse a vendor from full compliance with solicitation document specifications.

If a proposal fails to meet a material solicitation document requirement, the proposal may be rejected. A deviation is material to the extent that a response is not in substantial accord with the requirements of the solicitation document. Material deviations cannot be waived.

The Court reserves the right to negotiate with proposers who have presented, in the opinion of the Evaluation Committee, the best proposal in an attempt to reach a contract. If no contract is reached, the Court can negotiate with other proposers or make no award under this RFP. At any time the Evaluation Committee can reject all proposals and make no award under this RFP. Moreover, the Court reserves the right to reconsider any proposal submitted at any phase of the procurement. It also reserves the right to meet with vendors to gather additional information.

Proposals that contain false or misleading statements may be rejected if in the Court's opinion the information was intended to mislead the Court regarding a requirement of the solicitation document.

Requests for Additional Information

The Court reserves the right to seek clarification or additional information from any proposer throughout the solicitation process. The Court may require a proposer's representative to answer questions during the evaluation process with regard to the vendor's proposal. Failure of a proposer to demonstrate that the claims made in its proposal are in fact true may be sufficient cause for deeming a proposal non-responsive.

Interviews

Following the initial screening of proposals, the Court reserves the right to require, and each proposer must be prepared to conduct, oral presentations and other discussions (written or verbal) on the content of its proposal. If the Court determines that interviews or presentations are required, selected proposers will be notified in writing of the date, place, time and format of the interview or presentation. Proposers will be responsible for all costs related to the interview, which, at the Court's sole discretion, may be in-person and/or by teleconference. Failure to participate in such interviews or presentations shall result in a proposer's disqualification from further consideration.

Negotiations

If the Court desires to enter into negotiations, they will do so with one or more proposers, at their discretion. If the Court enters into negotiations and no contract is reached, the Court can negotiate with the other proposers or make no award under this RFP. The Court reserves the right to award a contract, if any, without negotiations.

Payment

Payment will be made based upon completion of tasks as provided in the contract between the Court and any selected vendor.

News Releases

News releases pertaining to the award of any contract resulting from this solicitation may not be made by a vendor without the prior written approval of the Submittal Contact.

Evaluation of Cost Sheets

Cost sheets will be reviewed only if a proposal is determined to be otherwise qualified. If the solicitation requires the proposer to provide an electronic copy of the cost sheets and there is a discrepancy in the printed cost sheets and the electronic copy, the pricing on the printed cost sheets will be evaluated.

Award of Contract

The Evaluation Committee will make a final recommendation for award of the contract. Upon award, the successful proposer(s) will be required to execute a Contract in accordance with this RFP, their response, and the General Terms and Conditions in Section V, and provide a certificate of insurance in conformance with the requirements set forth in the General Conditions within thirty (30) business days of award. The period for execution of the Contract may be changed by mutual contract of the parties. Contracts are not effective until signed by both parties.

IV. GENERAL CONDITIONS

The General Conditions are included in this solicitation document as Attachment A, "General Terms and Conditions – Consulting". The document should not be considered all inclusive as negotiations may add, delete, or change some of the terms.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A	General Terms & Conditions - Consulting
Attachment B	Vendor Certification Form
Attachment C	Cost Proposal
Attachment D	Protest Procedures

ATTACHMENT A
GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS - CONSULTING

1. Accounting.

Contractor will maintain a system of accounting and internal controls that meets Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (U.S. GAAP).

2. Audit; Retention of Records

A. **Audit.** Upon reasonable notice, Contractor will provide to Court, to any federal or state entity with monitoring or reviewing authority, or to Court's authorized representatives, access to and the right to examine and audit all records and documents relating to performance and billing under this Agreement, and, as necessary, to determine compliance with relevant federal, state, and local statutes, rules, and regulations. Contractor agrees to provide Court with all relevant information requested, and will permit access to its premises at reasonable times, for the purpose of interviewing employees and inspecting and copying any relevant records.

B. **Retention of Records.** Contractor will maintain all financial Data, supporting documents, and all other records relating to performance and billing under this Agreement for a period in accordance with state and federal law. The minimum retention period will be four years from the date of the submission of the final payment request or until audit findings are resolved, whichever is later.

3. Assignment

Contractor will not assign its rights or obligations under this Agreement, either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of Court, in the form of an Amendment.

4. Choice of Law; Jurisdiction and Venue

A. **Choice of Law.** This Agreement and performance under it will be exclusively governed by the laws of the State of California without regard to its conflict of law provisions.

B. **Jurisdiction and Venue.** Contractor irrevocably consents to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the state and federal courts located in San Francisco, California in any legal action concerning or relating to this Agreement.

5. Certifications and Representations

Contractor's signature on the cover page shall also serve as certification for the following paragraphs, A-F.

A. **ADA Compliance.** Contractor certifies that it and its Subcontractors comply with applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sections 012101 *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as with all applicable regulations and guidelines issued pursuant to the ADA.

B. **FEHA Compliance.** Contractor certifies that it and its Subcontractors comply with all applicable provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, Calif. Gov. Code, § 12990 *et seq.*, and all applicable regulations promulgated under Calif. Code of Regulations, title 2, § 7285 *et seq.*

Contractor certifies that it and its Subcontractors will not unlawfully discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, age (over 40), sex, or sexual orientation. Contractor will ensure that the evaluation and treatment of employees and applicants for employment are free of such discrimination.

