

# COUNTY OF FRESNO

## REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

### NUMBER: 962-5458

## ESCROW AND TITLE SERVICES

Issue Date: March 21, 2016

Closing Date: APRIL 19, 2016

Quotation will be considered LATE when the official Purchasing time clock reads 2:00 P.M.

Questions regarding this RFQ should be directed to: Debbie Scharnick,  
e-mail [countypurchasing@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:countypurchasing@co.fresno.ca.us) or phone (559) 600-7111.

Check County of Fresno Purchasing's website at  
<https://www2.co.fresno.ca.us/0440/Bids/BidsHome.aspx>  
for any future addenda.

Please submit all Quotations to:

County of Fresno – Purchasing  
4525 E. Hamilton Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93702-4599

#### BIDDER TO COMPLETE

Undersigned agrees to furnish the commodity or service stipulated in the attached response at the prices and terms stated, subject to the attached "County of Fresno Purchasing Standard Instructions And Conditions For Requests For Proposals (RFP's) And Requests For Quotations (RFQ's)".

Except as noted on individual items, the following will apply to all items in the Quotation Schedule:

- A cash discount of \_\_\_\_\_ % \_\_\_\_\_ days will apply.

COMPANY

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

( )

( )

TELEPHONE NUMBER

FACSIMILE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

SIGNATURE (IN BLUE INK)

PRINT NAME

TITLE

Purchasing Use: DLS:ssj

ORG/Requisition: 55122008, 7205 / 5511600019, 7201600011

## COUNTY OF FRESNO PURCHASING

### STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP'S) AND REQUESTS FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ'S)

Note: the reference to "bids" in the following paragraphs applies to RFP's and RFQ's

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

By submitting a bid the bidder agrees to the following conditions. These conditions will apply to all subsequent purchases based on this bid.

1. BID PREPARATION:

- A) All prices and notations must be typed or written in ink. No erasures permitted. Errors may be crossed out, initialed and corrections printed in ink by person signing bid.
- B) Brand Names: Brand names and numbers when given are for reference. Equal items will be considered, provided the offer clearly describes the article and how it differs from that specified. In the absence of such information it shall be understood the offering is exactly as specified.
- C) State brand or make of each item. If bidding on other than specified, state make, model and brand being bid and attach supporting literature/specifications to the bid.
- D) Bid on each item separately. Prices should be stated in units specified herein. All applicable charges must be quoted; charges on invoice not quoted herein will be disallowed.
- E) Time of delivery is a part of the consideration and must be stated in definite terms and must be adhered to. F.O.B. Point shall be destination or freight charges must be stated.
- F) All bids must be dated and signed with the firm's name and by an authorized officer or employee.
- G) Unless otherwise noted, prices shall be firm for one hundred eighty (180) days after closing date of bid.

2. SUBMITTING BIDS:

- A) Each bid must be submitted on forms provided in a sealed envelope/package with bid number and closing date and time on the outside of the envelope/package.
- B) Interpretation: Should any discrepancies or omissions be found in the bid specifications or doubt as to their meaning, the bidder shall notify the Buyer in writing at once. The County shall not be held responsible for verbal interpretations. Questions regarding the bid must be received by Purchasing stated within this document. All addenda issued shall be in writing, duly issued by Purchasing and incorporated into the contract.
- C) ISSUING AGENT/AUTHORIZED CONTACT: This RFP/RFQ has been issued by County of Fresno, Purchasing. Purchasing shall be the vendor's sole point of contact with regard to the RFP/RFQ, its content, and all issues concerning it.

All communication regarding this RFP/RFQ shall be directed to an authorized representative of County Purchasing. The specific buyer managing this RFP/RFQ is identified on the cover page, along with his or her telephone number, and he or she should be the primary point of contact for discussions or information pertaining to the RFP/RFQ.

Contact with any other County representative, including elected officials, for the purpose of discussing this RFP/RFQ, its content, or any other issue concerning it, is prohibited unless authorized by Purchasing. Violation of this clause, by the vendor having unauthorized contact (verbally or in writing) with such other County representatives, may constitute grounds for rejection by Purchasing of the vendor's quotation.

The above stated restriction on vendor contact with County representatives shall apply until the County has awarded a purchase order or contract to a vendor or vendors, except as follows. First, in the event that a vendor initiates a formal protest against the RFP/RFQ, such vendor may contact the appropriate individual, or individuals who are managing that protest as outlined in the County's established protest procedures. All such contact must be in accordance with the sequence set forth under the protest procedures. Second, in the event a public hearing is scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to hear testimony prior to its approval of a purchase order or contract, any vendor may address the Board.

- D) Bids received after the closing time will NOT be considered.
- E) Bidders are to bid what is specified or requested first. If unable to or unwilling to, bidder may bid alternative or option, indicating all advantages, disadvantages and their associated cost.

3. FAILURE TO BID:

- A) If not bidding, return bid sheet and state reason for no bid or your name may be removed from mailing list.

4. TAXES, CHARGES AND EXTRAS:

- A) County of Fresno is subject to California sales and/or use tax (8.225%). Please indicate as a separate line item if applicable.
- B) **DO NOT** include Federal Excise Tax. County is exempt under Registration No. 94-73-03401-K.
- C) County is exempt from Federal Transportation Tax. Exemption certificate is not required where shipping papers show consignee as County of Fresno.
- D) Charges for transportation, containers, packing, etc. will not be paid unless specified in bid.

5. W-9 – REQUEST FOR TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND CERTIFICATION & CALIFORNIA FORM 590 WITHHOLDING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE:

Upon award of bid, the vendor shall submit to County Purchasing, a completed IRS Form W-9 - Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification and a California Form 590 Withholding Exemption Certificate if not currently a County of Fresno approved vendor.

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### 6. AWARDS:

- A) Award(s) will be made to the most responsive responsible bidder; however, the Fresno County Local Vendor Preference and/or the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Preference shall take precedence when applicable. Said Preferences apply only to Request for Quotations for materials, equipment and/or supplies only (no services); the preference do not apply to Request for Proposals. RFQ evaluations will include such things as life-cycle cost, availability, delivery costs and whose product and/or service is deemed to be in the best interest of the County. The County shall be the sole judge in making such determination.
- B) Unless bidder gives notice of all-or-none award in bid, County may accept any item, group of items or on the basis of total bid.
- C) The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in bids.
- D) Award Notices are tentative: Acceptance of an offer made in response to this RFP/RFQ shall occur only upon execution of an agreement by both parties or issuance of a valid written Purchase Order by Fresno County Purchasing.
- E) After award, all bids shall be open to public inspection. The County assumes no responsibility for the confidentiality of information offered in a bid.

### 7. TIE BIDS:

All other factors being equal, the contract shall be awarded to the Fresno County vendor or, if neither or both are Fresno County vendors, it may be awarded by the flip of a coin in the presence of witnesses or the entire bid may be rejected and re-bid. If the General Requirements of the RFQ state that they are applicable, the provisions of the Fresno County Local Vendor Preference shall take priority over this paragraph.

### 8. PATENT INDEMNITY:

The vendor shall hold the County, its officers, agents and employees, harmless from liability of any nature or kind, including costs and expenses, for infringement or use of any copyrighted or un-copyrighted composition, secret process, patented or unpatented invention, article or appliance furnished or used in connection with this bid.

