**Request for Qualifications**

**Consulting Engineering Services**

**Groundwater Management Area 16**

**November 4, 2023**

The Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 16 is requesting qualification statements (proposals) from engineering firms to provide consulting engineering services for the GMA. Enclosed are the requirements for the qualification statement.

The statements (proposals) are to be mailed or emailed to the address under 4(a)(1). All qualification statements (proposals) must be received by each of the GCDs by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

If you have questions about the Request for Qualifications or about the operation of the GMA, you may contact Lonnie Stewart, General Manager, Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District by phone: (361) 449-7017, or e-mail: louwcd@yahoo.com.

The GMA 16 reserves the right to reject any and/or all statements of qualifications (proposals) received and to negotiate any and/or all portions of the contract for engineering services awarded based on the statements received.

**Request for Qualifications**

The Groundwater Management Area (GMA) 16 is requesting qualification statements from engineering firms so that the GMA may enter into a contract or agreement for providing contract engineering services for the GMA.

1. Background Information

The GMA is a recently organized entity consisting of 10 confirmed groundwater conservation districts serving all of Live Oak, McMullen, Duval, Starr, Kenedy, Jim Wells, Brooks, Jim Hogg, and parts of Nueces, San Patricio, Hidalgo, Willacy, Bee, and Kleberg Counties. The GMA is organized and operates under authority given in HB 1763, 79th Texas Legislature, and Chapters 35 and 36, Texas Water Code (TWC).

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Request for Qualifications is to obtain consulting engineering services for the GMA. The firm selected will be associated with or have available for consultation a Texas licensed engineer, familiar with the aquifers and underground water bearing formations within the GMA, to help the GMA member Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) evaluate and make decisions based on hydrogeological reports and other information obtained from a number of sources.

1. Term of Consulting Agreement

The contract for consulting engineering services based upon the GMA approval of qualifications and contract letter will be for the time period required for the GMA to meet the statutory requirements of Chapter 36 of the TWC ending when all work on the development of a desired future condition (DFC) has been completed.

The selected proposer will provide assistance to the GMA on the development of a DFC and the modeled available groundwater (MAG) of the aquifers within the GMA that will include:

1. Gathering, compilation and analysis of existing data from the districts pertaining to the availability and use of groundwater from resources within the GMA boundaries, for use in running the most recent GMA-16 flow model.
2. Running the GMA-16 flow model with scenarios that vary the distribution of pumping (spatially and temporally) from groundwater availability model using revised pumping figures submitted by the Districts.
3. Providing GAM run with the projection and evaluation of future aquifer conditions based on specified projected water demand scenarios.
4. The consultant will prepare an explanatory report that reflects the factors required under Texas Water Code §36.108(d-3).
5. The consultant will meet with and present the explanatory report to the GMA-16 joint planning committee.
6. Provide technical assistance or advice on representation of the GMA before Texas Water Development Board or other agencies, as requested.

2. Proposal Content

1. Cover Letter

Statement of Qualifications must include a cover letter clearly stating the name of the firm and the name, address, and telephone number of the firm’s representative.

1. Technical Information

To provide information for use by the GMA in evaluating the proposer and to determine the understanding of the work to be done, the proposer will:

* 1. Provide information that the proposer has available engineer(s) licensed to practice in the State of Texas.
	2. Provide information that the proposer is familiar with: groundwater availability studies and groundwater recharge rates; groundwater data sources; demonstrating familiarity in the preparation of groundwater management plans meeting the requirements of TWC Chapter 36 (as amended 2011); demonstrating experience in the application of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Groundwater Availability Models (GAMs) for the Gulf Coast, Carrizo-Wilcox, and Yegua-Jackson aquifer for development of information to be included in the DFC and MAG for the GMA.
	3. Provide a statement outlining how the GMA may accomplish the statutory requirements of Chapter 36 of the TWC. The proposer will demonstrate their understanding of the project by outlining how they would guide the GMA in accomplishing this mission. The selected proposer will maximize the use of existing agencies by acting as a project manager, tasking Groundwater Conservation Districts (GCDs) and the Texas Water Development Board or other agencies to provide requested data to establish desired future conditions (DFC) and modeled available groundwater (MAG) and the amount of groundwater recoverable for each aquifer.
	4. Make a statement concerning the independence of the proposer including direct and indirect financial interest. Include in this statement the relationships of the proposer, including the proposed consultants to employees or members of the Board of Directors of the GCDs of the GMA.
1. Management Information