Contractor certifies that it and its Subcontractors will not unlawfully harass, including sexually harass, any persons with whom Contractor or its Subcontractors interact in the performance of this Work. Contractor and its Subcontractors will take all reasonable steps to prevent such harassment.

- C. **Drug-free Workplace.** Contractor certifies that it and its Subcontractors will provide a drug-free workplace as required by Calif. Gov. Code, § 8355-8357.
- D. **Labor/Collective Bargaining.** Contractor certifies that it and its Subcontractors will provide notice of their obligations under the foregoing provisions to labor organizations with which it or they have collective bargaining agreements, prior to execution of this Agreement.
- E. **National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) Certification.** Contractor certifies that, within the immediately preceding two-year period, no more than one final, un-appealable finding of contempt of court by a federal court has been issued against Contractor because of Contractor's failure to comply with an order of the National Labor Relations Board.
- F. **Prohibition Against Hiring Court Employees.** Contractor certifies and will require all Subcontractors to certify to the following:
 - "Former Court employees will not be offered employment position for two years from the date of separation, if that employee participated in the decision-making process relevant to the Agreement, or for one year from the date of separation if that employee was in a policy-making position in the same general subject area as the proposed Agreement, within the prior twelve-month period of Court employment."

6. Changes in Work; Stop Work

A. Changes in Work.

- A.1. Court reserves the right to require Contractor to make changes in the Work, as set forth in Exhibit D, Statement of Work, which may include additions, deletions, or modifications to the Work, or changes in the timing or level of effort for the Work.
- A.2. For any change proposed by Court or Contractor, Contractor will submit in writing:
 - a) a description of the proposed change and the reasons for the change;
 - b) a summary of the total compensation to be paid Contractor with a breakdown of tasks and costs, including any reduction in work or costs resulting from the change; and
 - c) a statement of the expected impact on schedule.
- A.3. If Court and Contractor agree on a change, Court will issue an Amendment documenting the change, for the parties' execution.

A.4. If the parties cannot agree to the terms of a change, Contractor will proceed diligently with Work unless otherwise directed by Court, and any continuing disagreement will follow the process set forth in the provisions entitled "Dispute Resolution." Contractor should not proceed with any change prior to receiving a written directive or Amendment from Court. All costs for changes performed by Contractor without Court's prior written approval will be at Contractor's sole risk and expense.

B. Stop Work.

B.1. Court may, at any time, by delivery of a written Stop Work Order to Contractor, require Contractor to stop any or all of the Work, for ninety days after the Stop Work Order is delivered to Contractor, and for any further period to which the parties may agree.

B.2. Upon receipt of the Stop Work Order, Contractor will immediately comply with its terms and take all reasonable steps to minimize the costs incurred to Court during the applicable Stop Work period. Within ninety days after a Stop Work Order is delivered to Contractor, or within any mutually agreed extension of that period, Court will either cancel the Stop Work Order or terminate the Work, as provided in Section 21 (Termination).

B.3. If a Stop Work Order is cancelled, or the period of the Stop Work Order or any extension thereof expires, Contractor will resume Work. Court may make an equitable adjustment in the delivery schedule, the Contract Amount, or both, if (a) the Stop Work Order increases Contractor's costs or the time required for performance; and (b) Contractor asserts its right to an equitable adjustment within thirty days after the end of the applicable Stop Work period.

B.4. If a Stop Work Order is not canceled and the Work covered by the Stop Work Order is terminated other than for cause, Court may allow reasonable costs resulting from the Stop Work Order.

B.5. Court will not be liable to Contractor for loss of profits because of any Stop Work Order.

7. Confidential Information

A. **Requirements of Strict Confidence.** While performing Work under this Agreement, Contractor and its Subcontractors may gain access to Confidential Information that, if disclosed to Third Parties, may be damaging to Court, its personnel, court users, or other government entity. Neither Contractor nor its Subcontractors acquires any right or title to the Confidential Information, and Contractor and its Subcontractors agree not to disclose any Confidential Information to any Third Party. All Confidential Information disclosed to Contractor or its Subcontractor will be held in strict confidence and used only in performance of Work under this Agreement. In the event of any unauthorized disclosure or loss of Confidential Information, Contractor will immediately provide Notice to Court, with pertinent details of the unauthorized disclosure or loss, and any remedial measures taken.

B. **Permissible Disclosures.** Contractor may disclose Court's Confidential Information on a "need to know" basis to Contractor's employees and Subcontractors and any representatives of Court that are working on the project. Additionally, Contractor may disclose the Confidential Information, to the extent necessary to (i) comply with any applicable law, rule,

regulation, or ruling; (ii) respond to any enforceable summons or subpoena; or (iii) enforce its rights under this Agreement.