### 9. SAMPLES:

Samples, when required, must be furnished and delivered free and, if not destroyed by tests, will upon written request (within thirty (30) days of bid closing date) be returned at the bidder's expense. In the absence of such notification, County shall have the right to dispose of the samples in whatever manner it deems appropriate.

### 10. RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF COUNTY FOR DEFAULT:

- A) In case of default by vendor, the County may procure the articles or service from another source and may recover the cost difference and related expenses occasioned thereby from any unpaid balance due the vendor or by proceeding against performance bond of the vendor, if any, or by suit against the vendor. The prices paid by the County shall be considered the prevailing market price at the time such purchase is made.
- B) Articles or services, which upon delivery inspection do not meet specifications, will be rejected and the vendor will be considered in default. Vendor shall reimburse County for expenses related to delivery of non-specified goods or services.
- C) Regardless of F.O.B. point, vendor agrees to bear all risks of loss, injury or destruction to goods and materials ordered herein which occur

prior to delivery and such loss, injury or destruction shall not release vendor from any obligation hereunder.

### 11. DISCOUNTS:

Terms of less than fifteen (15) days for cash payment will be considered as net in evaluating this bid. A discount for payment within fifteen (15) days or more will be considered in determining the award of bid. Discount period will commence either the later of delivery or receipt of invoice by the County. Standard terms are Net forty-five (45) days.

### 12. SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN BID SCHEDULE SUPERSEDE GENERAL CONDITIONS:

The "General Conditions" provisions of this RFP/RFQ shall be superseded if in conflict with any other section of this bid, to the extent of any such conflict.

### 13. SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

With the invoice or within twenty-five (25) days of delivery, the seller must provide to the County a Material Safety Data Sheet for each product, which contains any substance on "The List of 800 Hazardous Substances", published by the State Director of Industrial Relations. (See Hazardous Substances Information and Training Act, California State Labor Code Sections 6360 through 6399.7.)

### 14. RECYCLED PRODUCTS/MATERIALS:

Vendors are encouraged to provide and quote (with documentation) recycled or recyclable products/materials which meet stated specifications.

### 15. YEAR COMPLIANCE WARRANTY:

Vendor warrants that any product furnished pursuant to this Agreement/order shall support a four-digit year format and be able to accurately process date and time data from, into and between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, as well as leap year calculations. "Product" shall include, without limitation, any piece or component of equipment, hardware, firmware, middleware, custom or commercial software, or internal components or subroutines therein. This warranty shall survive termination or expiration of this Agreement.

In the event of any decrease in product functionality or accuracy related to time and/or date data related codes and/or internal subroutines that impede the product from operating correctly using dates beyond December 31, 1999, vendor shall restore or repair the product to the same level of functionality as warranted herein, so as to minimize interruption to County's ongoing business process, time being of the essence. In the event that such warranty compliance requires the acquisition of additional programs, the expense for any such associated or additional acquisitions, which may be required, including, without limitation, data conversion tools, shall be borne exclusively by vendor. Nothing in this warranty shall be construed to limit any rights or remedies the County may otherwise have under this Agreement with respect to defects other than year performance.

### 16. PARTICIPATION:

Bidder may agree to extend the terms of the resulting contract to other political subdivision, municipalities and tax-supported agencies.

Such participating Governmental bodies shall make purchases in their own name, make payment directly to bidder, and be liable directly to the bidder, holding the County of Fresno harmless.

### 17. CONFIDENTIALITY:

All services performed by vendor shall be in strict conformance with all applicable Federal, State of California and/or local laws and regulations relating to confidentiality, including but not limited to, California Civil Code,

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California Welfare and Institutions Code, Health and Safety Code, California Code of Regulations, Code of Federal Regulations.

Vendor shall submit to County's monitoring of said compliance.

Vendor may be a business associate of County, as that term is defined in the "Privacy Rule" enacted by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). As a HIPAA Business Associate, vendor may use or disclose protected health information ("PHI") to perform functions, activities or services for or on behalf of County as specified by the County, provided that such use or disclosure shall not violate HIPAA and its implementing regulations. The uses and disclosures of PHI may not be more expansive than those applicable to County, as the "Covered Entity" under HIPAA's Privacy Rule, except as authorized for management, administrative or legal responsibilities of the Business Associate.

Vendor shall not use or further disclose PHI other than as permitted or required by the County, or as required by law without written notice to the County.

Vendor shall ensure that any agent, including any subcontractor, to which vendor provides PHI received from, or created or received by the vendor on behalf of County, shall comply with the same restrictions and conditions with respect to such information.

### 18. APPEALS:

Appeals must be submitted in writing within seven (7) working days after notification of proposed recommendations for award. A "Notice of Award" is not an indication of County's acceptance of an offer made in response to this RFP/RFQ. Appeals should be submitted to County of Fresno Purchasing, 4525 E. Hamilton Avenue, Fresno, California 93702-4599 **and** in Word format to [gcornuelle@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:gcornuelle@co.fresno.ca.us). Appeals should address only areas regarding RFP/RFQ contradictions, procurement errors, quotation rating discrepancies, legality of procurement context, conflict of interest, and inappropriate or unfair competitive procurement grievance regarding the RFP/RFQ process.

Purchasing will provide a written response to the complainant within seven (7) working days unless the complainant is notified more time is required.

If the protesting bidder is not satisfied with the decision of Purchasing, he/she shall have the right to appeal to the Purchasing Agent/CAO within seven (7) working days after Purchasing's notification; except if, notified to appeal directly to the Board of Supervisors at the scheduled date and time.

If the protesting bidder is not satisfied with Purchasing Agent/CAO's decision, the final appeal is with the Board of Supervisors.

### 19. OBLIGATIONS OF CONTRACTOR:

A) CONTRACTOR shall perform as required by the ensuing contract. CONTRACTOR also warrants on behalf of itself and all subcontractors engaged for the performance of the ensuing contract that only persons authorized to work in the United States pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 and other applicable laws shall be employed in the performance of the work hereunder.

B) CONTRACTOR shall obey all Federal, State, local and special district laws, ordinances and regulations.

### 20. AUDITS & RETENTION:

The Contractor shall maintain in good and legible condition all books, documents, papers, data files and other records related to its performance under this contract. Such records shall be complete and available to Fresno County, the State of California, the federal government or their duly authorized representatives for the purpose of audit, examination, or copying during the term of the contract and for a period of at least three (3) years

following the County's final payment under the contract or until conclusion of any pending matter (e.g., litigation or audit), whichever is later. Such records must be retained in the manner described above until all pending matters are closed.

### 21. DISCLOSURE – CRIMINAL HISTORY & CIVIL ACTIONS:

Applies to Request for Proposal (RFP); does not apply to Request for Quotation (RFQ) unless specifically stated elsewhere in the RFQ document.

In their proposal, the bidder is required to disclose if any of the following conditions apply to them, their owners, officers, corporate managers and partners (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Bidder"):

- Within the three-year period preceding the proposal, they have been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against them for:
  - fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction;
  - violation of a federal or state antitrust statute;
  - embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification, or destruction of records; or
  - false statements or receipt of stolen property

Within a three-year period preceding their proposal, they have had a public transaction (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default.

