

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to California Public Contract Code Section 20101, the South Tahoe Public Utility District (hereinafter "District") has determined that all Timber Harvest Contractors (hereinafter "Contractor" or "applicant") that wish to be listed in a bid for the 2020 Wastewater Treatment Plant Hazard Fuel Mitigation Project (hereinafter "Project") to be undertaken by the District must be pre-qualified prior to submitting a bid on that project. It is mandatory that all Timber Harvest Contractors who intend to submit a bid fully complete the pre-qualification policy packet (Sections 5, 6, 7 & 8), provide all materials requested, and be approved by the District to be on the final qualified Bidders list. No bid will be accepted from a Timber Harvest Contractor that has failed to comply with these requirements.

The site of the work is located at and around the South Tahoe Public Utility District Wastewater Treatment Plant site at 1275 Meadow Crest Drive in the County of El Dorado, California, and includes a total of 104 acres of forest. The purpose of the project is to mitigate hazard forest fuel by cutting and removing designated standing live and dead conifers through mechanical treatment (mechanical processor-harvester and log forwarder or skidder) and cut brush by mastication of approximately 95 acres, as well as hand thinning of approximately 9 acres as required in sensitive Stream Environment Zones (SEZ) according to the contract specifications. The total costs for the 2020 Wastewater Treatment Plant Hazard Fuel Mitigation Project is estimated at \$250,000.

The work under this contract may be completed in one or two seasons, between May 1 and October 15. The work is expected to commence May 1, 2020 and must be complete no later than October 15, 2021. The District intends to award this work to Contractor for either the mechanical harvesting, or hand harvesting, or both. Contractors that bid on the mechanical harvesting will be required to have and maintain for the duration of the work a Timber Operator's License (Type A) valid in the State of California. Contractors that bid on the hand thinning portion only will be required to have and maintain for the duration of the work a California Contractor's License with C-61 Tree Service (D-49) specialties.

**A Mandatory Pre-Qualification Conference and Site Walk** will be held at the South Tahoe Public Utility District, Board Room (1275 Meadow Crest Drive, South Lake Tahoe, California) on **Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 2 p.m.** **Any Contractor absent from the Pre-Qualification Conference and Site Walk will be disqualified.**

The anticipated Project schedule is summarized as follows:

Date	Milestone
<b>October 21, 2019</b>	District issues invitation for Pre-qualification
<b>November 6, 2019</b>	<b>Mandatory</b> Prequalification Site Walk
<b>November 8, 2019</b>	Last day for applicants to submit questions
<b>November 14, 2019</b>	Prequalification Packet Due
<b>November 20, 2019</b>	District will notify Contractors of Prequalification Results
<b>November 27, 2019</b>	Last day for applicants to appeal District's decision with respect to pre-qualification ratings.
<b>December 6, 2019</b>	Last day for appeals to be heard by the District.
<b>December 19, 2019</b>	Prequalification Results to Board/Authorization to Bid

<b>January 6, 2020</b>	District begins advertising for Bid
<b>January 29, 2020</b>	District opens bids.
<b>February 5, 2020</b>	Last day for bidders to protest bid award.
<b>February 6, 2020</b>	District Board considers Recommendation for Award

To download prequalification documents, Contractors must register as a vendor at: <http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=21516>. All pre-qualification submittals will be received only by electronic submission using the District's electronic bidding system (PlanetBids); paper applications WILL NOT be accepted.

Any question or objection to the pre-qualification materials, or explanation desired by a prospective Contractor regarding the meaning or interpretation of the Pre-qualification Package and related materials, must be requested electronically to the District's electronic bidding system Q&A Tab before **5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019**.

Contractors interested in bidding the project are invited to submit a Pre-Qualification Packet to the District's electronic bidding system no later than **5:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 14, 2019**. Each Pre-Qualification Packet must be signed under penalty of perjury in the manner designated at the end of the form by an individual who has the legal authority to bond the Contractor on whose behalf that person is signing. The contractor shall provide only complete and accurate information. The Contractor acknowledges that the District is relying on the truth and accuracy of the responses contained therein. If any information provided by a Contractor becomes inaccurate, the Contractor must immediately notify the District and provide updated accurate information in writing, under penalty of perjury.