**8. Conflict of Interest;
Prohibition against Gratuities**

A. Conflict of Interest.

- A.1 Contractor covenants that it and its Subcontractors presently have no interest, and will acquire no interest, which would directly or indirectly conflict in any manner or to any degree, with the full and complete performance required under this Agreement. Contractor further agrees to submit full disclosure statements, if required by law to do so, pursuant to the requirements of the California Fair Political Practices Act or any other applicable federal or state law, regulation, or conflict of interest code.
- A.2 Contractor and its Subcontractors and employees will not participate in proceedings that involve the use of Court funds or that are sponsored by Court if the Contractor, its Subcontractors, or their employees, principals, partners, family members, or organizations have a financial interest in the outcome of the proceedings.
- A.3 Contractor and its Subcontractors and employees will not engage in actions resulting in, or creating the appearance of:
 - a) Use of an official position with the government for private gain;
 - b) Preferential treatment to any particular person associated with this Work or Agreement;
 - c) Impairment of Court's independence or impartiality;
 - d) A decision made outside official channels; or
 - e) Adverse effects on the confidence of the public in the integrity of Court.

B. Prohibition against Gratuities.

- B.1 Contractor covenants that no gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered by Contractor or any agent, director, or representative of Contractor, to any officer, official, agent, or employee of Court, in an effort to secure the Agreement or favorable treatment with respect to any determinations concerning the performance of the Agreement.
- B.2. For any breach or violation of this covenant, Court has the right to terminate the Agreement for cause, wither whole or in part. Any loss or damage sustained by Court in procuring, on the open market, replacement goods or services that Contractor agreed to provide, will be borne and paid for by Contractor. Court's rights and remedies under this provision are in additional to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this Agreement.

9. Consideration

The consideration paid to Contractor is the entire compensation for all Work performed under this Agreement, including all of Contractor's expenses incurred, such as travel and per diem expenses, unless otherwise expressly provided.

- A. **Payment Does Not Imply Acceptance of Work.** Court's payment will not relieve Contractor from its obligation to replace unsatisfactory Work, even if the unsatisfactory character of such Work may have been apparent or detected at the time such payment was made. Work, Data, or components

that do not conform to requirements of this Agreement will be rejected, and will be replaced by Contractor, without delay or additional cost to Court.

- B. **Disallowance.** If Contractor receives payment from Court for a service or reimbursement that is later disallowed or rejected by the Court, Contractor will promptly refund the disallowed amount to Court upon Court's request. At its option, Court may offset the amount disallowed from any payment due to Contractor, under this Agreement or any other agreement.

10. Contractor Status

A. Independent Contractor.

A.1 Contractor, Subcontractors, and their officers, agents, employees, and all others acting on behalf of Contractor for this Work, act as independent contractors and not as Court agents, officers or employees. Contractor has no authority to bind or incur any obligation on behalf of Court. Except as expressly provided in Exhibit D (Statement of Work), Contractor has no authority or responsibility to exercise any rights or power vested in Court.

A.2 This Agreement will not be considered under any circumstance to create a joint-venture relationship.

A.3 If any governmental entity concludes that Contractor is not an independent contractor, Court may terminate this Agreement immediately upon Notice. Alternatively, Contractor may agree to a reduction in Court's financial liability, so that Court's total costs under this Agreement do not exceed the originally contemplated amount.

B. Contractor's Employees.

B.1 Contractor's employees will be entirely and exclusively under the direction, supervision, and control of Contractor. All terms of employment including hours, wages, working conditions, discipline, hiring, and termination, or any other employment issues or requirements of law, will be determined by Contractor.

B.2 Contractor will issue W-2 forms or other forms as required by law for income and employment tax purposes for all of Contractor's employees, consultants, and independent contractors.

B.3 If the Internal Revenue Service or any other federal or state governmental entity should investigate or challenge Contractor's independent status with respect to Court, the parties agree that (i) each will inform the other party of such investigation or challenge; and (ii) Court will have the right, but not the obligation, to participate in any discussion or negotiation occurring with the federal or state entity, regardless who initiates such discussions or negotiations.

B.4 Contractor will indemnify and hold Court harmless from all claims, costs, and liabilities resulting from third-party actions alleging an employment relationship between Court and any Contractor or Subcontractor personnel.

C. **Exclusive Control of Means and Method of Performance.** Contractor will determine the method, details, and means of performing or supplying the Work under this Agreement. Contractor will be responsible to Court only for the requirements and results specified in this Agreement and more particularly as set forth in Exhibit D – Statement of Work, and will not be subjected to Court's control with respect to the physical action or activities of

Contractor in fulfillment of this Agreement. Contractor will have the "right to control" and bear the sole responsibility for the job site conditions and safety.

D. Permits, Laws, and Regulations.

D.1 Contractor must observe and comply with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations affecting the Work. During the term of this Agreement, Contractor will obtain and keep in full force and effect, all permits and licenses necessary to accomplish the Work. Such permits and licenses will be made available to Court, upon request.

D.2 Contractor will promptly provide Notice to Court of any conflict discovered between the Agreement and any applicable laws, rules, regulations, and/or permits and licenses, and await resolution of the conflict. If Contractor proceeds with the Work in question without resolution of the conflict, Contractor will be solely liable for any costs, fines, penalties, or damages that accrue, including costs for remedial work required to comply with such requirements.

E. Subcontracting.

E.1 Contractor will not engage a Subcontractor to perform any portion of this Work, without the express written consent of Court. Any subcontracting without Court's written consent is a material breach of this Agreement.

