# **RFP-24-401**

**September 18, 2024**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Building Energy Performance Strategy Report & Benchmarking Support**

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.

**General / Administrative Questions**

**Q1: Can you email us a copy of the pre-bid conference presentation?**

A1: No, the CEC must maintain fair and impartial competition during the solicitation process and must provide the same information at the same time to all potential bidders. The pre-bid conference presentation is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support). The recording of the pre-bid conference is also available on the [RFP-24-401 Pre-Bid Conference webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2024-09/pre-bid-conference-rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/event/funding-workshop/2024-09/pre-bid-conference-rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy) under “Event Recording”. Please continue to monitor the RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage for the latest information.

**Q2: Is the attendee list for the pre-bid conference available to participants?**

A2: Yes, the pre-bid conference attendee list is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q3:** **Are questions asked during the pre-bid conference documented in the written Questions & Answers (Q&A) document?**

A3: Yes, questions asked during the pre-bid conference are documented in this written Q&A document.

**Q4: Is it possible to receive answers ahead of the written Q&A document?**

A4: No, the CEC must maintain fair and impartial competition during the solicitation process and must provide the same information at the same time to all potential bidders.

**Q5: Do all subcontractors have to be registered with the California Secretary of State?**

A5: Yes, before transacting intrastate business in California, all businesses must first register with the California Secretary of State. Businesses should comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards and should consult with their own counsel if they have questions regarding Secretary of State registration requirements.

For purposes of submitting a proposal in response to this solicitation, please refer to page 6 of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

It indicates that all corporations, limited liability companies (LLCs), limited partnerships (LPs), and limited liability partnerships (LLPs) that conduct intrastate business in California are required to be registered and in good standing with the California Secretary of State prior to a project being recommended for approval at a CEC business meeting. If not currently registered with the California Secretary of State, bidders are encouraged to contact the Secretary of State’s Office as soon as possible to avoid potential delays in beginning the proposed project (should the proposal be successful).

In addition, sole proprietors using a fictitious business name must be registered with the appropriate county and provide evidence of registration to the CEC prior to the agreement resulting from this solicitation being recommended for approval at a CEC business meeting.

**Q6: What subcontractor services are considered allowable expenses?**

A6: The agreement resulting from this solicitation will include terms and conditions that set forth the contractor’s rights and responsibilities. Please see the Standard Agreement Example (Attachment 8), which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q7: Can you provide guidance on the flexibility of the budget throughout the contract term?**

A7: The agreement resulting from this solicitation will include terms and conditions that set forth the contractor’s rights and responsibilities. Please see the Standard Agreement Example (Attachment 8), which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q8: How would the CEC like to exchange deliverables that meets the minimum requirements as stated in the State Administrative Manual (SAM) 5300?**

A8: During the course of the agreement resulting from this solicitation, the CEC anticipates that the contractor may receive confidential or personal information from the CEC (or a third party) or be required to handle confidential or personal information belonging to someone other than the contractor.

For the purposes outlined in the Scope of Work, this confidential or personal information may include building owner and stakeholder contact information or building energy usage information. Prior to the CEC sharing the confidential or personal information, a few items will be required from the contractor. First, an Information Security Program Plan (or ISPP) must be submitted for CEC review and approval, as well as signed ISPP Attestation Form. Next, signed Non-Disclosure Agreement (or NDA) forms and Annual Employee Security Awareness Training Certificates must be submitted for any contractor and subcontractor employees who will access confidential or personal information.

Once these steps are complete and CEC approves the ISPP, the CEC will determine the best method for exchanging deliverables that meets the minimum requirements as stated in SAM 5300. For additional information, please see the solicitation manual and Standard Agreement Example (Attachment 8), which are available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q9:** **Does the CEC prefer to use a Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) program for data analysis?**

A9: The CEC has no preference regarding the use of a GenAI program for data analysis. The State of California seeks to realize the potential benefits of GenAI through the development and deployment of GenAI tools, while balancing the risks of these new technologies. Bidders responding to this solicitation must notify the CEC in writing if their solution or service includes, or makes available, any GenAI including, GenAI from third parties or subcontractors. The State has developed a GenAI Reporting and Factsheet (Std. 1000) to be completed by the bidder. Failure to submit the GenAI Reporting and Factsheet (Std. 1000) will result in disqualification of the bidder. Failure to report GenAI to the CEC may void any resulting contract. The CEC reserves its right to seek any and all relief to which it may be entitled to as a result of such nondisclosure.

