

**NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TO
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR**

SMALL STREAMS MAINTENANCE IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CONTRACT 23-646-52 (RE-BID)

PROPOSALS ARE DUE DECEMBER 13, 2022

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only, from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (central time zone) (CT), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or her designee at 11:00 AM (CT) on December 13, 2022. The public cannot attend but can view the bid opening at <https://mwrdd.org/bid-opening>.

NO BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 11:00 AM (CT), ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED BID OPENING DATE. ALL BIDS FAXED, MAILED, EMAILED, OR HAND DELIVERED WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AND WILL BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDER. THERE IS NO BID DEPOSITORY SAFE AVAILABLE FOR MAILING OR HAND DELIVERING BIDS. THE DISTRICT WILL ONLY ACCEPT BIDS ELECTRONICALLY UPLOADED TO THE BONFIRE PORTAL ([HTTPS://MWRD.BONFIREHUB.COM/](https://mwrdd.bonfirehub.com/)). PLEASE SEE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR BID TO THE BONFIRE PORTAL IN THE BID DOCUMENT ENTITLED "SUBMISSION VIA THE BONFIRE PORTAL."

Specifications, proposal forms and/or plans may be obtained from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management by downloading online from the District's website at www.mwrdd.org(Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements). No fee is required for the Contract Documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of the Contract Document should be directed to the following email: contractdesk@mwrdd.org or call 312-751-6643.

Tenders are invited to provide services to remove debris, tree limbs and branches, dead wood, debris jams, beaver dams, nuisance vegetation, trash and other blockages to maintain drainage in various small streams, creeks, rivers, overbanks, culverts and riparian areas within the in Cook County, Illinois, on an as-needed basis, for an approximate two-year period, terminating December 31, 2024.

This Contract readvertisement under 23-646-52 is only for the work included under Group B. The Group A work included in Contract 23-646-51 has been deleted from this readvertisement.

When submitting a proposal, the Bidder must bid on every Item or the bid will be considered non-responsive.

The estimated cost of the work under this Contract is \$1,700,000.00.

This Contract does not have a bid deposit.

Funding of all Contract items is subject to the Board of Commissioners' approval of the District's budget for all years under this Contract.

The District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Bidder to successfully download any and all Contract documents, including but not limited to specifications, proposal forms and/or plans, as a result of any type of technological computer and/or software system failure or breakdown that restricts, prohibits or prevents successful downloading of any and all District Contract documents by the Bidder, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Bidding documents are only available online, and all addenda issued for this Contract will be available online at the District's website, www.mwrd.org. The path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements. A copy of such addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person which downloads a set of such Contract documents.

Any Proposal which indicates multiple or alternate bids will be deemed non-responsive and will be rejected by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management.

Prior to award of the Contract, the lowest responsible Bidder must demonstrate compliance with the District's 2017 Multi-Project Labor Agreement (Cook County) (MPLA) by submitting to the Director of Procurement and Materials Management a signed Certificate of Compliance with Multi-Project Labor Agreement (Cook County) (MPLA) (Revised October 2019). The Agreement and Certificate of Compliance (Revised October 2019) are contained in the Contract Documents.

Bidders on Contracts in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) will be required to comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246 as amended to date, regarding NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT. The requirements for Bidders and Contractors under this order are explained in Appendix C of the Contract Documents. The provisions of Appendix C also apply to each Subcontractor on the Contract in excess of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

Each Bidder must submit with their proposals a signed and completed **MBE, WBE, SBE Utilization Plan** which lists each business intended to be used as a MBE, WBE, or SBE on pages UP-2, UP-3 and UP-4 and supplemental pages as necessary. **The Bidder must sign the Signature Section page on UP-5.** Failure to submit a signed MBE, WBE, SBE Utilization Plan will result in a bid being deemed non-responsive and the bid will be rejected.

Also, if a Waiver is sought, the Bidder is required to sign pages UP-5 and UP-6, the Waiver Request Form; failure to do so will be viewed as non-responsive and the bid will be rejected. Should you have any questions, please contact the Diversity Office at 312-751-4035.

Each Bidder must submit **with their bid package** an original or facsimile copy of the **MBE, WBE, SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent, page UP-7** for each subcontractor listed on their MBE, WBE, SBE Utilization Plan. The submitted MBE, WBE, SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent must be completed and signed by the subcontractor and accompanied with a copy of the subcontractor's current Letter of Certification from a state, local government or agency or documentation demonstrating that the subcontractor is a MBE, WBE or SBE within the meaning of the Affirmative Action Ordinance, Revised Appendix D. Failure to submit the MBE, WBE, SBE Utilization Plan signed by the Bidder at the time of the bid opening, and the MBE, WBE, SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent signed by each MBE, WBE, SBE, will be viewed as non-responsive and the bid will be rejected.

All MBE, WBE, SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent must conform to the MBE, WBE, SBE Utilization Plan submitted at the time of bid opening.

If the Bidder exceeds the allowable **Supplier Utilization** amount which is stated in the bid documents, the bid will be viewed as non-responsive. Therefore, the Bidder may not exceed the use of a MBE, WBE, SBE supplier for more than 25% of each respective MBE, WBE, or SBE goal, unless the Director of Procurement and Materials Management has authorized a Supplier's Exception notated on page AU-1.