E.2 Contractor warrants and represents that all Subcontractors will be subject to the same terms and conditions applicable to Contractor under this Agreement. Contractor will incorporate this Agreement as the prime agreement in any subcontracting relationship. Contractor will be liable for all Subcontractor acts or omissions, including indemnity obligations.

F. Signature Authority. Contractor has all requisite power and authority to conduct its business, and to execute and perform the Agreement.

11. Dispute Resolution

Court and Contractor will attempt, in good faith, to resolve any disputes informally. Contractor will meet with Court's Project Manager or other designated representative to discuss the matter and any actions necessary to resolve a dispute.

A. Escalation.

A.1 If a dispute remains unresolved following Notice from one party, each party's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") or designated representative will meet to exchange information and attempt resolution within fifteen days of the effective date of the Notice.

A.2 If the matter is not resolved as set forth in section 11.A.1, the aggrieved party will submit a second Notice which will:

- a) Provide detailed factual information;
- b) Identify the specific provisions in this Agreement on which any demand is based;
- c) Advise if the demand involves a cost adjustment and, if so, provide the exact amount, accompanied by all supporting records; and
- d) Attach a declaration that the demand is made in good faith, the supporting data are accurate and complete, and the amount requested properly reflects the necessary adjustment. Notice will be signed by an authorized representative of the aggrieved party.

A.3 Each party will comply with reasonable requests for additional information. Any additional information will be provided within fifteen days after receipt of a written request, unless otherwise agreed.

B. Confidentiality during Dispute Resolution.

B.1 All dispute resolution negotiations are considered confidential, and will be treated as compromise and settlement negotiations, to which California Evidence Code § 1152 applies.

B.2 Pending final resolution of any dispute, Contractor agrees to proceed diligently with the performance of the Work, including Work associated with the dispute, unless otherwise directed by Court. Contractor's failure to diligently proceed in accordance with Court's instructions will be considered a material breach of the Agreement.

12. Force Majeure

A. Force Majeure events include, but are not limited to:

1. Catastrophic acts of nature, or public enemy;
2. Civil disorder;
3. Fire or other casualty for which a party is not responsible; and
4. Quarantine or epidemic.

The party asserting a Force Majeure event will immediately provide Notice to the other party of the occurrence and nature of the Force Majeure event, and its expected impact on schedule. The party claiming Force Majeure will use commercially reasonable efforts to continue or resume performance, including alternate sources or means. Contractor will have no right to additional payment for costs incurred as a result of a Force Majeure event.

B. Any assertion of a Force Majeure event by Subcontractors will be attributed to Contractor.

13. Indemnification

A. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Contractor will indemnify, hold harmless, and defend (with counsel satisfactory to the Court) Court and its agents, officers, and employees from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses, and other costs, including litigation costs and attorneys' fees, arising or resulting from, or in connection with, the performance or breach of this Agreement by Contractor or its officers, employees, agents, representatives, or Subcontractors. Such indemnification will not include loss, damage, or expense arising from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of Court or its agents, officers, and employees.

B. For Contractor's acts, errors, or omissions which are covered by Contractor's Professional Liability insurance, Contractor will provide the above indemnification for that proportion of damages, costs, and liabilities that are attributed to Contractor, or any of its Subcontractors, but not for Court's proportionate share of liability.

C. Contractor's obligation to defend, indemnify, and hold Court and its agents, officers, and employees harmless is not limited to, or restricted by, any requirement in this Agreement that Contractor procure and maintain a policy of insurance.

14. Insurance

- A. **General Insurance Requirements.** Contractor will obtain and maintain the minimum insurance set forth in subparagraph B, below. By requiring such minimum insurance, Court will not be deemed or construed to have assessed the risks applicable to Contractor. Contractor will assess its own risks, and if it deems appropriate and/or prudent, maintain greater limits and/or broader coverage. For full coverage, each insurance policy shall be written on an "occurrence" form; excepting that insurance for professional liability, when required, may be acceptable on a "claims made" form. If coverage is approved and purchased on a "claims made" basis, Contractor warrants continuation of coverage, either through policy renewals or the purchase of an extended discovery period, for three years from the date of completion of the Work.
- B. **Minimum Scope & Limits of Coverage.**
Contractor will maintain the following coverages:
1. Workers' Compensation at statutory requirements of the state of residency.
 2. Employers' Liability with minimum limits of **\$1,000,000.00** for each accident.
 3. Commercial General Liability Insurance with minimum limits of **\$1,000,000.00** for each occurrence,
 4. Business Automobile Liability Insurance with minimum limits of **\$1,000,000.00** for each occurrence, Combined Single Limit Bodily Injury and Property Damage, including owned and non-owned and hired automobile coverage, as applicable.
 5. Excess coverage, at the same limits specified for Comprehensive General Liability: Contractual Liability, Independent Contractor, Broadform Property Damage, Personal Injury, Product, and Completed Operation coverage.
- C. **Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions.** Any deductibles or self-insured retentions must be declared to, and approved by, Court. The deductible and/or self-insured retentions will not limit or apply to Contractor's liability to Court and will be the sole responsibility of Contractor.
- D. **Endorsements; Additional Insureds.**
The General Liability policy will contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:
1. Court, its officers, officials, employees
 2. To the extent of Contractor's negligence, Contractor's insurance coverage will be primary insurance as respects Court, its officers, officials, employees and agents. Any insurance and/or self-insurance maintained by Court, its officers, officials, employees or agents will not contribute with the insurance, or benefit Contractor in any way;
 3. Contractor's insurance will apply separately to each insured against whom a claim is made and/or lawsuit is brought, except with respect to the limits of the insurer's liability;

