

**I-1
NOTICE
INVITATION TO BID
TO
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
FOR**

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT, AGRICULTURAL FIELDSIDE MOWING,
AND FENCE INSTALLATION AND REPAIR
AT FULTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CONTRACT 23-659-11

PROPOSALS ARE DUE MARCH 7, 2023

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted back to the 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 Standard Time), on the bid opening date, and will be opened publicly by the Director of Procurement and Materials Management or designee at 11:00 AM on March 7, 2023. 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 CENTRAL TIME ON THE ABOVE SCHEDULED BID OPENING DATE. ALL BIDS FAXED, MAILED, E-MAILED, 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://MWRDD.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."

Tenders are invited for providing all labor, supervision, vehicles, tools and materials, including all transportation required, to perform maintenance, repair, operation of agricultural equipment, moving of pipe, removing fences, cleaning culverts, clearing vegetation, and other work as specified herein and required from time to time, at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District's Prairie Plan Site in Fulton County, Illinois over a three year period:

Group A - Agricultural Management: providing one (1) operating Engineer, one (1) agricultural laborer, and other classifications of labor, for the operation, maintenance, and repair of facilities and agricultural equipment.

Group B - Agricultural Fieldside Mowing: providing labor and equipment to perform agricultural mowing services for a combined area of approximately 1,600 acres.

Group C - Fence Installation and Removal: providing labor, equipment, parts, and material to install and remove woven or barbed wire fence.

The Contract is divided, for purposes of bidding, into three Groups. Bidders may submit a bid for any Group or combination of Groups, as set forth in the proposal. When submitting a proposal, the Bidder must bid on every Item in that Group or the bid will be considered non-responsive. For any Group not bid, the Bidder shall insert "NO BID" in the appropriate place. The District reserves the right to award a Contract or Contracts to any Bidder or Bidders for any Group or combination of Groups as it may deem to be in its best interest.

The estimated cost of the work under this Contract is not to exceed the following:

Group A - Agricultural Management	\$732,000.00
Group B - Agricultural Fieldside Mowing	\$375,000.00
<u>Group C - Fence Installation and Removal</u>	<u>\$153,000.00</u>

TOTAL for All Groups \$1,260,000.00

There is no bid deposit required.

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

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.mwrd.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@mwrd.org or call 312-751-6643.

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.

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, and in 41 CFR 60-4, and shall be maintained throughout the life of the Contract. The provisions of Appendix C also apply to each Subcontractor on contracts in excess Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

For Group B only, each Bidder must submit with their proposal a signed and completed **MBE/WBE Utilization Plan** which lists each business intended to be used as a MBE or WBE on pages UP-2 and UP-3 and supplemental pages as necessary. The Bidder must sign the Signature Section page on UP-4. Failure to submit a signed MBE/WBE 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-4 and UP-5, the Waiver Request Form; failure to do so will be viewed as non-responsive and the bid will be rejected.

For Group B only, each Bidder must submit with their bid package an original or facsimile copy of the **MBE/WBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent, page UP-6** for each subcontractor listed on their MBE/WBE Utilization Plan. The submitted MBE/WBE 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 or WBE within the meaning of the **Affirmative Action Ordinance, Revised Appendix D.** Failure to submit the MBE/WBE Utilization Plan signed by the Bidder at the time of the bid opening and the MBE/WBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent signed by each MBE and WBE will be viewed as non-responsive and the bid will be rejected.

For Group B only, all Exhibit B Subcontractor's Letter of Intent must conform to the Utilization Plan submitted at the time of bid opening. Any change to the Utilization Plan will be viewed as non-responsive and rejected.

For Group B only, 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 or WBE supplier for more than 50% of each respective MBE or WBE goal, unless the Director of Procurement and Materials Management has authorized a Supplier's Exception notated on page AU-1.

For Group B only, the MBE/WBE 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 Utilization Plan.

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

For Group B only, each Bidder's Utilization Plan must commit to MBE and/or WBE participation equal to or greater than the applicable goals, unless the Bidder indicates a partial or total waiver request on Page UP-5. If your bid does not make the goals at the time of bid, then you must file a Waiver Request with your bid. Bidders should take particular note of Section 15(e) on pages D-21 through D-22 of the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D. Section 15 defines in specific terms the actions that demonstrate "Good Faith Efforts" which must be conducted prior to the bid opening to support their Waiver request. Thereafter, a completed Contractor Information Form must be submitted no later than three (3) days after the District's written request. The work under this Contract is classified "Construction Services" for the MBE/WBE socially and economically disadvantaged individual Utilization Goals contained in the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D. **The associated goals FOR GROUP B ONLY of this Contract are 20% Minority-owned Business Enterprises (MBE) and/or Women-owned Business Enterprises (WBE). Should you have any questions, please contact the Diversity Office at 312-751-4035.**

For Group B only, it is required that the prospective Bidder indicates participation by signing each applicable MBE/WBE Utilization Plan (Exhibit A) contained with the Contract Documents. The Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded must be prepared to comply with the requirements of the Affirmative Action Ordinance Revised Appendix D during the life of the Contract. **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 Program requirements.**

For Group B only, a Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid meeting will be held online via a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. CST. The link to the Zoom meeting is attached in a separate Word document under the "Additional Documents" column on the District's website at mwrdd.org ([Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements → \(Find correct project\) → Bidding Documents](#)). The purpose of the Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid meeting 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 to seek clarification of technical or procedural aspects of this Contract. Also, suppliers must give their contact information to register prior to entering the Zoom Pre-Bid meeting.

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.mwrdd.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 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.

Bidders are **STRONGLY URGED** to inspect all areas of the work sites, prior to bidding, to familiarize themselves with the nature of the work and the method of accomplishing the same. An optional Pre-Bid Walk-Through will be held on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. CST (time) at the Conference Room of the Prairie Plan Office, 15779 E. County Highway, Cuba, IL 61427. Attendees are advised to bring a hard hat and appropriate footwear for an industrial type of facility and a current business card. Bidders are encouraged to give themselves enough time to clear security. Bidders are reminded that no questions will be taken during any site inspections. The District's website (www.mwrd.org) will be used for addressing any questions, as indicated in the Invitation to Bid documents for this Contract. The path is as follows: Doing Business → Procurement & Materials Management → Contract Announcements → (Find correct project) → Ask a Question.

Potential Bidders shall contact Mr. Justin Hadsall at 312-608-6555, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. CST, to confirm their attendance at the optional Pre-Bid Walk-Through. Potential Bidders who contact Mr. Justin Hadsall will be notified of any changes in the date and time of the optional Pre-Bid Walk-Through due to inclement weather.

The lead person for this Contract is Mr. Raphael Frost. Mr. Frost will provide online responses to online inquiries.

Bidders should refer to 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
February 8, 2023