### 22. DATA SECURITY:

Individuals and/or agencies that enter into a contractual relationship with the COUNTY for the purpose of providing services must employ adequate controls and data security measures, both internally and externally to ensure and protect the confidential information and/or data provided to contractor by the COUNTY, preventing the potential loss, misappropriation or inadvertent access, viewing, use or disclosure of COUNTY data including sensitive or personal client information; abuse of COUNTY resources; and/or disruption to COUNTY operations.

Individuals and/or agencies may not connect to or use COUNTY networks/systems via personally owned mobile, wireless or handheld devices unless authorized by COUNTY for telecommuting purposes and provide a secure connection; up to date virus protection and mobile devices must have the remote wipe feature enabled. Computers or computer peripherals including mobile storage devices may not be used (COUNTY or Contractor device) or brought in for use into the COUNTY's system(s) without prior authorization from COUNTY's Chief Information Officer and/or designee(s).

No storage of COUNTY's private, confidential or sensitive data on any hard-disk drive, portable storage device or remote storage installation unless encrypted according to advance encryption standards (AES of 128 bit or higher).

The COUNTY will immediately be notified of any violations, breaches or potential breaches of security related to COUNTY's confidential information, data and/or data processing equipment which stores or processes COUNTY data, internally or externally.

COUNTY shall provide oversight to Contractor's response to all incidents arising from a possible breach of security related to COUNTY's confidential client information. Contractor will be responsible to issue any notification to affected individuals as required by law or as deemed necessary by COUNTY in its sole discretion. Contractor will be responsible for all costs incurred as a result of providing the required notification.

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### 23. PURCHASING LOCATION & HOURS:

Fresno County Purchasing is located at 4525 E. Hamilton Avenue (**second floor**), Fresno, CA 93702. Non-holiday hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon and 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. PST; Purchasing is closed daily from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 P.M. The following holiday office closure schedule is observed:

January 1*	New Year's Day
Third Monday in January	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
Third Monday in February	Washington - Lincoln Day
March 31*	Cesar Chavez' Birthday
Last Monday in May	Memorial Day
July 4*	Independence Day
First Monday in September	Labor Day
November 11*	Veteran's Day
Fourth Thursday in November	Thanksgiving Day
Friday following Thanksgiving	
December 25*	Christmas

\* When this date falls on a Saturday, the holiday is observed the preceding Friday. If the date falls on a Sunday, the holiday is observed the following Monday.

### 24. FRESNO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES:

#### ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NUMBER 5

##### Contract Salary Limitation Fresno

**County Administrative Policy No. 5** provides that in contracts with non-profit organizations that primarily serve Fresno County and professional service contracts where Fresno County is the sole client, the contractors must agree to the following contract language: "The contractor agrees to limit administrative cost to a maximum of 15% of the total program budget and to limit employee benefits to a maximum of 20% of total salaries for those employees working under this agreement during the term of the agreement. Failure to conform to this provision will be grounds for contract termination at the option of the County of Fresno." Any bidder that wishes an exemption from this contract requirements must set forth the request for exemption, as well as a complete explanation of why the exemption should be granted, in the bidder's response to the RFP. Only the Board of Supervisors can approve such exemption.

**Policy Statement:** Contractors shall be limited to a maximum 15% administrative cost as compared to the total program budget and employee benefits shall be limited to a maximum of 20% of salaries.

The following language will be included in each applicable contract:

"The contractor agrees to limit administrative cost to a maximum of 15% of the total program budget and to limit employee benefits to a maximum of 20% of total salaries for those employees working under this agreement during the term of this agreement. Failure to conform to this provision will be grounds for contract termination at the option of the County of Fresno."

The above provision shall be applied to renewal or multi-year contracts with non-profit organizations which primarily serve Fresno County and

professional services contracts where

Fresno County is the sole client, such as:

- Community based organization service contracts related to social services, health services, or probation services.
- Cultural art program contracts.
- Professional services contracts.

This policy will not apply to contracts between the County and the Federal or State governments; or one-time contracts. The Board of Supervisors will consider exemptions to this policy only upon the recommendation of the County Administrative Office.

**Management Responsibility:** It shall be the responsibility of any County official authorized by the Board of Supervisors to execute contracts or enter into agreements on behalf of the County to review all applicable contracts to insure that this policy is fully enforced.

It shall be the responsibility of the County Administrative Officer to review requests for exemptions to this policy and to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on such requests for exemption.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NUMBER 34

##### Competitive Bids and Requests for Proposals

**Fresno County Administrative Policy No. 34** provides that no person, firm or subsidiary thereof who has been awarded a consulting services contract by the County, may submit a bid for, or be awarded a contract for, the provision of services, procurement of goods or supplies, or any other related action which is required, suggested, or otherwise deemed appropriate in the end product of the consulting services contract. Any bidder that wishes an exemption from this contract limitation must set forth the request for exemption, as well as a complete explanation of why the exemption should be granted, in the bidder's response to the RFP. Only the Board of Supervisors, on a four-fifths (4/5) vote finding that such waiver is in the best interests of the County, can waive this policy.

**Definitions:** Purchasing Authority and Responsibility – In accordance with the State of California Government Code Section 25500 et seq., and the Fresno County Ordinance Code Chapter 2.56, the Board of Supervisors has established a County Purchasing Agent. The Board has designated the County Administrative Officer as the Purchasing Agent. Unless otherwise restricted, all necessary authority and responsibility has been delegated to the Purchasing Agent to satisfy the acquisition requirements of the County. The Purchasing Agent may defer day-to-day acquisition management to the Purchasing Manager as appropriate.

**Policy Statement:** Competitive bids or requests for proposals shall be secured for all contracts for goods or services which are proposed to be acquired by the County except when in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, a department head, requests an exception to competitive bidding. All such requests must be documented by the department head including a detailed description of the facts justifying the exception. The request must receive concurrence of the procurement authority who will sign that particular contract i.e. the Board of Supervisors or Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager. The following circumstances are examples which constitute "Suspension of Competition":

- In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
- When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.

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- When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$1,000 whichever is more.
- When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
- When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
- When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.

Contracts for services should not usually cover a period of more than one year although a longer period may be approved in unusual circumstances. Multiple year contracts must include provisions for early termination and must be contingent on available funding. Unless exempted as provided for above, no contract for service shall extend, either by original contract or by extension, beyond three years unless competitive bids have been sought or a Request for Proposal has been processed.

During any competitive bidding procedure, all bids shall be opened publicly and the dollar amount of each bid shall be read aloud. Under no circumstance shall a bid which is received at the designated place of opening after the closing time be opened or considered.

Contracts for goods or services shall not be effective until approved by the Board of Supervisors or, if appropriate, the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager. Contractors and vendors shall be advised by the responsible department head that performance under the contract may not commence prior to such approval.

### Medical Professional Contracts

The competitive recruitment process, annual performance evaluation, and periodic salary surveys are equivalent to competitive bids for independent physicians contracting with the County on a fee for service basis.

A salary survey for physician services shall be conducted every two years.