4. Contractor will provide Court certificates of insurance satisfactory to Court, evidencing all required coverages before Contractor begins any Work, and complete copies of each policy upon Court's request;
 5. If at any time, the foregoing policies become unsatisfactory to Court, as to form or substance, or if a company issuing any such policy becomes unsatisfactory to Court, Contractor will, upon Notice from Court, promptly obtain a new policy, and submit the same to Court, with the appropriate certificates and endorsements, for approval;
 6. All of Contractor's policies will be endorsed to provide Notice to Court of cancellation, nonrenewal, and reduction in coverage, within fifteen days, mailed to the Court's representative for Notices named on the Contract Cover Sheet. Such notice will reference the relevant project, and contract number.
- E. **Waiver of subrogation.** Contractor and its insurance carrier waive any and all rights of subrogation against the Judicial Branch Entities. This waiver will be reflected on the Certificate of Insurance, provided by Contractor. If Contractor fails to obtain the appropriate waivers of subrogation, additional insured status, or certificates of insurance from carrier, Contractor will indemnify Court from all costs and liability caused by Contractor's breach.

15. Limitation of Liability

Court will not be liable to Contractor, its officers, employees, Subcontractors, or Third Parties for any indirect, special, or consequential damages, including lost profits or revenue, arising from or relating to this Agreement, regardless whether Court was advised of the possibility of such loss or damage. In no event will Court's liability for direct damages arising from or related to this Agreement, for any cause whatsoever, and regardless of the form of action, whether in contract or in tort, exceed the amounts paid to Contractor by Court under this Agreement.

16. Modification.

No modification or change to this Agreement will be valid without written approval by Court, in the form of an Amendment, including any changes to Exhibit D (Statement of Work).

17. Prohibited Bids for End Product of this Agreement

No person, firm, or subsidiary thereof which has been awarded a consulting services agreement may submit a bid for, or be awarded an agreement for, the provision of services, procurement of Materials or Data, or any other related action which is required, suggested, or otherwise deemed appropriate in the end product of this Agreement. This provision will not apply to any person, firm, or subsidiary thereof, which is awarded a subcontract under this Agreement in an amount no more than ten percent of the total monetary value of this Agreement.

18. Public Contract Code References

References to the Public Contract Code are provided for convenience only. The Public Contract Code does not apply to Court, but is referenced to clarify Contractor's obligations, if specific code sections are cited.

19. Scope of Work; Acceptance

- A. **Scope of Work.** Contractor will perform and complete all Work described in Exhibit D – Statement of Work, in compliance with the requirements of this Agreement, and to the satisfaction of Court.
- B. **Acceptance.**
 - B.1 All Work provided by Contractor under this Agreement is subject to written acknowledgement and acceptance by Court’s Project Manager. The Court’s Project Manager will apply the acceptance criteria set forth in Exhibit D – Statement of Work, (including timeliness, completeness, technical accuracy and conformance to statistical, industry or marketplace standards) to determine acceptance or non-acceptance of the Work..
 - B.2 Project Manager shall use the Acceptance and Sign-off Form (in the form provided as Attachment 1) to notify the Contractor of acceptance or non-acceptance.
 - B.3 If the Work is not acceptable, Project Manager shall detail its failure to meet the acceptance criteria. Contractor shall have ten business days from receipt of Acceptance and Sign-Off Form to correct the failure(s) to conform to the acceptance criteria. Contractor will re-submit the Work and the Project Manager shall re-apply the acceptance criteria to determine its acceptance or non-acceptance. Thereafter, the parties shall repeat the process set forth in this Section 18 until Contractor’s receipt of Court’s written acceptance of such corrected Work; provided, however, that if Court rejects any Work on at least two (2) occasions, Court may terminate that portion of this Agreement which relates to the rejected Work at no expense to Court.
- C. **Prior Work.** Prior work, performed by Contractor pursuant to Court’s authorization, but before execution of this Agreement, will be considered as having been performed subject to the provisions of this Agreement.
- D. **Non-Exclusivity.** This is a non-exclusive agreement. Court reserves the right to perform, or have others perform the Work of this Agreement. Court reserves the right to bid the Work to others or procure the Work by other means.

20. Standard of Performance; Warranties

- A. **Standard of Performance.** Contractor will perform all Work with the requisite skill and diligence consistent with professional standards for the industry and type of work performed under the Agreement, and pursuant to the governing rules and regulations of the industry. Contractor understands that Court relies on the accuracy, competence, and completeness of Contractor’s services.
- B. **Warranties.**
 - B.1 Contractor warrants and represents that the Work and all Deliverables furnished will conform to the requirements of this Agreement and such Work and Deliverables will be merchantable, fit for their intended purposes, free from all defects in materials and workmanship, and, to the extent not manufactured pursuant to detailed designs furnished by Court, free from defects in design. Court’s approval of designs or specifications furnished by Contractor will not relieve Contractor of its obligations under this warranty.
 - B.2 **Non-Infringement.** Contractor represents and warrants to Court that it is and will be either own, or be authorized to use for its own and the Court’s

benefit, all intellectual property rights used and to be used in connection with providing and/or performing the Work.

