

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

FARM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

22-RFP-17

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago ("District") requests proposals from any prospective Proposer for the above captioned subject which is described in document 22-RFP-17.

PROPOSALS ARE DUE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022

Sealed proposals, endorsed as above, will be submitted to the District via an electronic upload to the Bonfire Portal only. See "Submission Via the Bonfire Portal" for instructions. Proposals will be accepted from the date of the Invitation to Bid, up to 11:00 A.M. (Central Time), on November 18, 2022, as stated above.

No bids will be accepted after 11:00 A.M. (Central Time) on the above scheduled due date. Faxed, mailed, emailed, or hand delivered proposals will not be accepted. There is no Bid Depository safe for this purpose.

The purpose of this request for proposal is to obtain responses from firms or individuals who are qualified to provide professional farm management services for the parcels of the Prairie Plan site which are already in use as agricultural fields, or for parcels which could be used for agricultural activities. The District intends to engage and retain the responder adjudged to be the most suitable to provide professional farm management services by a multi-year agreement until December 31, 2027.

The estimated cost of the services is \$375,000.00.

There is no proposal deposit required.

Funding of all Contract Items is subject to the Board of Commissioners' approval of the budget for all years covered by this Contract.

Copies of the Request for Proposal are only available online from the District's website at www.mwrd.org (DOING BUSINESS → PROCUREMENT & MATERIALS MANAGEMENT → CONTRACT ANNOUNCEMENTS). No fee is required for the Request for Proposal documents. Any questions regarding the downloading of Request for Proposal documents should be directed to contractdesk@mwrd.org or call (312) 751-6643.

Further, the District assumes no liability or responsibility for the failure or inability of any Proposer 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 Proposer, whether caused by the District or other parties, directly or indirectly.

Proposers are to include with their proposal signed copies of any addenda, or acknowledge receipt of any addenda, if the District issued any addenda to this contract. Failure to do so may be cause for the rejection of any bid. Bidding documents are available only online, and any addenda issued for this contract will be available online at the District's website, www.mwrd.org (Doing Business→Procurement and Materials Management→Contract Announcements). Addenda will also be emailed/faxed to each person receiving a set of such contract documents and to such other prospective Proposers as shall have requested that they be furnished with a copy of the addenda.

If any potential Proposer 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 ONE WEEK prior to the date set to receive proposals. 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.

Proposers are STRONGLY URGED to attend a pre-bid meeting via ZOOM at which time the Scope of Work, the work sites and access thereto will be addressed. The Voluntary Technical Pre-Bid meeting will be held online via a Zoom meeting on Thursday, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. CST (time). 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 seek clarification of technical or procedural aspects of this Contract. There will be a Q&A session at the end of the meeting. Also, suppliers must give their contact information to register prior to entering the Zoom Pre-Bid meeting.

The contact person for this request for proposal is Mr. Justin Hadsall, Agricultural Technician II, at 312-608-6555. Mr. Hadsall will provide online responses to online inquiries.

The District reserves the right to accept any Request for Proposal or any part thereof or to reject any and all Request for Proposals.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
of Greater Chicago

By Darlene A. LoCascio
Director of Procurement and
Materials Management

Chicago, Illinois
October 26, 2022