Contracts for physician services shall not extend, either by original contract or by extension, beyond five years unless competitive bids have been sought or unless exempted as provided above.

### Contracts for Legal Services

The competitive recruitment process, annual performance evaluation, and periodic salary surveys are equivalent to competitive bids for independent law firms and attorneys contracting with the County on a fee for service basis.

A salary survey for legal services shall be conducted every two years.

The selection of and contracting with firms to provide legal services shall be coordinated through the County Counsel's Office. The County Counsel shall assist in securing a law firm with the requisite legal expertise and price structure that would provide the best service to the County. County Counsel shall be involved throughout the process of selecting a firm, developing a contract, and monitoring the billing and services provided throughout the contract period.

### Prohibited Bids Concerning End Product of Consulting Contracts

No person, firm, or subsidiary thereof who has been awarded a consulting services contract by the County, shall be awarded a contract for the provision of services, procurement of goods or supplies, or any other related action which is required, suggested, or otherwise deemed appropriate in the

end product of the consulting services contract. This policy may be waived by the Board of Supervisors on a four-fifths (4/5) vote finding that such waiver is in the best interests of the County.

**Management Responsibility:** The County Administrative Officer is responsible for preparing and issuing written procedures to assure compliance with this policy by all County officials and departments.

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NUMBER 71

### Prohibiting the Use of Public Funds for Political Advocacy

**Fresno County Administrative Policy No. 71** provides that no County assets, including money, shall be used for political campaigns of any type. Political campaigns are defined as political advocacy for or opposition to a matter or person that has qualified for the ballot. No contract entered into by the County shall provide for use of County monies for political campaigns.

**Policy Statement:** Government assets, including money, grant funds, paid staff time, equipment and supplies, facilities or any other government asset shall not be used for political campaigns of any type. Political campaigns are defined as political advocacy for or opposition to a matter or person that has qualified for the ballot.

**Management Responsibility:** Department Heads shall be held responsible for ensuring that government assets within their control are not used to advocate for or against any matter or person that has qualified for the ballot.

This section does not prohibit the expenditure of government assets to create and provide informational or educational materials regarding a matter that has qualified for the ballot. Such information or educational materials shall provide a fair, accurate and impartial presentation of relevant information relating to the matter that has qualified for the ballot. However, government assets shall not be expended to create and provide such informational or educational materials in the 90 days prior to the election unless specifically authorized by the Board of Supervisors or required by the Public Records Act or other law.

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## KEY DATES

**RFQ Issue Date:** **March 21, 2016**

**Deadline for Written Requests for Interpretations or Corrections of RFQ:** **April 1, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.**  
E-Mail: [CountyPurchasing@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:CountyPurchasing@co.fresno.ca.us)

**RFQ Closing Date:** **April 19, 2016 at 2:00 P.M.**  
County of Fresno Purchasing  
4525 E. Hamilton Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93702



## BIDDING INSTRUCTIONS

The County of Fresno, on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Planning, Community Development Division is requesting quotations to provide preliminary title reports, title insurance policies, and comparable sales information, pay off demands, property vesting information, notary services, and complete legal descriptions of single family properties.

### **LOCAL VENDOR PREFERENCE AND DISABLED VETERAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE BID**

**PREFERENCE:** The Local Vendor Preference and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Preference **do not** apply to this Request for Quotation.

**DEFINITIONS:** The terms Bidder, Proposer, Contractor and Vendor are all used interchangeably and refer to that person, partnership, corporation, organization, agency, etc. which is offering the quotation and is identified on page one of this Request For Quotation (RFQ).

**ISSUING AGENT:** This RFQ has been issued by County of Fresno, Purchasing. Purchasing shall be the vendor's sole point of contact with regard to the RFQ, its content, and all issues concerning it.

**INTERPRETATION OF RFQ:** Vendors must make careful examination of the requirements, specifications and conditions expressed in the RFQ and fully inform themselves as to the quality and character of services required. If any person planning to submit a quotation finds discrepancies in or omissions from the RFQ or has any doubt as to the true meaning or interpretation, correction thereof may be requested in writing from Purchasing by 10:00 A.M. April 1, 2016, cut-off.

Questions shall be delivered to County of Fresno Purchasing, 4525 E. Hamilton Avenue, Fresno, California 93702 or email: [CountyPurchasing@co.fresno.ca.us](mailto:CountyPurchasing@co.fresno.ca.us).

**NOTE:** Time constraints will prevent County from responding to questions submitted after the cut-off date.

Any change in the Request for Quotation will be made by written addendum issued by the County. The County will not be responsible for any other explanations or interpretations.

**AWARD:** Award will be made to the vendor(s) offering the services, products, prices, delivery, equipment and system deemed to be to the best advantage of the County. The County shall be the sole judge in making such determination. Award Notices are tentative: Acceptance of an offer made in response to this RFQ shall occur only upon execution of an agreement by both parties or issuance of a valid written Purchase Order by Fresno County Purchasing.

**RIGHT TO REJECT BIDS:** The County reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities or irregularities in bids.

**AUTHORIZED CONTACT:** All communication regarding this RFQ shall be directed to an authorized representative of County Purchasing. The specific buyer managing this RFQ is identified on the cover page, along with his or her telephone number, and he or she should be the primary point of contact for discussions or information pertaining to the RFQ. Contact with any other County representative, including elected officials, for the purpose of discussing this RFQ, its content, or any other issue concerning it, is prohibited unless authorized by Purchasing. Violation of this clause, by the vendor having unauthorized contact (verbally or in writing) with such other County representatives, may constitute grounds for rejection by Purchasing of the vendor's quotation.

The above stated restriction on vendor contact with County representatives shall apply until the County has awarded a purchase order or contract to a vendor or vendors, except as follows. First, in the event that a vendor initiates a formal protest against the RFQ, such vendor may contact the appropriate individual, or individuals who are managing that protest as outlined in the County's established protest procedures. All such contact must be in accordance with the sequence set forth under the protest procedures. Second, in the event a public hearing is scheduled before the Board of Supervisors to hear testimony prior to its approval of a purchase order or contract, any vendor may address the Board.

**NOTICE TO PROCEED:** Following execution of the agreement by both parties (County and Contractor), the County will issue a written Notice to Proceed for the project specified herein. The completion period as defined below, shall commence upon the date that the Notice to Proceed is delivered to the Contractor.

**CODES AND REGULATIONS:** All work and material to conform to all applicable state and local building and other codes and regulations.

**NUMBER OF COPIES:** Submit **one (1) original and two (2) copies** of your quotation no later than the quotation closing date and time as stated on the front of this document to County of Fresno Purchasing. Each copy to be identical to the original, include all supporting documentation (e.g. literature, brochures, reports, schedules etc.). The cover page of each quotation is to be appropriately marked "Original" or "Copy".

**FIRM QUOTATION:** All quotations shall remain firm for at least ninety (90).

**TAXES:** The quoted amount must include all applicable taxes. If taxes are not specifically identified in the quotation it will be assumed that they are included in the total quoted.

**SALES TAX:** Fresno County pays California State Sales Tax in the amount of 8.225% regardless of vendor's place of doing business.

