# **RFP-23-801**

# **August 15, 2023**

# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

# **Social Costs and Non-energy Benefits**

The purpose of this document is to provide answers to questions for the above solicitation. The following answers are based on the California Energy Commission (CEC) staff’s interpretation of the questions received.

**Q1: Can we use our own labor categories rather than the ones listed in the budget form (07\_RFP-23-801\_Att\_7\_Agreement\_Budget\_Form\_clean\_ada.xlsx!General Classifications:A1:A11)?**

A1:Yes.CEC is looking for bidders to identify labor categories they believe are appropriate to support CEC. The bidders cost justification should provide the rationale for the types and mix of labor categories selected.

**Q2: How is the incentive for small businesses and/or women business enterprises assessed/calculated?  Does this assessment/calculation change if the team includes a DVBE participation incentive as well?**

A2: The approach for applying an incentive for DBVEs and small businesses is provided in the solicitation manual starting on page 22 for DVBEs, “DVBE Incentive.” The DVBE incentive points are calculated based on DVBE participation level. For small businesses, please see p. 23, which explains that preference points are based on a percentage of the highest bidder’s score. The DVBE preference and small business preference are calculated separately.

**Q3: If a staff member of the applying organization serves on an advisory group at the CEC, can they be listed as a non-compensated team member on this solicitation? If permissible, please clarify how this should be declared in the proposal.**

A3:No. The advisory group member may not be named in the solicitation or be a signatory to any document that executes an agreement for CEC funding, presuming the advisory group member holds a paid staff position with the applying organization.

**Q4: Would CEC consider distribution of costs and benefits across demographics to be significant in this analysis? Is CEC interested in understanding how costs and benefits differ across California communities such as EJ communities?**

A4: CEC is interested in understanding costs/benefits across different demographics, particularly impacts to environmental justice communities, from different resource portfolios that meet SB 100 goals and provide grid reliability.

**Q5: How should the next generation of clean energy deployment scenarios differ from those developed in the first report?**

A5: The next generation of clean energy deployment scenarios is being developed currently. Scenarios for evaluation are anticipated to be available in the 1st quarter of 2024.

**Questions asked during the workshop:**

**Q6: Is there a contract length for the contractor (after it is awarded)?**

A6: Contract length is 2 years. (See solicitation manual page 1)

**Q7: How is the CEC differentiating between reliability (subject of a separate contract) and resilience (a criteria class of interest this RFP)?**

A7: Scenarios will be evaluated for their ability to support grid reliability (i.e., reduce the potential for grid outages). Some resources provide resilience (i.e., ability to adapt to outages) to the grid and customers in the event of an outage, and CEC will want to understand the costs and benefits that certain technologies can provide to communities and the grid in the event of an outage.

**Q8: We are looking to join teams as a sub…how can we reach out to interested parties?**

A8: The attendee list will be posted on the solicitation webpage. [RFP-23-801\_Pre-Bid\_Attendee\_List\_ada.xlsx (live.com)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.energy.ca.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-08%2FRFP-23-801_Pre-Bid_Attendee_List_ada.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) CEC does not endorse any entity.

**Q9: Are there any points for WBE or small businesses?**

A9: Yes, small business points are available. If you qualify as a DVBE or small business, incentives will be applied. (See Answer 2, above.)

**Q10: Do the resumes in the Technical and Cost Proposal section count towards the 20-page limit?**

A10: No. Resumes do not count towards the 20-page limit.

**Q11: Is there any penalty in scoring for involving funded partners on our teams that are outside of California?**

A11: There is no penalty for including key partners or subcontractors located outside of California, but please note that certain incentives apply just to California entities (e.g., California-certified small businesses); and California secretary of state registration requirements.

**Q12: Can a contact at the CEC be listed as one of the References in the References form if the applicant has performed previously funded work for the CEC?**

A12: Yes.

**Q13: Is this RFP only for quantifying non-energy benefits (air quality, costs, etc) of SB100 scenarios or other decarbonization scenarios as well such as transportation and building electrification?**

A13: The contract is a work authorization contract that allows CEC to request support on any topic related to the scope of work. CEC may require support for identifying social costs and non-energy benefits of any CEC program, which could for example include transportation and building electrification.