- B.3 All warranties will inure to Court, its successors, assigns, customer agencies, and users of the Work provided hereunder.
- B.4 Unless otherwise specified, the warranties set forth in this Section 19 commence after Work has been approved and accepted by Court.

C. Personnel Requirements.

- C.1 Contractor will use adequate numbers of qualified individuals with suitable training, education, experience, and skill to perform the Work.
- C.2 Court reserves the right to disapprove Contractor's personnel, if dissatisfied with their performance. Upon receipt of such Notice, Contractor will immediately assign replacement personnel, with equivalent or greater experience and skills, who are acceptable to the Project Manager.
- C.3 Contractor will be responsible for all costs associated with replacing personnel, including additional costs to familiarize replacement personnel with the Work. If Contractor does not promptly furnish replacement personnel acceptable to the Project Manager, Court may terminate this Agreement for cause.

- D. **Background Checks.** For Contractor's employees, Subcontractors, or agents performing work, and with access to Court's systems (on-site or remotely) in the performance of their Work under this Agreement, Court will have the right, but not the obligation, to request or conduct a background check, before granting access to Court's premises or systems or at any other time. Contractor will cooperate with Court in performing any background checks, will provide prompt Notice to Court of (i) any person refusing to undergo such background check, and will immediately remove such person from the project, and (ii) the results of any background check as requested by Court. Contractor will obtain all releases, waivers, or permissions required for the release of such information to Court. Any additional costs will be borne by Contractor.

21. Survival.

Terms that will survive termination or expiration of this Agreement include, but are not limited to: Assignment, Audit Rights and Retention of Records, Confidentiality, Indemnification, Limitation of Liability, Warranties.

22. Termination

- A. **Termination for Cause.** Court may terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, and be relieved of any payments, if Contractor fails to perform the requirements of this Agreement at the time and in the manner agreed. Court may proceed with the Work in any manner deemed proper. All costs to Court arising from Contractor's default, including costs to complete or correct the Work, will be deducted from any sum due Contractor. Contractor will not be entitled to recover overhead or profit on the uncompleted portions of the Work.

B. Termination for Convenience.

- B.1 Court may terminate this Agreement, in whole or in part, at any time and for any reason, upon at least ten days' Notice to Contractor. Upon receipt of the termination Notice, Contractor will promptly discontinue Work as specified in

the Notice.

- B.2 If Court terminates all or part of this Agreement other than for cause; the Court will pay Contractor for the Work satisfactorily performed prior to the termination. Contractor will not recover overhead or profit on the uncompleted portions of the Work.

C. Termination due to Fund Appropriation and Availability.

- C.1 Court's obligations under this Agreement are subject to the availability of funds authorized for this Work. Expected or actual funding may be withdrawn, reduced, or limited prior to the expiration or other termination of this Agreement. Funding beyond the current Appropriation Year is conditioned upon appropriation of sufficient funds to support the activities described in this Agreement.

- C.2 Upon Notice, Court may terminate this Agreement in whole or in part, without prejudice to any right or remedy of Court, for lack of appropriation of funds. Upon termination, Court will pay Contractor for the fair value of Work satisfactorily performed prior to the termination, not to exceed the total Agreement amount.

D. Effect of Termination.

- D.1 Upon any expiration or termination, Court will have the right to take possession of any materials, equipment, Deliverables, and other Work including partially completed Work. Contractor will immediately assign to Court all of Contractor's right, title, and interest in and to such Work and related materials and work product, and any and all intellectual property rights.
- D.2 Upon termination of any kind, Court may withhold from payment any sum that Court determines to be owed to Court by Contractor, or necessary to protect Court against loss due to outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders.

- 23. Time is of the Essence.** Time of performance is of the essence in the performance of services by Contractor under this Agreement.

24. Waiver; Severability

- A. **Waiver of Rights.** Court's action, inaction, or failure to enforce any right or provision of this Agreement is not a waiver of its rights, and will not prevent Court from enforcing such rights on any future occasion.
- B. **Severability.** The provisions of this Agreement will be effective in all cases, unless otherwise prohibited by applicable state or federal law. The provisions of this Agreement are separate and severable. The invalidity of any sentence, paragraph, provision, section, or portion of this Agreement will not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement.

25. Entire Agreement

- A. Headings or captions to the provisions of this Agreement are solely for the convenience of the parties, are not part of this Agreement, and will not be used to interpret or determine the validity of this Agreement.
- B. This Agreement was negotiated between the parties, and neither party "prepared" this Agreement for purposes of California Civil Code §1654. Any

ambiguity will not be construed against the drafter, but rather the terms and provisions will be given a reasonable interpretation.

- C. This Agreement constitutes the entire and final understanding of the parties regarding this matter, and supersedes and terminates any and all prior or contemporaneous negotiations, representations, understandings, discussions, offers, proposals, or agreements between the parties, whether written or oral, express or implied, relating in any way to the this matter.