The Director of Procurement and Materials Management has granted an exception to Section 11(i) of the Affirmative Action Ordinance, Revised Appendix D. The exception will allow the bidder to utilize MBE/WBE/SBE suppliers for 100% goal attainment in their respective categories.

In addition, each Bidder must submit with their proposals a completed VBE Commitment Form which lists each business intended to be used as a VBE. The Bidder must make a "Good Faith Effort" to identify eligible Veteran Owned-Businesses by completing the VBE Commitment Form. If the Bidder is unable to identify qualified VBE subcontractors capable of providing goods and services required by the Contract, the Bidder must write "no participation" on the VBE Commitment Form. Where a Bidder has failed to meet the VBE participation goal, the Administrator shall require the Contractor to submit a Veteran's Business Enterprise Good Faith Efforts Documentation Request Form and provide additional documentation of its good faith efforts in attempting to fulfill the VBE goal.

The Contractor agrees to use the District's online compliance monitoring system administered by the Diversity Section for payment and reporting purposes in order to fulfill the Affirmative Action requirements.

The MBE, WBE, SBE Utilization Plan MUST be signed by the Bidder, even if the Bidder requests a waiver and/or offers itself to meet any of the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D goals. If the Bidder offers itself to satisfy any of the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D goals, then its name shall be shown in the appropriate space(s) on the MBE, WBE, SBE Utilization Plan.

Where a Bidder is a business owned and controlled by a minority woman (M/WBE), or where the Bidder utilizes an M/WBE in a joint venture or as a subcontractor, the Bidder may count the M/WBE participation toward the achievement of either its MBE or WBE goal, but not both.

Subsequent to the bid opening, and if it is determined by the Affirmative Action Administrator that a Contractor's Information form is required from the apparent low Bidder, the Bidder must complete and submit the form within three (3) calendar days of receiving the written request.

The type of work to be performed under the Contract is within the "Excavation" classification for establishing Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Women Business Enterprises (WBE), Small Business Enterprises (SBE) and Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises (VBE) utilization goals contained in the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D and Appendix V. The associated MBE, WBE, SBE and VBE individual goals are: 20% MBE, 9% WBE, 10% SBE and 3% VBE. Should you have any questions, please contact the Diversity Office at 312-751-4035.

It is required that the prospective Bidder indicate participation by signing each applicable Utilization Plan contained within the Contract Document

In addition, the Bidder agrees to fulfill the Special Training Provisions for Apprentices as specified in the Appendix K and to provide training opportunities throughout the life of the Contract.

The requirements of the Special Training Provisions for Apprentices are 150 Minority Apprentice Hours and/or Female Apprentice Hours.

The Bidder(s) to whom the Contract is awarded must be prepared to comply with the requirements, goals, terms and conditions of the Affirmative Action Ordinance, Appendix C, the Revised Appendix D, Appendix K and the Appendix V, throughout the life of the Contract.

If any potential Bidder contemplating to submit a proposal is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the specifications or other Contract documents, such inquiry should be submitted online at the District's website, www.mwrd.org. The path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements. The District will provide an online response to such inquiries, as the District deems appropriate. Strings of appropriate questions and answers regarding the bidding documents will be available online on the District's website until the bid opening date of the bidding documents. No questions will be accepted by telephone, fax, email, mail, or any other such form of delivery.

The District will only respond to questions received online up to ONE (1) WEEK prior to the bid opening date of the bidding documents. The District will not respond to questions received after this date. The District does not guarantee the timeliness of responses provided online, nor does the District guarantee that such responses will be provided in adequate time to affect the submission of bids. The District shall provide responses online ONLY if the responses do not interpret or otherwise change the bidding documents.

The District's responses online are NOT official responses and, therefore, are not binding to the bidding documents. Any official interpretation or change to the bidding documents will be made only by addenda duly issued to all plan holders on record by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management.

Failure on the part of the prospective Bidder to receive a written interpretation prior to the time of the opening of bids will not be grounds for withdrawal of proposal.

The Resident Engineer for this Contract is Mr. Steve Parnell. Mr. Parnell will provide online responses to online inquiries.

A Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid Conference will be held online via a Zoom meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 11:00 A.M. (CST). The link to the Zoom meeting is embedded in a separate Word document under the "Additional Documents" column on the District's website at www.mwrd.org. The file path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements → (Find correct project/Contract) → Bidding Documents.

The purpose of the Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid conference is to review the scope of work, to provide for identification and discussion of potential problems that might arise during the administration of this Contract and seek clarification of technical or procedural aspects of this Contract. There will be a Q&A session at the end of the meeting. Also, potential Bidders must give their contact information to register prior to entering the Zoom Pre-Bid conference.

Potential Bidders are reminded they may also raise questions they may have to the District's Question and Answer Board hosted online at the District's website, www.mwr.org. The path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement and Materials Management → Contract Announcements.

Bidders are **STRONGLY URGED** to inspect all areas of the work sites prior to bidding, in order to familiarize themselves with the nature of the work and the method of accomplishing the same. To schedule an appointment to inspect the work sites, prospective Bidders may contact the Resident Engineer, Mr. Steve Parnell, at (708)588-3499, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Bidders should read the bidding requirements set forth on pages R-1 through R-6, and in particular page R-2, Paragraph 6, in regards to questions on this Contract.

All Contracts for the Construction of Public Works are subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago

By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement
and Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
November 16, 2022