**Q14: In previous RFPs, the CEC states estimated hours. Will this be included for the cost proposal? Thanks**

A14: The CEC is looking for bidders to provide their best estimates of the types of labor categories and hours that the bidder anticipates to support CEC. The bidder’s cost justification should explain the bidder’s rationale for the hours proposed.

**Q15: Are there any plans for how the cost/benefit analysis findings will be used, following the study?**

A15: CEC may apply the same approaches to future SB100 reports and to other programs that CEC manages.

**Q16: Does the prime need to be from CA?**

A16: Bidders are required to register and be in good standing with the California Secretary of State. Please see p. 2 of the RFP for additional detail regarding eligible bidders.

**Q17: a. Does the 20-page limit for the “Approach, Organizational Structure, and Cost-Build-up Justification” include references?   
  
b. Does the 20-page limit include the full CVs of all key team personnel?   
  
c. Can Sub-task 3, Analysis, include the development and documentation of an original, comprehensive modeling tool, designed specifically to provide what the CEC is looking for?**

**d. I will submit as PI through the University of California. Are there any restrictions on us subcontracting with out-of-state academic/consultants?**

A17: a. No

b. No.

c. Bidders should propose how they recommend providing support to the CEC with a justification of their approach.

d. Subcontrators transacting intrastate business should be registered with the California Secretary of State. Also, there are restrictions on subcontracting generally (see, e.g., State Contracting Manual section 3.06, which includes but is not limited to restrictions on subcontract amounts). Finally, please be aware that certain terms must be flowed-down to subcontractors; see terms and conditions included in standard agreement example (Attachment 8 to the RFP).

**Q18: Are applicants expected to have expertise in tools/models (such as air quality and public health models) for different metrics to submit applications?**

A18: Applicants are expected, at a minimum, to have expertise in the example social costs and non-energy benefits identified in the scope of work (land-use impacts, public health and air quality, water supply and quality, economic impacts, resilience). CEC is looking for the bidder’s approach on addressing that list and any others the bidder believes would be valuable for CEC to assess.

**Q19: How soon would the winner have SB 100 resource scenarios to analyze?**

A19: SB 100 scenarios are expected to be available 1st quarter 2024.

**Q20: Are you looking for ways to quantify impacts in terms of outcomes e.g. number of reduced hospital admits due to improved air quality, or monetize in dollar terms as well e.g. the value of reduced hospital visits…or both?**

A20: CEC is interested in quantifying impacts in terms of outcomes. The contractor’s task is to provide CEC staff with information to choose the best metrics and evaluation tools and approaches to assess social costs and non-energy benefits.

**Q21: Will the data inputs for the analysis generally come from public filings from CA utilities, or will the selected firm be expected to pursue data from other entities, like cities, counties, air districts, etc?**

A21: The selected firm will be expected to identify data needs and potential sources. CEC will work with the contractor to identify whether CEC will obtain the data or whether the CEC will ask the contractor to obtain data.

**Q22: Can you clarify the question about the ‘tools’. Is the deliverable a bespoke online tool that quantifies the non-energy benefits that is then licensed to / owned by the CEC? Or is it more an approach to quantify, and then calculating them, but not a software that automates it?**

A22: CEC is looking for bidders to propose an approach. CEC would like to be able to utilize any tool(s) after their development for SB100 or other programs. Tools should be open source.

**Q23: How will the scenarios be designed, and will the contractor be involved in the creation of these to align with the type of inputs needed for the models?**

A23: The scenarios are being designed by CEC staff with the support of a separate contractor. The awardee of this RFP will be working with CEC to ensure that the results of the social cost and non-energy benefits analysis can be integrated as one of multiple inputs to evaluating scenarios.

**Q24: Will you be providing a list of attendees and interested prime/subs in this RFP?**

A24: We will be providing a list of attendees (see A.8, above), but do not have a mechanism to identify primes or subs from those attendees. CEC does not endorse any entity listed as an attendee.

**Q25: Should development of these metrics assume application of the metrics (or social cost factors) to cost and benefit analyses, or is metrics development just for program evaluation?**

A25: CEC is looking for support to identify a suite of social costs and non-energy benefits that can inform decisions about clean energy deployment scenarios in this contract as well as approaches to evaluating those costs and benefits. Task 2.3 will likely ask the contractor to support analysis of different scenarios.