**TAXES, PERMITS & FEES:** The successful bidder shall pay for and include all federal, state and local taxes direct or indirect upon all materials; pay all fees for, and obtain all necessary permits and licenses, unless otherwise specified herein.

**GUARANTEE AGAINST DEFECTS:** All items are to carry a full guarantee against defects in materials and workmanship and guarantee against breakage and other malfunctions when performing work for which they are designed.

**SAMPLES:** On request, samples of the products on which you are bidding shall be made available to the County. County will designate where samples are to be delivered.

Successful bidder's samples may be retained for checking against delivery, in which case allowance will be made to vendor.

**VENDOR ASSISTANCE:** Successful bidder shall furnish, at no cost to the County, a representative to assist County departments in determining their product requirements.

**MINOR DEVIATIONS:** The County reserves the right to negotiate minor deviations from the prescribed terms, conditions and requirements with the selected vendor.

**QUOTATION REJECTION:** Failure to respond to all questions or not to supply the requested information could result in rejection of your quotation.

**BIDDERS' LIABILITIES:** County of Fresno will not be held liable for any cost incurred by vendors in responding to the RFQ.

**PRICE RESPONSIBILITY:** The selected vendor will be required to assume full responsibility for all services and activities offered in the quotation, whether or not they are provided directly. Further, the County of Fresno will consider the selected vendor to be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all charges resulting from the contract. The contractor may not subcontract or transfer the contract, or any right or obligation arising out of the contract, without first having obtained the express written consent of the County.

**PRICES:** Bidder agrees that prices quoted are a maximum for the contract period, and in the event of a price decline such lower prices shall be extended to the County of Fresno. Prices shall be quoted F.O.B. destination.

**CONFIDENTIALITY:** Bidders shall not disclose information about the County's business or business practices and safeguard confidential data which vendor staff may have access to in the course of system implementation.

**NEWS RELEASE:** Vendors shall not issue any news releases or otherwise release information to any third party about this RFQ or the vendor's quotation without prior written approval from the County of Fresno.

**BACKGROUND REVIEW:** The County reserves the right to conduct a background inquiry of each proposer/bidder which may include collection of appropriate criminal history information, contractual and business associations and practices, employment histories and reputation in the business community. By submitting a quotation/bid to the County, the vendor consents to such an inquiry and agrees to make available to the County such books and records the County deems necessary to conduct the inquiry.

**EXCEPTIONS:** Identify with explanation, any terms, conditions, specifications or stipulations of the RFQ with which you CAN NOT or WILL NOT comply.

**ADDENDA:** In the event that it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFQ, addenda will be provided to all agencies and organizations that receive the basic RFQ.

**SUBCONTRACTORS:** If a subcontractor is proposed, complete identification of the subcontractor and his tasks shall be provided. The primary contractor is not relieved of any responsibility by virtue of using a subcontractor.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** The County shall not contract with, and shall reject any bid or quotation submitted by the persons or entities specified below, unless the Board of Supervisors finds that special circumstances exist which justify the approval of such contract:

1. Employees of the County or public agencies for which the Board of Supervisors is the governing body.
2. Profit-making firms or businesses in which employees described in Subsection (1) serve as officers, principals, partners or major shareholders.
3. Persons who, within the immediately preceding twelve (12) months, came within the provisions of Subsection (1), and who were employees in positions of substantial responsibility in the area of service to be performed by the contract, or participated in any way in developing the contract or its service specifications.
4. Profit-making firms or businesses in which the former employees described in Subsection (3) serve as officers, principals, partners or major shareholders.
5. No County employee whose position in the County enables him to influence the selection of a contractor for this RFQ, or any competing RFQ, and no spouse or economic dependent of such employee, shall be employees in any capacity by a bidder, or have any other direct or indirect financial interest in the selection of a contractor.

**INVOICING:** All invoices are to be delivered in duplicate to Public Works & Planning - Community Development, 2220 Tulare Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, CA Fresno, CA 93702. Reference shall be made to the purchase order/contract number and equipment number if applicable on the invoice.

**PAYMENT:** County will make partial payments for all purchases made under the contract/purchase order and accumulated during the month.

**CONTRACT TERM:** It is County's intent to contract with the successful bidder for a term of three (3) years.

**RENEWAL:** Agreement may be renewed for a potential of two (2) one (1) year periods, based on the mutual written consent of all parties.

**QUANTITIES:** Quantities shown in the bid schedule are approximate and the County guarantees no minimum amount. The County reserves the right to increase or decrease quantities.

**ORDERING:** Orders will be placed as required by County of Fresno Community Development

**TERMINATION:** The County reserves the right to terminate any resulting contract upon written notice.

**INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR:** In performance of the work, duties, and obligations assumed by Contractor under any ensuing Agreement, it is mutually understood and agreed that CONTRACTOR, including any and all of Contractor's officers, agents, and employees will at all times be acting and performing as an independent contractor, and shall act in an independent capacity and not as an officer, agent, servant, employee, joint venturer, partner, or associate of the COUNTY. Furthermore, County shall have no right to control or supervise or direct the manner or method by which Contractor shall perform its work and function. However, County shall retain the right to administer this Agreement so as to verify that Contractor is performing its obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. Contractor and County shall comply with all applicable provisions of law and the rules and regulations, if any, of governmental authorities having jurisdiction over matters the subject thereof.

Because of its status as an independent contractor, Contractor shall have absolutely no right to employment rights and benefits available to County employees. Contractor shall be solely liable and responsible for providing to, or on behalf of, its employees all legally-required employee benefits. In addition, Contractor shall be solely responsible and save County harmless from all matters relating to payment of Contractor's employees, including compliance with Social Security, withholding, and all other regulations governing such matters. It is acknowledged that during the term of the Agreement, Contractor may be providing services to others unrelated to the County or to the Agreement.

**SELF-DEALING TRANSACTION DISCLOSURE:** Contractor agrees that when operating as a corporation (a for-profit or non-profit corporation), or if during the term of the agreement the Contractor changes its status to operate as a corporation, members of the Contractor's Board of Directors shall disclose any self-dealing transactions that they are a party to while Contractor is providing goods or performing services under the agreement with the County. A self-dealing transaction shall mean a transaction to which the Contractor is a party and in which one or more of its directors has a material financial interest. Members of the Board of Directors shall disclose any self-dealing transactions that they are a party to by completing and signing a Fresno County Self-Dealing Transaction Disclosure Form and submitting it to the County prior to commencing with the self-dealing transaction or immediately thereafter.

**HOLD HARMLESS CLAUSE:** Contractor agrees to indemnify, save, hold harmless and at County's request, defend the County, its officers, agents and employees, from any and all costs and expenses, damages, liabilities, claims and losses occurring or resulting to County in connection with the performance, or failure to perform, by Contractor, its officers, agents or employees under this Agreement and from any and all costs and expenses, damages, liabilities, claims and losses occurring or resulting to any person, firm or corporation who may be injured or damaged by the performance, or failure to perform, of Contractor, its officers, agents or employees under this Agreement.

**EXAMINATION OF SITE:** Where work is to be performed on County site, each bidder shall have examined the site of work before bidding and shall be responsible for having acquired full knowledge of the job and of all problems affecting it. No variations or allowance from the contract sum will be made because of lack of such examination.