The proposer will furnish satisfactory evidence of the capability to provide in a professional and timely manner the services stated in the Request for Qualifications. As a minimum, the following information will be furnished to fulfill this requirement.

* 1. State whether the proposer is a national, regional or local licensed engineering firm.
	2. Provide evidence that the proposer has experience in performing services related to the production of groundwater for groundwater conservation districts, water supply corporations or local government in the area of Texas immediately adjacent to the stated area of the GMA.
	3. Provide a list of current or past groundwater conservation district (GCD), groundwater management area, water supply corporation (WSC) or local government clients, for which consultation on groundwater projects has been provided.
	4. State whether the proposer is currently under the terms of a public or private reprimand by a Texas licensing or regulatory agency. Explain any disciplinary actions taken, investigations underway, or lawsuits filed against your firm in federal, state or local courts
	5. List the names of staff member(s) who will direct consultations with the District as well as those staff members or consultants who will be responsible for planning, directing and conducting field work or reporting to the GMA under this contract. Include the educational background of all staff members named and all professional licenses held by each staff member named.
1. Fees

The estimated or actual cost of consulting services will be negotiated between the GMA and the proposer after a qualified firm is selected.

Fees to be charged for subsequent years and performing special projects will be negotiated after selection of a qualified firm.

The GMA will pay fees as set forth and agreed upon in an approved contract.

3. Conditions for submission of proposal

1. Proposal must include a cover letter clearly stating the name of the firm, the location of firm’s office proposed to be responsible for providing services and the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the firm’s representative.
2. Proposal must address each of the requirements as stated in this Request for Qualifications. Proposal should not be longer than 50 pages.
3. The GMA 16 reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, and to negotiate portions thereof.
4. The GMA 16 reserves the right to select any proposal based on consideration of qualifications and subsequently negotiated fees.
5. The GMA 16 reserves the right to request additional information or to meet with representatives from proposing firms to discuss points in the proposal.
6. The GMA 16 will not be liable for any cost incurred in preparation of the proposals or for any cost incurred in the negotiation process.
7. The GMA 16 may ask proposers to send a representative for an oral interview or to one or more negotiating meetings prior to the Board of Directors acceptance of a proposal. The GMA 16 will not be liable for the cost incurred by the proposer in connection with such interview or negotiations.

4. Procedures for submitting proposals

 A. Delivery

Responses to this Request for Qualifications should be addressed to GMA-16 as follows along with a digital copy:

1. Andy Garza

Kenedy County GCD

P.O. Box 212

Sarita, TX 78385

Email address: agarza27@hotmail.com

1. Deadline for submitting proposals

All proposals must be received by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. Proposals not delivered or received by that time will not be considered. Submitters of proposals meeting the submission deadline may be asked to make a presentation at the GMA meeting to be held in Falfurrias, Texas at 1:00 PM, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

1. Number of copies

An original and a digital copy must be submitted to the above GCD in Section 4 (A) (1). Copy should not be longer than 50 pages.

5. Assistance to proposers

Any person wishing to obtain additional information about the request for qualifications or about the operations of the District or GMA may contact the following:

Lonnie Stewart, General Manager

Live Oak Underground Water Conservation District

3460A HWY 281

George West, Texas 78022

Phone: (361) 449-7017 Fax: (361) 449-2780

E-mail: louwcd@yahoo.com

6. GMA approval

It is the intention of the GMA to select a consulting engineer at their March 28, 2023 meeting, subject to availability of funding.