END OF CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDIITONS

**ATTACHMENT B
VENDOR CERTIFICATION FORM**

I certify that neither _____ (Proposer) nor any of its proposed subcontractors are currently under suspension or debarment by any state or federal government agency, and that neither Proposer nor any of its proposed subcontractors are tax delinquent with the State of California. I have listed all contracts with government or commercial customers during the five years preceding submission of this Proposal.

I acknowledge that if Proposer or any of its subcontractors subsequently are placed under suspension or debarment by a local, state or federal government entity, or if Proposer or any of its subcontractors subsequently become delinquent in California taxes, our Proposal may be disqualified.

Signature

Printed Name

Title

Date

VENDOR CERTIFICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

List of all Contracts with Government or Commercial Customers during the Five Years preceding Submission of this Proposal

ATTACHMENT C COST PROPOSAL

It is expected that all vendors responding to this solicitation will offer the vendor's government or most favorable comparable rates.

Pricing shall include all anticipated charges, including but not limited to, travel expenses, overhead, profits, and other costs or expenses incidental to the vendor's performance.

The prices proposed in the vendor's response will be valid for a minimum of ninety days after any resulting contract is signed. The vendor's cost proposal must describe how future price increases will be minimized and capped and how both increases and decreases will be passed on to Court if the contract is renewed after the initial term. The vendor must explain the proposed process to implement price changes, and how the Court will be notified.

JUDICIAL BRANCH TRAVEL GUIDELINES

The Judicial branch's policy and limits on reimbursable travel-related expenses are listed below. To be eligible for lodging, incidentals, and meal reimbursement, expenses must be incurred in excess of 25 miles from headquarters. Lodging, incidentals, and travel meal costs reimbursed within 50 miles from headquarters are taxable and reportable income.

Lodging – Receipts are required and each day of lodging claimed must be listed separately on the reimbursement claim form. Maximum rates are listed below. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis, and for centrally booked conferences or meetings. Receipts for hotel lodging charges must be on a pre-printed bill head with a zero balance shown. **The hotel check-out or receipts from a third-party provider for lodging booked via the internet are not valid receipts.** In some instances, a hotel may decline to issue a receipt on their pre-printed bill head for lodging via the internet.

1. In-state - Actual costs are reimbursable up to a maximum of \$110 per day, plus tax and energy surcharge. Within the counties of Alameda, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara, the maximum rate is \$140, plus tax and energy surcharge.
2. Out-of-state – Actual costs are reimbursable up to the federal lodging rate for that city per day, plus tax and surcharges thereon with appropriate prior approval. The federal lodging rates are accessible on the internet at:
http://www.gsa.gov/Portal/gsa/ep/contentView.do?contentId=17943&contentType=GSA_BASIC. (Click on chosen state.)

<http://policyworks.gov/org/main/mt/homepage/mtt/perdiem/travel.htm>
(Click on Domestic Per Diem Rates).

Note: Because employees do not have control over where non-state-sponsored business is conducted, reimbursement of actual expenses, supported by receipts is authorized, without the approval of an Exception Request for Lodging form if the

participant stays at the same location as the conference, convention, or meeting site for either in-state or out-of-state travel. In all instances, the traveler must attach substantiating documentation (such as a registration form or an agenda indicating meeting site lodging location) to the travel expense claim.

Meals – Actual costs are reimbursable up to the maximum limits stated below for continuous travel of more than 24 hours.

1. Breakfast – Up to \$6.
2. Lunch – Up to \$10.
3. Dinner – Up to \$18.

Meal reimbursement for one-day trips is taxable and reportable income unless travel included an overnight stay. Lunch may not be claimed on trips of less than 24 hours. For continuous travel of less than 24 hours, actual expenses up to the above limits may be reimbursable if:

1. Travel begins one hour before normal work hours – Breakfast may be claimed.
2. Travel ends one hour after normal work hours – Dinner may be claimed.

Incidental Expenses –Actual costs are reimbursable Up to \$6 per day. Incidentals are not reimbursable for one-day trips; they may only be claimed after 24 hours.

Transportation – The actual cost of tickets for air, rail, bus, rental car, or other forms of public transportation is reimbursable. The lowest cost ticket available must be purchased. Receipts are required for rental cars and air travel. For ticket less travel, the traveler's itinerary may be submitted in lieu of a receipt.

1. The actual costs of cab fare, public parking, and tolls are reimbursable. Receipts are required for all **cab fare and public parking** expenses of \$3.50 or more. Receipts for bridge and road tolls are not required.
2. Mileage – Personal vehicle mileage is reimbursable the current federal mileage reimbursement rate established by the Internal Revenue Service that corresponds to the date/s of travel.
3. Privately owned aircraft – Reimbursement is \$.50 per statute mile. This reimbursement is taxable and reportable income.

Other Business Expenses – Actual cost is reimbursable. Receipts are required for all other business expenses, regardless of the amount claimed.

In the event receipts cannot be obtained or have been lost, a statement to that effect and the reason provided shall be noted in the expense account. In the absence of a satisfactory explanation, the amount involved shall not be allowed. Further, a statement explaining that a receipt has been lost shall not be accepted for lodging, airfare, rental car, or business expenses.

