



**Independent Cost Estimating RFQ
Solicitation Number: PS-00132**

**ADDENDUM 1
June 10, 2022**

To Respondent of Record:

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

- 1. Apologies, but we had a glitch, did you say that N/A was not an acceptable answer on the Project Example form? If not, what form was that?**

Response: As stated in the pre-submittal conference, N/A is not an acceptable answer on the Project Example form.

- 2. Can we get a copy of the PowerPoint?**

Response: A copy of the PowerPoint presentation has been posted on the project solicitation page on the SAWS website, [SAWS Contract Solicitations - Independent Cost Estimating Services](#).

- 3. Can we get a list of the links?**

*Response: The project solicitation can be found at [SAWS Contract Solicitations - Independent Cost Estimating Services](#)
The Archived board meetings can be found at <https://www.saws.org/about-saws/our-board/board-meeting-video-archive/>*

- 4. Is there a firm currently holding a similar contract? If so, who is the firm?**

Response: SAWS has existing active contracts for cost estimating services but will not disclose who holds these contracts.

- 5. I saw the need for a PM, QC and Estimator which alludes to the respondents needing to have a large staff is this RFQ limited to large firms that can fulfill those 3 separate roles or can one person wear multiple hats so smaller firms can respond?**

Response: This RFQ is open to firms of all sizes regardless of the number of staff that fulfill the PM, QC, and estimator roles.

- 6. Will SAWS look to develop OPCCs for entire CIP per year?**

Response: Per the RFQ, SAWS is looking to receive OPCCs for all projects that have initial construction estimates of \$3 million or larger.

7. Will consultants that perform work on this contract be conflicted from participating in design or construction of the actual projects being reviewed/estimated under this contract?

Response: The selected consultants would not be exempt from participating in the design and/or construction of projects that would require services under this RFQ. In cases like this, another consultant under contract for these services would be utilized in order to fulfill the requirement of a true third-party independent estimate.

8. I could be mistaken but it appears that this ICE RFQ has been put out a couple of times before in the past few years. Is that correct? If so, have there been issues with past responses?

Response: SAWS has issued similar solicitations for this scope of work in the last two years, including this solicitation. In the first solicitation that was issued in 2020, a contract was awarded to a single respondent. A solicitation seeking to award new contracts was posted earlier this year, however no contracts were awarded as a single response was received. The decision was then made to reject the response and reissue the solicitation.

9. Will SAWS look to award contracts to more than one Consulting Estimating firm?

Response: SAWS intention for this RFQ is to award contracts to a minimum of two (2) qualified firms.

10. Will a construction schedule be required with the estimate?

Response: Construction schedules will not be required to be submitted with OPCCs.

11. Will you require a live and active spreadsheet, or will a PDF of the estimate be acceptable?

Response: A .pdf file of the OPCC will be sufficient.

12. The RFQ states that if we are a Veteran Owned Business (VOB), that we must be certified by the South Texas verification agency- we are certified by the Dept of Veterans Affairs as a VOB- is this nationwide certification acceptable in place of the Texas specific requirement?

Response: A company must be certified as a Small Business Enterprise (SBE) by the South Central Texas Regional Certification Agency and have a local presence in order to count toward the aspirational (non-mandatory) Small, Minority, and Woman-owned Business (SMWB) goal. Those stipulations include businesses certified as VOBs by the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, the South-Central Texas Regional Certification Agency will offer reciprocal Veteran-owned Business Enterprise (VBE) certification for companies that have already been certified as VOBs by the Department of Veterans Affairs. If a respondent does not meet one of the criteria (e.g., local address, Small Business Enterprise status, certification from the South-Central Texas Regional Certification Agency), SMWB participation can be obtained through subcontracting.

13. We think we have seen this RFQ posted multiple times over the past couple of years? If so, why? Lack of responses or qualified firms? Perhaps it's a different RFQ, but we want to address any issues if this is a repeat RFQ release

Response: See response to question #8.

14. Why are so many past projects required? Typical RFQ's ask for three this requirement seems excessive. I noticed a requirement of 5 projects, then another for 8 projects. Is the 8 inclusive of the 5 already asked or in addition to?

Response: Respondents are being asked to provide a total of five (5) reference projects in order to demonstrate that they have performed similar work for SAWS and/or other Entities. The eight (8) projects for which Respondents need to provide specific cost data are inclusive of the five (5) reference projects. See Page 14 of 69 in the Solicitation.

15. Under the Project Approach it is asking for a sample schedule to complete an estimate. Why? Typically, when we work with an agency such as SAWS, they send us the project and we respond asap schedules are dependent on project complications and nuances as well as current workload so I'm having trouble understanding this requirement

Response: SAWS is requesting a sample schedule for developing an estimate to understand the Respondent's approach to estimating individual projects as well as the timing associated with all tasks and subtasks, including quality assurance and quality control.

16. I want to make SAWS aware of the current market. Most of us cost estimating firms are booked out quite a ways on average one (1) to two (2) months out for availability before we can get to projects it's a hot market and everyone is extremely busy right now I just want to make this known for scheduling expectations.

Response: Statement noted.

17. Is there a minimum company size? We are 3 strong- but the way the RFQ reads asking for org charts, etc. makes it seem that SAWS is seeking large firms to respond. Given the time and cost effort to put these RFQ proposals together, we want to be sure that we meet written/unwritten requirement from SAWS as to company size before we respond.

Response: There are no minimum company size expectations. SAWS encourages responses from that can demonstrate competence and ability to provide the services sought in the Solicitation. SAWS is not requesting independent cost estimating services for vertical or roadway projects, rather SAWS is seeking cost estimating services for current and future CIP & O&M projects including pipeline (water, sewer, and recycled water), treatment plant, and pump station facilities (pump stations, storage tanks, wells, etc.).

18. For clarification in order to reach the 40% MBE participation 40% of the work would need to go to a firm with an office in San Antonio?

Response: SAWS recognizes "local" firms as having a business presence in one of the following counties: Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Guadalupe, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, Uvalde, or Wilson.

19. I noticed for the SMWB, Veteran Owned business don't count towards the goal but are "tracked". Why are VOB no longer awarded points?

Response: Veteran-owned Business Enterprises (VBEs) have never been awarded points by SAWS, because we do not have any empirical evidence of disparities in contracting with VBEs. However, if a VBE is also an SBE or a HUB, then the VBE would be eligible for SMWB points. All firms who are recognized by SAWS as being SMWBs are either SBEs or HUBS at minimum. The SBE or HUB requirement also applies to Minority-owned and Woman-owned firms.

END OF ADDENDUM 1

This Addendum is four (4) pages in its entirety, no attachments.