**DAMAGE TO EXISTING WORK:** Damage to existing construction, equipment, planting, etc., by the contractor in the performance of his work shall be replaced or repaired and restored to original condition by the contractor.

**CLEAN UP:** The Contractor shall at all times, keep the premises clean from accumulation of waste materials or rubbish caused by his employees or work and shall remove all resulting work debris from the job site.

**WATER, POWER & TOILET FACILITIES:** Successful bidder may use County owned water, power and toilet facilities at job site (when existing) at no expense to the successful bidder. Successful bidder will be required, however, to provide piping, fittings and other items as necessary to bring water and power from existing service to job site.

**COORDINATE WORK WITH OWNER:** Successful bidder shall coordinate and schedule the work with the County so that any interruption to the normal business operations be kept to a minimum.

**INSPECTION:** All material and workmanship shall be subject to inspection, examination and test by the County at any and all times during which manufacture and/or construction are carried on. The County shall have the right to reject defective material and workmanship or require its correction.

**SUPERVISION:** The Contractor shall give efficient supervision to the work, using therein the skill and diligence for which he is remunerated in the contract price. He shall carefully inspect the site and study and compare all drawings, specifications and other instructions, as ignorance of any phase of any of the features or conditions affecting the contract will not excuse him from carrying out its provisions to its full intent.

**STANDARD OF PERFORMANCE:** All work shall be performed in a good and workmanlike manner.

**SAFEGUARDS:** The contractor shall provide safeguards, in conformity with all local codes and ordinances as may be required.

**INSURANCE:** Without limiting the COUNTY's right to obtain indemnification from CONTRACTOR or any third parties, CONTRACTOR, at its sole expense, shall maintain in full force and effect, the following insurance policies or a program of self-insurance, including but not limited to, an insurance pooling arrangement or Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) throughout the term of the Agreement:

- A. Commercial General Liability: Commercial General Liability Insurance with limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence and an annual aggregate of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000). This policy shall be issued on a per occurrence basis. COUNTY may require specific coverages including completed operations, products liability, contractual liability, Explosion-Collapse-Underground, fire legal liability or any other liability insurance deemed necessary because of the nature of this contract.
- B. Automobile Liability: Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance with limits for bodily injury of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) per person, Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) per accident and for property damages of not less than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), or such coverage with a combined single limit of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00). Coverage should include owned and non-owned vehicles used in connection with this Agreement.
- C. Professional Liability: If CONTRACTOR employs licensed professional staff, (e.g., Ph.D., R.N., L.C.S.W., M.F.C.C.) in providing services, Professional Liability Insurance with limits of not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per occurrence, Three Million Dollars (\$3,000,000.00) annual aggregate.
- D. Worker's Compensation: A policy of Worker's Compensation insurance as may be required by the California Labor Code.

CONTRACTOR shall obtain endorsements to the Commercial General Liability insurance naming the County of Fresno, its officers, agents, and employees, individually and collectively, as additional insured, but only insofar as the operations under this Agreement are concerned. Such coverage for additional insured shall apply as primary insurance and any other insurance, or self-insurance, maintained by COUNTY, its officers, agents and employees shall be excess only and not contributing with insurance provided under CONTRACTOR's policies herein. This insurance shall not be cancelled or changed without a minimum of thirty (30) days advance written notice given to COUNTY.

Within thirty (30) days from the date CONTRACTOR executes this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall provide certificates of insurance and endorsement as stated above for all of the foregoing policies, as required herein, to the County of Fresno, **Public Works & Planning - Community Development, Attn: Yvette Quiroga, 2220 Tulare Street, 8th Floor, CA Fresno, CA 93721**, stating that such insurance coverage have been obtained and are in full force; that the County of Fresno, its officers, agents and employees will not be responsible for any premiums on the policies; that such Commercial General Liability insurance names the County of Fresno, its officers, agents and employees, individually and collectively, as additional insured, but only insofar as the operations under this Agreement are concerned; that such coverage for additional insured shall apply as primary insurance and any other insurance, or self-insurance, maintained by COUNTY, its officers, agents and employees, shall be excess only and not contributing with insurance provided under CONTRACTOR's policies herein; and that this insurance shall not be cancelled or changed without a minimum of thirty (30) days advance, written notice given to COUNTY.

In the event CONTRACTOR fails to keep in effect at all times insurance coverage as herein provided, the COUNTY may, in addition to other remedies it may have, suspend or terminate this Agreement upon the occurrence of such event.

All policies shall be with admitted insurers licensed to do business in the State of California. Insurance purchased shall be purchased from companies possessing a current A.M. Best, Inc. rating of A FSC VII or better.

**EPAYMENT OPTION:** The County of Fresno provides an Epay Program which involves payment of invoices by a secure Visa account number assigned to the supplier after award of contract. Notification of payments and required invoice information are issued to the supplier's designated Accounts Receivable contact by e-mail remittance advice at time of payment. To learn more about the benefits of an Epay Program, how it works, and obtain answers to frequently asked questions, click or copy and paste the following URL into your browser: [www.bankofamerica.com/epayablesvendors](http://www.bankofamerica.com/epayablesvendors) or call Fresno County Accounts Payable, 559-600-3609.

**BIDDER TO COMPLETE:**

Name of Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Public Liability: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Automotive Insurance: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Worker's Compensation: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of maintenance of adequate insurance will be required before award is made to vendor.

**GUARANTEE:** The bidder shall state his written guarantee here (if any):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GUARANTEED PICK UP AND/OR DELIVERY:** Bidder will be considered in award of bid only if they can guarantee. Enter guarantee on this line (i.e. number of days from receipt of order to delivery):

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Authorized Signature in Blue Ink)

State Purchase Order mailing address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MINIMUM ORDER:** Bidder to state minimum order quantities and charges for less than minimum order quantity (if not stated it will be assumed there are none).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBCONTRACTORS:**

List all subcontractors that would perform work in excess of one/half of one percent of the total amount of your bid, and state general type of work such subcontractor would be performing:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LICENSE:**

Bidder to possess appropriate license for the project in accordance with current regulations/statutes.

The bidder shall possess a current State of California Department of Business Oversight License, or be a controlled/non-independent, or a licensed/independent escrow company. The proposal must indicate the license held by the bidder, which enables him/her to perform the work.

**Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Issue:** \_\_\_\_\_

Bidder must also submit verification of Contractor's License from the Department of Consumer Affairs – Contractors' State License Board. Failure to submit verification may result in bidder's response being considered non-responsive.

**BONDS:**

**PERFORMANCE BOND:** The successful bidders may be required to furnish a faithful performance bond.

**BONDING COMPANY:** The company issuing bonds shall be a corporate surety admitted by the California Insurance Commissioner to do business in the State of California with an A.M Best rating of B++ VIII or better.

**COORDINATION AND COMPLETION:** The successful bidder shall contact and meet with the County Coordinator at the job site prior to commencement and completion of any work.

Successful bidder shall complete the job as instructed and described in writing by the contract, bid or amendment. Any problem or questions that arise in the scope of work, the County must be contacted and the appropriate written amendment generated.

