



**RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL SAMPLING AND LABORATORY ANALYTICAL SERVICES**

Updated as of November 17, 2017

<http://www.wrd.org/business/water-replenishment-business.php>

Below are responses to questions that have been asked during this Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The deadline for questions regarding this RFP was on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 3:00PM PDT.

	QUESTION	RESPONSE
1.	What information do we need to provide from our sub-consultants?	Any sub-laboratory used is under the same requirements as the primary laboratory proposing. All certifications must be included in the proposal for both the primary lab and any sub lab they are proposing.
2.	Are method substitutions allowed?	No, labs must adhere to the analytical methods required by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water
3.	May we have the price sheet and any other forms in an editable Excel format?	Yes only for the purpose of filling in the proposed pricing only.
4.	Are we allowed to "no-bid" items that we cannot provide?	No, the primer lab and/or its sub-lab must have the ability to fulfill all of the requirements and items listed in the RFP for the term required.
5.	Who is (are) the incumbent sampling and laboratory services provider(s)?	WECK Laboratories
6.	Is the current contract pricing available for review? Can the WRD provide it?	Yes, pursuant to a separate formal Public Records Request, the information can be provided accordingly. Proposer must contact the law office of Leal Trejo at (213) 628-0808 for the request.



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7. The turnaround time requirement is listed as 14 calendar days from the day of sampling. Some of these test methods cannot be done within that time frame (e.g. radiochemistry). Will there be an allowance for a select number of tests where turnaround time is routinely greater than 14 days?	Standard turnaround time will be 14 calendar days. For test methods that cannot be done within that time timeframe, the proposer will list those select number test methods and include the <u>minimum</u> turnaround timeframe in their proposal.
8. Contract requires that the laboratory perform reanalysis at no charge if the District has questions regarding data validity. Can the laboratory bill for the reanalysis if the results confirm the original results within the precision and accuracy of the method?	If there is reasonable question regarding data validity at an order of magnitude different from historical results, the Laboratory shall re-run samples and provide new EDDS and hard copy reports at no additional charge.
9. What does the District define as “the latest instrumentation” in Section D under Minimum Qualifications?	Our expectations for this contract is that the laboratory will utilize the latest equipment and avoid downtime. In accordance with Section D of the minimum requirements of the RFP, the proposer must provide an instrumentation inventory, the age of the instruments and the test that are performed for each instrument.
10. How is the District determining the quantity of work subcontracted with respect to the 25% maximum subcontract requirement (e.g. Samples, tests, cost,...)?	In accordance with Section H of the minimum requirements of the RFP, the proposer must list all subcontractors and limit its subcontracting of analyses to three subcontractors and no more than 25% of the analyses work. Proposer is to list in the proposal the analyses that will be performed by a subcontracted laboratory.
11. Is the District amenable to a longer TAT than 14 calendar days for subcontracted tests or tests that are highly sophisticated and/or require additional sample preparation (extraction, digestion, filtration, etc.) as long as the 10 th of the month regulatory deadline is met?	All subcontracted work is under the same requirements as the prime laboratory. However as stated in the previous response, for test methods that cannot be done within the Standard TAT timeframe, the proposer will list those select number test methods and include the <u>minimum</u> turnaround timeframe in their proposal.
12. For 1,4-Dioxane, DDW recognized EPA 522 as the current and approved test for this analysis. Please confirm EPA 522 may be utilized for 1,4-Dioxane analysis.	Sampling for this program will use EPA 8270M for 1,4-Dioxane analysis.



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13. The District's Title 22 monitoring program excludes distribution system sampling and yet a portion of the UCMR4 project requires distribution system sampling. Is the District's intention to include UCMR4 distribution system sampling (for UCMR4) in this contract?	Yes, this contract includes UCMR4 distribution system sampling. The Title 22 Monitoring Program is based on groundwater well sampling; however, for those water systems required to sample for UCMR4, the contracted lab will be required to sample at the distribution system entry points (EPTDS), Source Water Intake locations (SR), and Stage 2 Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproducts Rule Sampling locations (D/DBPR).
14. Are there any special procedural preferences or an SOP that the District can share with us as it pertains to field sample collection?	The proposing lab shall have SOPs in place for every analytical & non-analytical method. The proposer shall submit their current SOPs in the proposal including sample collections for evaluation.
15. Do any of the agencies participating in the District's Title 22 program operate surface water or GWUDI sources, or, are the participating agencies 100% groundwater and may or may not include purchased water from MWD?	Yes there are some water systems that purchase water from MWD.
16. May methods be used that are EPA and/or DDW approved in place of the methods listed in the RFP (i.e. Georgia Method for Radium 228, EPA 551.1 for EDB/DBCP, EPA 505 for Pesticides, etc.)?	For the purpose of equivalent comparison, we require all cost be based on the methods included in the table provided.
17. Can you please provide us Attachment A fees for your current Title 22 contract?	Yes, pursuant to a separate formal Public Records Request, the information can be provided accordingly. Proposer must contact the law office of Leal Trejo at (213) 628-0808 for the request.
18. Table 2 (in the RFP) sample quantities for 2018-20 are different from the Appendix A sample quantities. Why do these two sets of quantities for the same tests differ and which sample quantities shall the cost evaluation and scoring be based on?	Table 2 in the RFP is approximate sample quantities for <u>3 Years</u> and rounded from the <u>annual</u> quantities in the Table from Appendix A. The cost evaluation and scoring will be based on the samples quantities & cost in the Appendix A-1, A-2, and A-3 Tables.