Receipts for telephone or telegraph charges related to court business of \$2.50 or less are not required. However, claims for phone calls must include the place and party called.

ATTACHMENT D PROTEST PROCEDURES

General

Failure of proposer to comply with the protest procedures set forth in this Attachment D, will render a protest inadequate and untimely, and will result in rejection of the protest. In no event shall a protest be considered if all submittals are rejected or after a contract has been executed.

Prior to Submission of Proposal

An interested party that is an actual or prospective proposer with a direct economic interest in the procurement may file a protest based on allegedly restrictive or defective specifications or other improprieties in the solicitation process that are apparent, or should have been reasonably discovered prior to the submission of a proposal. Such protest must be received prior to the Proposal Closing Time.

The protestor will have exhausted all administrative remedies specified in the Request for Clarification or Modifications; Ambiguity, Discrepancies, Omissions; RFP Addenda; and this Section as applicable, prior to submitting the protest. Failure to do so may be grounds for denying the protest.

After Award

A vendor submitting a proposal may protest the award based on allegations of improprieties occurring during the proposal evaluation or award period if it meets all of the following conditions:

- a. The vendor has submitted a proposal that it believes to be responsive to the solicitation document.
- b. The vendor believes that its proposal meets the administrative and technical requirements of the solicitation, proposes items and/or services of proven quality and performance, and offers a competitive cost; and
- c. The vendor believes that the Court has incorrectly selected another vendor submitting a proposal for an award.

Such protests must be received no later than five (5) business days after the protesting party receives a no-award notification.

Form of Protest

A vendor who is qualified to protest should submit the protest to the Submittal Contact.

- a. The protest must be in writing and sent by certified or registered mail or delivered personally to the address noted above. If the protest is hand-delivered, a receipt must be requested.
- b. The protest shall include the name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers of the party protesting or their representative.

- c. The title of the solicitation document under which the protest is submitted shall be included.
- d. A detailed description of the specific legal and factual grounds of protest and any supporting documentation shall be included.
- e. The specific ruling or relief requested must be stated.

The Court, at its discretion, may make a decision regarding the protest without requesting further information or documents from the protestor. Therefore, the initial protest submittal must include all grounds for the protest and all evidence available at the time the protest is submitted. If the protestor later raises new grounds or evidence that was not included in the initial protest but which could have been raised at that time, the Court will not consider such new grounds or new evidence.

Determination of Protest Submitted Prior to Submission of Proposal

Upon receipt of a timely and proper protest based on allegedly restrictive or defective specifications or other improprieties in the solicitation process that are apparent, or should have been reasonably discovered prior to the submission of a proposal, the Court will provide a written determination to the protestor prior to the Proposal Closing Time. If required, the Court may extend the Proposal Closing Time to allow for a reasonable time to review the protest. If the protesting party elects to appeal the decision, the protesting party will follow the appeals process outlined below and the Court, at its sole discretion, may elect to withhold the contract award until the protest is resolved or denied or proceed with the award and implementation of the contract.

Determination of Protest Submitted After Submission of Proposal

Upon receipt of a timely and proper protest, the Court will investigate the protest and will provide a written response to the vendor within a reasonable time. If the Court requires additional time to review the protest and is not able to provide a response within ten (10) business days, the Court will notify the vendor. If the protesting party elects to appeal the decision, the protesting party will follow the appeals process outlined below and the Court, at its sole discretion, may elect to withhold the contract award until the protest is resolved or denied or proceed with the award and implementation of the contract.

Appeals Process

The Contracting Officer's decision shall be considered the final action by the Court unless the protesting party thereafter seeks an appeal of the decision by filing a request for appeal with the Court Executive Officer within five (5) calendar days of the issuance of the Contracting Officer's decision.

The justification for appeal is limited to:

- A. Facts and/or information related to the protest, as previously submitted, that were not available at the time the protest was originally submitted; or

- B. The Contracting Officer's decision contained errors of fact, and that such errors of fact were significant and material factors in the Contracting Officer's decision; or
- C. The decision of the Contracting Officer was in error of law or regulation.

The request for appeal shall include:

- (1) The name, address telephone and facsimile numbers of the vendor filing the appeal or their representative;
- (2) A copy of the Contracting Officer's decision;
- (3) The legal and factual basis for the appeal; and
- (4) The ruling or relief requested. Issues that could have been raised earlier will not be considered on appeal.

Upon receipt of a request for appeal, the Court Executive Officer will review the request and the decision of the Contract Specialist and shall issue a final determination. The decision of the Court Executive Officer shall constitute the Court's final action.

Protest Remedies

If the protest is upheld, the Court will consider all circumstances surrounding the procurement in its decision for a fair and reasonable remedy, including the seriousness of the procurement deficiency, the degree of prejudice to the protesting party or to the integrity of the competitive procurement system, the good faith efforts of the parties, the extent of performance, the cost to the Court, the urgency of the procurement, and the impact of the recommendation(s). The Court may recommend any combination of the following remedies:

- a. Terminate the contract for convenience;
- b. Re-negotiate the contract;
- c. Issue a new solicitation;
- d. Refrain from exercising options to extend the term under the contract, if applicable;
- e. Award a contract consistent with statute or regulation; or
- f. Other such remedies as may be required to promote compliance.