**GUARANTEE:** The successful bidder shall fully guarantee all aspects of the project for the minimum period of one (1) year. Such one (1) year period shall commence upon the date of final acceptance by County. The guarantee shall include but in no way be limited to workmanship, equipment and materials.

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION:** The ensuing contract shall be governed by the laws of the state of California. Any claim which cannot be amicably settled without court action will be litigated in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in Fresno, CA or in a state court for Fresno County.

**DEFAULT:** In case of default by the selected bidder, the County may procure the services from another source and may recover the loss occasioned thereby from any unpaid balance due the selected bidder, or by any other legal means available to the County.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** The ensuing proposed contract will provide that the vendor may not assign any payment or portions of payments without prior written consent of the County of Fresno.

**ASSURANCES:** Any contract awarded under this RFQ must be carried out in full compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, their subsequent amendments, and any and all other laws protecting the rights of individuals and agencies. The County of Fresno has a zero tolerance for discrimination, implied or expressed, and wants to ensure that policy continues under this RFQ. The contractor must also guarantee that services, or workmanship, provided will be performed in compliance with all applicable local, state, or federal laws and regulations pertinent to the types of services, or project, of the nature required under this RFQ. In addition, the contractor may be required to provide evidence substantiating that their employees have the necessary skills and training to perform the required services or work.

**AUDITS AND RETENTION:** The Contractor shall maintain in good and legible condition all books, documents, papers, data files and other records related to its performance under this contract. Such records shall be complete and available to Fresno County, the State of California, the federal government or their duly authorized representatives for the purpose of audit, examination, or copying during the term of the contract and for a period of at least three years following the County's final payment under the contract or until conclusion of any pending matter (e.g., litigation or audit), whichever is later. Such records must be retained in the manner described above until all pending matters are closed.



**BIDDER TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:****PARTICIPATION**

The County of Fresno is a member of the Central Valley Purchasing Group. This group consists of Fresno, Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties and all governmental, tax supported agencies within these counties.

Whenever possible, these and other tax supported agencies co-op (piggyback) on contracts put in place by one of the other agencies.

Any agency choosing to avail itself of this opportunity, will make purchases in their own name, make payment directly to the contractor, be liable to the contractor and vice versa, per the terms of the original contract, all the while holding the County of Fresno harmless. If awarded this contract, please indicate whether you would extend the same terms and conditions to all tax supported agencies within this group as you are proposing to extend to Fresno County.

☐

Yes, we will extend contract terms and conditions to all qualified agencies within the Central Valley Purchasing Group and other tax supported agencies.

☐

No, we will not extend contract terms to any agency other than the County of Fresno.

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(Authorized Signature in Blue Ink)

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Title

**VENDOR MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN WITH REQUEST FOR QUOTATION.**

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFERENCE LIST**

Provide a list of at least five (5) customers for whom you have recently provided similar products/services. Be sure to include all requested information.

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No.: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Service Provided: \_\_\_\_\_

***Failure to provide a list of at least five (5) customers may be cause for rejection of this RFQ.***

## OVERVIEW

The County of Fresno, on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Planning, Community Development Division is requesting quotations to provide preliminary title reports, title insurance policies, and comparable sales information, pay off demands, property vesting information, notary services, and complete legal descriptions of single family properties. This information is to assist with loan underwriting and loan closings for applicants to Community Development Division's Affordable Housing Programs (AHP).

Successful bidders will issue policies of title insurance to protect the County from liens recorded prior to County loans and confirm lien position and amounts, once County loans are recorded. Escrow services are required to properly transfer the County's obligation to each borrower's property.

Title/escrow services must be prepared in a timely manner. A preliminary report should be submitted to the County within fifteen (15) calendar days of opening an order. To enhance this requirement, Community Development Division will need to contract with a minimum of two title companies. The successful vendors shall also provide updates to County documents and procedures to keep the County current on the changing title industry practices.

## SPECIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS AND SERVICES

The following definitions pertain to the Escrow and Title Insurance services requested:

Escrow services shall mean those services which facilitate a transfer of an interest in real property. The service provider ensures that documents and funds are delivered to the County of Fresno, as escrow holder, pursuant to specific Lender's Instructions/Recording Instructions from the County and the applicable parties.

Title services shall mean those assurances that upon close of escrow, the service provider shall ensure that the County of Fresno is in the correct lien position and show the correct lien amount pursuant to specific Lender's Instructions/Recording Instructions from the County showing mortgagor rights by issuing a Title Insurance Policy.

"Title Insurance" and "Policies of Title Insurance" shall mean American Land Title Association (Standard Coverage with Regional Exceptions), or California Land Title Association Lender's Policy (Standard Coverage with Regional Exceptions) as requested by the County of Fresno.

"Flag Policies" or "Lender's Abbreviated Guarantees" shall mean those assurances that show the current status of a property's legal description, parcel number, ownership, vesting, and outstanding liens of record, as requested by the County of Fresno.

Preliminary Title Reports shall mean those reports issued in draft form prior to the release of a title insurance policy. The successful vendor shall work with County AHP staff to clear outdated or unnecessary items from this report and identify items to be paid prior to the County loan recordation.

Comparable Sales information shall mean access to a database of properties recently sold in the near vicinity of a subject property. The sales information shall provide the parcel number, owner name(s), prior owner name(s), age of the property, the square footage of the residence and the land, the sales price, the bedroom count, and the presence of any amenities such as fireplace or swimming pool.

Pay off demands shall mean the Vendor's submission of a request for payment in full of a property lien, including the daily interest rate, and the date to which interest is paid. Pay off demand service shall also include the research required to find lienholders and completion of a recorded release of said lien.

Property vesting information shall mean the manner in which a property is held, such as community property, joint tenancy, or tenants in common.

Complete legal descriptions shall mean a land description location to delineate a specific piece of real property that is subject to a possible County loan. This definition also includes assistance provided by the vendor to determine when and how a property's boundary lines may have changed over the years.

The following items are a list of services required:

- Title Insurance policies
- Flag Policies
- Escrow services including payoff demands
- Comparable sales data
- Legal descriptions
- Vesting deeds
- Notary services
- Preliminary title reports

Community Development Division anticipates that 18 Refinance Escrows will be requested each year. 18 X 3 years = 54 escrows and they will be split between two funding sources. It is estimated that fees will be \$800 each x 54 = \$43,200.00. The above listed amounts are estimates only; actual orders may be more or less than these quantities.

Vendors shall ensure all materials and documents are delivered to the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Community Development Division, located in the County Plaza Building at 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor, Fresno, CA 93721, unless otherwise indicated for orders opened by Community Development staff.

The pricing structure for the contract shall be the amounts listed on the attached Quotation Schedule, as provided by the successful bidders for services. Invoices for payment shall be submitted at the close of each order.

Bidders need to take notice that the County process for payment from receipt of invoice is usually a forty-five day turnaround. Due to Federal regulations associated with program funding sources, the County cannot pay late payment fees accompanying monthly billings.

Statements of Information will be provided by the County as needed, if not received with opening of title order. Completed Statements of Information shall be cleared at the earliest possible date.

Failure to meet proscribed dates noted above will result in order cancellation and order being placed with an alternate company.

Failure to correct loan documents after 2 attempts will result in cancellation of order and same order placed with an alternate title company, with no cancellation fee to the County.