The Pre-Qualification Packets will be reviewed and assessed by Staff of the District's Engineering Department using an objective scoring system following California Department of Industrial Relations Guidelines and in accordance with California Public Contract Code §20101. The Pre-Qualification Packet will be the basis for determining which Timber Harvest Contractors are qualified to bid on the Project. The District reserves the right to check other sources available. A contractor may be found not pre-qualified for either: (1) Omission of requested information; or (2) Falsification of information. The District reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the pre-qualification application submitted, to make all final determinations, and to determine at any time that the pre-qualification procedures will not be applied to a specific future public works project. The District reserves the right to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the pre-qualification rating based on subsequently learned information. Contractors whose rating changes sufficient to disqualify them will be notified, and given an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a pre-qualification rating.

Pursuant to Public Contract Code §20101, all information contained in the pre-qualification documents and submitted financial statements are NOT public records and are NOT open to public inspection. However, the contents may be disclosed to third parties for purpose of verification, or investigation of substantial allegations, or in the appeal hearing. State law requires that the names of contractors applying for pre-qualification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

The District anticipates that it will notify Contractors electronically and in writing of its determination no later than **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2019**; however, if the review process requires more time, the District will notify Contractors of the extension of the review period in writing. Where a timely and completed application results in a rating below that necessary to pre-qualify, Contractors will be allowed to appeal a negative pre-qualification determination in accordance with

California Public Contract Code §20101(d). An appeal is begun by the Contractor delivering notice to the District of its appeal of the decision with respect to its pre-qualification rating, no later than **seven (7) calendar days** after receiving notice of the District's decision. There is no appeal from a refusal for an incomplete or late application. Without a timely appeal, the Contractor waives any and all rights to challenge the decision of the District, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding. If the Contractor gives the required notice of appeal and requests a hearing by the Appeals Panel, the hearing shall be conducted so that it is concluded no later than five (5) business days after the District's receipt of the notice of appeal.

While it is the intent of the pre-qualification questionnaire and documents required therewith to assist the District in determining bidder responsibility prior to bid and to aid the District in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of pre-qualification, nor any pre-qualification rating, will preclude the District from a post-bid consideration and determination of whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trustworthiness.

The Pre-qualification Package, its completion and submission, and its use by the District, shall not give rise to any liability on the part of the District to the Contractor or any third party or person. **This is not a solicitation for bid.** No guarantees are made or implied that the project will be constructed, either in part or whole. The Contractor accepts all risk and cost associated with the completion of the Pre-qualification Package without financial guarantee. The District reserves the right to cancel this Notice or to reject any and all responses and Pre-qualification Packages, if it determines, in its sole discretion, that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of the District.

Contractors are responsible for monitoring the District's electronic bidding system portal for all Addenda issued for this prequalification. It is the Contractor's sole responsibility to ensure that they receive all the Addenda for this prequalification. In submitting a prequalification packet, Applicants certify that they have acknowledged all addenda and incorporated any necessary changes into their submittal.

If bid, this project will be funded by the California Tahoe Conservancy through a Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant. The Contractor will be required to comply with all State and federal contract rules and regulations, including requirements for contractor registration and labor compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations.

**Specific questions regarding the Project or the prequalification process or any requests for appeals shall be addressed to:**

**South Tahoe Public Utility District  
Attn: Heidi Baugh, Purchasing Agent  
1275 Meadow Crest Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150  
(530) 543-6270**

To obtain additional information regarding the District's pre-qualification policy for this project please visit the District's website at [www.stpud.us](http://www.stpud.us), or email Heidi Baugh at [hbaugh@stpud.dst.ca.us](mailto:hbaugh@stpud.dst.ca.us).

**THE ASSOCIATED PROJECT WILL BE SUBJECT TO PREVAILING WAGE REQUIREMENTS, AS WILL BE OUTLINED IN THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.**