

## **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES RELATED TO RFP NO. 2021-1**

*These questions were submitted prior to the Pre-Proposal Conference held on November 15, 2021, and the questions were discussed at the Pre-Proposal Conference held on November 15, 2021 and the Sparta District assumed that the questions were answered during the conference and the District therefore did not provide written responses prior to December 3, 2021. However, the questions have been posed again and thus the District is providing written responses.*

**Question 1.** Would it be possible for [potential proposer] to be added to any email list you have for this RFP? I could not find a link/invitation mechanism for the pre-proposal conference.

**Response:** A link to the pre-proposal conference was posted on the Sparta District website prior to the pre-proposal conference held on November 15, 2021 and you did participate in the pre-proposal conference. A recording of the pre-proposal conference is available if requested.

**Question 2.** I see both 3 and 2 years as potential project terms (pg 1, last sentence of Section 1.2 and first of 1.4) – is this negotiable within these limits? Or is one a hard limit?

**Response:** As discussed during the pre-proposal conference, a two-year project term encompassing a projected period of January 2022, through December 2023, is being discussed, but that period is subject to negotiation.

**Question 3.** Are there restrictions on what the funding can be used for? I hope to hire a graduate student to work on this project for a thesis, but I want to make sure that is allowable. This also sets a rather inflexible time constraint with recruiting a student and semester start dates.

**Response:** As discussed during the pre-proposal conference, the project funds must be related to the work included in the scope of services set forth in the RFP and in connection with other applicable provisions of the RFP but is otherwise subject to the contractor's discretion.

**Question 4.** Is funding for a student a desirable feature of a proposal from the Commission's perspective? Neutral or negative?

**Response:** See response to Question 3 above.

**Question 5.** Connected to the above – U of A will want a chunk of the money (indirect/overhead) – are there maximum rate limits on this? Our standard rate is 50%, so 1/3 of the funding would not go to direct research costs. 0% is usually a non-starter for the powers that be, but rates lower than 50% have been approved, in my understanding. They may be trying to crack down on this, while I fully support more funding for the actual work.

**Response:** See response to Question 3 above.

**Question 6.** Is there an ideal timeframe for a start date for the project? Again, student and other planning – I can only dedicate my own time in the summer (at least for salary funding, real time spent is another story).

**Response:** See response to Question 2 above.