

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**FOR THE**  
**PURCHASE OF REPLENISHMENT WATER**



**WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**4040 PARAMOUNT BOULEVARD**

**LAKWOOD, CA 90712**

**(562) 921-5521**

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## FOR THE PURCHASE OF REPLENISHMENT WATER

### **Background**

The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD or District) is a special district established in 1959 under the California Water Code, Section 60000, *et seq.* WRD manages the groundwater resources of the Central and West Coast Basins (Basins), which supply water to about four million people over a service area that covers 420 square miles in southern Los Angeles County. WRD is responsible for maintaining adequate groundwater supplies, preventing seawater intrusion into the groundwater aquifers, and protecting groundwater quality against contamination.

In order to maintain adequate groundwater supplies, the District purchases imported and recycled water for artificial replenishment and coordinates with other agencies to maximize the capture of local storm water when it is available.

One of the primary methods of replenishing the Basins is through groundwater recharge at the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds, which are owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW). These spreading grounds, collectively referred to as the Montebello Forebay Spreading Grounds (MFSG), are located in the Montebello Forebay area of the Central Basin in the city of Pico Rivera and adjacent to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. A location map showing WRD's service area and the MFSG is attached to this Request for Proposals (RFP).

The sources of water used for replenishment in the MFSG are storm water (when available), recycled water and untreated imported water. In a typical year, approximately 50,000 acre-feet of storm water and 50,000 acre-feet of recycled water are replenished to the Basins through the MFSG. The remaining replenishment requirement of 21,000 acre-feet per year is met using untreated imported water from the Colorado River and/or from northern California. It is this 21,000 acre-feet of imported water that is the focus of this RFP for the purchase of replenishment water.

### **Replenishment Water**

WRD has traditionally purchased seasonally discounted replenishment water ("seasonal spreading water") to meet its 21,000 acre-foot imported water demand at the MFSG from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and its member agencies. However, MWD has not had this class of water available since May 2007 due to issues associated with the Bay Delta including drought, environmental concerns and judicial decisions. According to MWD, there is no indication as to when this water may be available again, if ever.

As a result of successive dry years and lack of both normal amounts of storm water and the seasonal spreading water, groundwater levels have declined to their lowest levels in 30-years and over 150,000 acre-feet have been removed from storage. Without adequate replenishment water, conditions in the Basins will continue to deteriorate. WRD has attempted to mitigate this situation by purchasing more expensive firm delivery "Tier 1 Untreated" imported water for replenishment from MWD's member agencies; however, this classification of water is subject to individual member agency supply

and its availability is not guaranteed. In order to improve this situation, WRD is soliciting proposals for the purchase of water for delivery to the MFSG for use as groundwater replenishment water.

## **Proposal Requirements**

The following is a summary of information that must be contained in each proposal for purchase of the replenishment water (“Proposal”), as specified below. Every effort should be made to provide a comprehensive summary of the quantity, quality, means of delivery, schedule and cost of the replenishment water.

### ***Quantity of Water***

The total quantity of water, in acre-feet, proposed for delivery to the MFSG shall be specified in the Proposal. The replenishment water shall be actual deliveries of physical water to the MFSG for direct recharge and not “paper” water; i.e., in-lieu, transfers, exchanges, banking, or any other non-physical deliveries.

It is anticipated that approximately 45,000 acre-feet will be required in Water Year 2010/11 to make up for past imported replenishment water deficiencies and current demands, and 21,000 acre-feet per year thereafter (or less depending on the success of WRD’s Water Independence Now initiative) to maintain and satisfy normal groundwater basin replenishment requirements. **There are no minimum or maximum quantities associated with this RFP for the purchase of replenishment water; all Proposals will be considered.**

### ***Quality of Water***

The type of water proposed for delivery should meet or exceed the quality of the untreated MWD water that has historically been used for spreading.

It is the responsibility of the Proposer that all environmental and other regulatory requirements associated with the delivery of the water are satisfied.

### ***Means of Delivery***

WRD wants the water delivered to the MFSG for groundwater replenishment and the Proposal will state in general how this will occur. Details of the delivery methods are not necessary in the Proposal but will be required later if the Proposal is selected prior to contract approval, including all conveyance facilities and connections that will be used for the delivery.

The Proposer shall ensure that any delivery of the proposed replenishment water complies with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, as well as any applicable requirements, whether statutory or contractual, imposed by pertinent agencies and WRD.

### ***Schedule of Delivery***

The Proposal shall propose a delivery schedule for the full quantity of water specified above. If the replenishment water is proposed to be delivered over multiple years on an ongoing basis, a representative annual delivery schedule shall be provided.

### ***Cost***

The unit cost of the water shall be all-inclusive and be for the water delivered to the MFSG, in dollars per acre-foot. As a comparison, if the seasonal untreated imported water was available today it would cost the District \$428 per acre-foot delivered to the MFSG. The firm delivery of untreated Tier 1 water that the District is currently purchasing but of limited supply is costing the District \$564 per acre-foot delivered to the MFSG.

### ***Price Expiration Date***

The Proposal shall specify the time period that the replenishment water will be available at the offered cost, and any price increases or price schedules, in the even prices change over time

### **Submittal Information**

#### ***Proposal Due Date***

It is the intent of the District to review Proposals as they are received, on the basis of their individual merit. Therefore, there is no Proposal due date and Proposals shall be received continuously until the District decides otherwise. However, as all proposed replenishment water deliveries are subject to scheduling and budget considerations, it is highly recommended that Proposals be submitted at the earliest possible date for WRD review. All Proposals will be continuously reviewed and evaluated by WRD staff and the WRD Water Resources Committee, as such Proposals are received on a first-come, first-reviewed basis.

#### ***Proposal Submittals***

All proposals shall be submitted to the address shown below.

Attn: Mr. Jason Weeks, P.E.  
Water Replenishment District of Southern California  
4040 Paramount Boulevard  
Lakewood, California 90712

***Miscellaneous Information***

This RFP does not obligate WRD to enter into any contract for the purchase of replenishment water. WRD reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals submitted or to request further information from any bidder. WRD also reserves the right to negotiate with anyone submitting a Proposal pursuant to this RFP. If you have any questions regarding this RFP for purchase of replenishment water or require additional details, please contact Mr. Jason Weeks at (562) 921-5521 or email at [jweeks@wrd.org](mailto:jweeks@wrd.org)

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

LACDPW	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
MFSG	Montebello Forebay Spreading Grounds
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
WRD	Water Replenishment District of Southern California
WY	Water Year. For WRD it is from October 1 – September 30.