Failure to provide Title Policies within 45 business days of close of escrow will result in reduction of future orders with vendor.

It is the County's intent to contract with multiple companies in the event one title company cannot meet appropriate deadlines or has performance issues.

All reports must be timely and accurate.

COMPLY  
NOT COMPLY

**SPECIFICATION COMPLIANCE**

- A. Provide comparable sales information, property profile data, and occasional document copies upon request of County. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Provide an order number within 3 days of request by the County to open order for title insurance. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Research all encumbrances for a subject property and provide a Preliminary Title Report that list all mortgages, government charges, liens or other encumbrances. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Deliver Preliminary Title Report via delivery, email, or fax within 5 business days of opening order for Title Insurance. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Transmit Requests for Demand within 5 business days of request by the County or within 5 days of receipt of California Residential Purchase Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions. \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Forward Demand statements to County upon receipt, as requested. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Notify the County of recordation information within 24 hours of recordation via email, fax, or as stated in the Recording Instructions. Failure to provide recording information within 72 hours of recordation shall result in reduction of future orders with vendor. \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Prepare Reconveyances/Releases for items to be paid off through escrow upon receipt of County's written Lender's Instructions or as stated in the California Purchase Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions. \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Affidavits, Deeds, and other loan documents shall be prepared as stated in County's Lender's Instructions or California Residential Purchase Agreement and Joint Escrow Instructions. These documents shall be received from vendor within 5 business days of request by County. \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Appointments to sign Grant Deeds, prepared as stated in County's Lender's Instructions or California Residential Purchase Agreement and Escrow Instructions shall be set within 3 business days of County's request. \_\_\_\_\_
- K. Loan documents shall be recorded within 3 business days of vendor's receipt of signed and notarized documents and/or County's written Recording Instructions. \_\_\_\_\_
- L. Vendor shall record loan documents, prepare and deliver the Settlement Statement, any proceeds check, and/or Grant Deeds to County within 3 business days, as stated in the Recording Instructions. \_\_\_\_\_
- M. Vendor billing invoices must include owner(s)/seller(s) names, property address and escrow number and delivered to the County of Fresno department that opened the escrow. \_\_\_\_\_
- N. Vendor Invoices/Statements shall be submitted within 7 business days of the recordation. Invoices shall be submitted separately for each escrow. \_\_\_\_\_
- O. Verification of placement of Tax Service shall be submitted within 7 business days of receipt of invoice payment from the County. Tax Service shall be placed with CoreLogic, using customer number 19070. \_\_\_\_\_
- P. Title Insurance shall be delivered or emailed within 3 weeks of recordation of Deed of Trust or Grant Deed. \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. Provide a "Flag Policy" also known as a "PIRT Policy" upon County's request within 5 business days, detailing property vesting and open liens. Vendor billing invoices shall be submitted with this abbreviated policy. \_\_\_\_\_
- R. Comply with the provisions of the California Financial Code and the California Code of Regulations. \_\_\_\_\_

## QUOTATION SCHEDULE

**Submit a quote for each of the itemized services listed below:**

ALTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$300,000, Owner's Residential Rate	\$
CLTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$300,000, Owners' Residential Rate	\$
Escrow Fee for Title Insurance in the amount of \$300,000, Sale Escrow Rate	\$
Escrow Refinance Rate for loan of \$300,000	\$
Residential Refinance Rate for Title Insurance in the amount of \$300,000.	\$
ALTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$250,000, Owner's Residential Rate	\$
CLTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$250,000, Owner's Residential Rate	\$
Escrow Fee for Title Insurance in the amount of \$250,000, Sale Escrow Rate	\$
Escrow Refinance Rate for loan of \$250,000	\$
Residential Refinance Rate for Title Insurance in the amount of \$250,000.	\$
ALTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$200,000, Owner's Residential Rate	\$
CLTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$200,000, Owner's Residential Rate	\$
Escrow Fee for Title Insurance in the amount of \$200,000, Sale Escrow Rate	\$
Escrow Refinance Rate for loan of \$200,000	\$
Residential Refinance Rate for Title Insurance in the amount of \$200,000	\$
ALTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$100,000, Owner's Residential Rate.	\$
CLTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$100,000, Owner's Residential Rate.	\$
Escrow Fee for Title Insurance in the amount of \$100,000, Sale Escrow Rate	\$
Residential Refinance Rate for Title Insurance in the amount of \$100,000.	\$
Escrow Refinance Rate for a loan of \$100,000	\$
ALTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$50,000 Owner's, Residential Rate	\$
CLTA Policy of Title Insurance in the amount of \$50,000, Owner's Residential Rate	\$
Escrow Fee for Title Insurance in the amount of \$50,000, Sale Escrow Rate.	\$
Residential Refinance Rate for Title Insurance in the amount of \$50,000.	\$
Escrow Refinance Rate for loan of \$50,000	\$
<b>TOTAL Services Cost</b>	<b>\$</b>

**Miscellaneous Closing Costs:**

Aggregate recording charge	\$
E-recording fee - per document	\$
Document Preparation (per item)	\$
Loan Tie-In Fee – sale transaction	\$
Loan Tie-in Fee – refinance transaction	\$
Document Signing Service/Notary	\$
Property Profile/Comparable Sales	\$
Copies of recorded documents – per document	\$
Certified copies – per document	\$
Flag Policy (vesting and open liens)	\$
Courier service – per trip	\$
Standard Endorsement Package: 100, 116, and 8.1	\$
<b>TOTAL Miscellaneous Cost</b>	<b>\$</b>



## CHECK LIST

This Checklist is provided to assist the vendors in the preparation of their bid response. Included in this list, are important requirements and is the responsibility of the bidder to submit with the bid package in order to make the bid compliant. Because this checklist is just a guideline, the bidder must read and comply with the bid in its entirety.

*Check off each of the following:*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ All signatures must be in **blue ink**.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The Request for Quotation (RFQ) has been signed and completed.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ **One (1) original and two (2) copies** of the RFQ have been provided.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Addenda, if any, have been completed, signed and included in the bid package.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The completed *Reference List* as provided with this RFQ.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The *Quotation Schedule* as provided with this RFQ has been completed, price reviewed for accuracy and any corrections initialed in ink.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate all of bidder exceptions to the County's requirements, conditions and specifications as stated within this RFQ.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The *Participation* page as provided within this RFQ has been signed and included
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The *Local Vendor Bid Preference and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Bid Preference* section (if applicable) has been completed signed and included.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ *Bidder to Complete* page as provided with this RFQ.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Verification of Department of Industrial Relations Contractor Registration.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Verification of Contractor's License and the Department of Consumer Affairs – Contractors' State License Board.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Specification, descriptions etc. for items offered under bidder(s) quotation.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ A description of the design and techniques that the bidder will use to complete the project.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Lastly, on the **LOWER LEFT HAND CORNER** of the sealed envelope, box, etc. transmitting your bid include the following information:

County of Fresno RFQ No. <u>962-5458</u>
Closing Date: <u>April 19, 2016</u>
Closing Time: <u>2:00 P.M.</u>
Commodity or Service: <u>Escrow and Title Services</u>

**Return Checklist with your RFQ response.**