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19. For the Inorganics analysis line item can you please separate Asbestos from this group and confirm the projected quantities for this item which is usually Waived or designated for an every 9 years sampling by DDW after initial monitoring as opposed to the typical General Mineral & Inorganics annual analysis frequency designation?	As noted in the Appendix Tables, the proposer is to attach the methods on a separate sheet of the chemicals in each category group. This separate sheet can also include the separate cost of each chemical. Asbestos will remain as part of the group because some of the water systems are reaching their 9 year sampling. When Asbestos is not required for the inorganic analysis, it will be reflected in the quarterly sample schedule. For the purposes of proposing, it will remain part of the group.
20. For the Single Metals Analysis line item can you please separate the price for Metals by EPA 200.7/200.8 and the price for Mercury (EPA 245.1) since the cost for analysis with these two methods differs?	Mercury has been included as separate line item in the Appendix A Table.
21. The Semi-volatiles line item shows a quantity of 225 in Table 2 and 75 in Appendix A with a “various” listed for method reference while the individual SOC methods have a quantity of 0. The cost for each of the SOC methods reflects the analytes, reporting limits and method/instrument so can you please include the correct quantities for each SOC line item as opposed to a single line item OR confirm the quantities and specific analytes and reporting limits that need to be included in the SOCs line item?	As stated previously, Table 2 in the RFP reflects the 3 year quantities and the quantities in Appendix A reflect annual. Individual SOC methods with a zero quantity is for the proposer to provide the standard pricing and rush pricing for special sampling request for those individual constituents.
22. For UCMR4, can you please add a line item for UCMR4 sampling and estimated quantities as has been done for Title 22 testing?	The UCMR4 line items are on a separate Appendix table, Sheet Appendix A-2 , which includes the sampling quantities and place for the proposer to include their Standard Price and Rush Price. This is in the same Appendix A Worksheet. The proposer is also to complete the pricing for Notification levels on Sheet Appendix A-3 .



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23. Table 2, on page 6 of the pdf, shows the tests that are required in the RFP. Please clarify which test methods are required for the Semi-volatile organic chemicals (SOCs).	As noted on Sheet A-1 of Appendix A, the proposer is to include the list of methods used for the Semi-volatile organics (SOCs) on a separate sheet. Method EPA 525.2 is the general method required for most Semi-volatile organics and can be used in the table to determine pricing.
24. Table 2 and the Excel the District provided show the tests and quantities that are expected for 2018-2020 but appear to have conflicting numbers. Please confirm which table has the correct estimate of samples for this contract.	Proposer is to utilize the Appendix A tables to provide all standard cost and rush cost based on the quantities in the table (A-1, A-2, and A-3) for the contract proposal evaluation. All quantities are subject to change.
25. Please provide the name of the incumbent laboratory.	WECK Laboratories
26. If we have any contract exceptions/clarifications to make, do we take them at the bid stage or if awarded during contract negotiations?	The contract will be awarded pursuant to the terms of the draft contract located in Appendix B of the RFP.
27. What was the annual spend in the past two to three years for lab services?	Annual spending ranged from approximately \$100K to \$130K in the past two to three years.
28. Can you provide the incumbents contract pricing?	Yes, pursuant to a separate formal Public Records Request, the information can be provided accordingly. Proposer must contact the law office of Leal Trejo at (213) 628-0808 for the request.
29. Can you provide an Excel or fillable document for Appendix A-1, A-2 and A-3?	Yes
30. Appendix A-1, Analytical Category "Semi-Volatile Organic Chemicals (SOCs). Do you need only Semi-Volatile Organic Chemicals (SOCs) or Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs)? Please confirm as the cost for analyses differs.	<p>The current program utilizes Methods 525.2 to analysis for SOC's; however the intent is to comply with the requirements to sample the chemicals in Table 64444-A California Regulations Related to Drinking Water.</p> <p>https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/document/s/lawbook/dwregulations-2017-09-14.pdf</p> <p>Use Table 64444-A of the California Regulations Related to Drinking Water to determine the pricing for that line item.</p>



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31. And 1 more question regarding Insurance for subcontractor. We intend to have the sampling and scheduling subcontracted to an individual who is his own one-man LLC. We are unsure if he can secure insurance coverage that matches what is in the RFP. For sampler (non-analytical) subcontractor, will the District consider alternative insurance coverage for this function versus marching what is required of the prime (analytical)?	No, the insurance coverage requirements remain the same whether prime or subcontracted.