Upon receipt of a GenAI Reporting and Factsheet (Std. 1000), the CEC reserves the right to incorporate GenAI Special Provisions into the final contract or reject bids that present an unacceptable level of risk to the State. Additional information about GenAI is present in the solicitation manual and Standard Agreement Example (Attachment 8), which are available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q10: Will the CEC accept team member resumes in PDF format?**

A10: No, attachments requiring signatures may be scanned and submitted in PDF format. Electronic files must be in Microsoft Word and Excel Office Suite formats unless originally provided in the solicitation in another format. Completed Budget Forms (Attachment 7) must be in Excel format. Additional information about proposal format, required documents, and method for delivery is present in the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q11: Is this contract going to be awarded on a work authorization basis?**

A11: No, the contract resulting from this solicitation will not include work authorizations.

**Q12: During the pre-bid conference, it was stated that Task 1 deliverables cannot be assigned to technical staff personnel. Is the CEC expecting an administrative person to be responsible for subtasks 1.3 and 1.4?**

A12: As stated on page 15 of the solicitation manual regarding Task 1, “The Contractor shall also ensure sufficient time and attention is spent on this task by an experienced and qualified dedicated administrative staff person.” In addition, page 40 of the solicitation manual includes a Technical Evaluation Criteria item, which requires bidders to explain how they will ensure sufficient time and attention is spent by an experienced and qualified dedicated staff person on the administrative task for this agreement.

While technical staff personnel may contribute some time on Task 1 items and be included in program meetings and briefings for the agreement resulting from this solicitation, the responsibilities, and deliverables for all subtasks under Task 1 will need to be overseen and finalized by an experienced and qualified dedicated administrative staff person. Additional information is present in the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q13: Are incentive payments to stakeholders expected to come out of this contract budget or is it allocated separately? Does the CEC have an existing protocol for incentive payments (i.e., incentive amounts and which types of stakeholders can be offered incentives)?**

A13: As stated in Volume 2, Section 208 of the [State Contracting Manual](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM) (https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM), “The Constitution of the State of California prohibits any gift of public funds. All expenditures of public funds must support the Department's function, purpose, and benefit the state.”

The CEC has approved the use of funds to incentivize survey respondents in some contract agreements. The awarded contractor must provide a written justification describing the type and amount of incentives, as well as why they are appropriate, to the CEC for review and approval.

Should the use of incentives be approved for the agreement resulting from this solicitation, the incentives would come from the contract budget.

**Business Participation Programs (Preference/Incentives) Questions**

**Q14: Will the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) or Small Business Enterprise (SBE) participation commitment be based on the total contract dollars spent or the maximum contract award?**

A14: If the Contractor makes a commitment to achieve DVBE participation, the Contractor must certify to the CEC all of the following at the end of the contract:

* The total amount the Contractor received under the contract.
* The name and address of the DVBE that participated in the performance of the contract and the contract number.
* The amount and percentage of work the Contractor committed to provide to one (1) or more DVBE under the requirements of the contract and the amount each DVBE received from the Contractor.
* That all payments under the contract have been made to the DVBE(s).

The [STD 817](https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/fmc/pdf/std817.pdf) shall be used for Contractor’s certification (https://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/dgs/fmc/pdf/std817.pdf).

Please see the Standard Agreement Example (Attachment 8) for more information on DVBE and SBE requirements, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q15: Does the State's "Small Business for the Purpose of Public Works (SB-PW)" certification comply with the Small Business (SB) / Microbusiness (MB) requirements for this solicitation?**

A15: No, the SB-PW certification can only be used and counted on public works-related contracts/projects.

As stated in Volume 1, Section 10.05 of the [State Contracting Manual](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM) (https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM), “A public works contract is defined as ‘an agreement for the erection, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement of any public structure, building, road, or other public improvement of any kind,’ (PCC § 1101).”

**Q16: If an organization is a certified Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE), will the preference points be applied twice?**

A16: No, the SBE and DVBE are separate preferences/incentives. Bidders who include 0.01% DVBE participation or greater will receive the DVBE incentive, which may be used in conjunction with the Small Business (SB) preference. The DVBE incentive points are included in the sum of non-cost points. The percentage is based on the total possible available points not including preference points. DVBE incentive points cannot be used to achieve any applicable minimum point requirements.

In addition, bidders who qualify as a State of California certified Small Business (SB) or Microbusiness (MB) will receive five percent (5%) preference points based on the highest responsible bidder's total score, if the highest scored proposal is submitted by a business other than a certified small business.

Additional information is available in Volume 1, Chapter 8 of the [State Contracting Manual](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM) (https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM), as well as Section V of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q17: Can a Non-Small Business commit to Small Business (SB) or Microbusiness (MB) subcontractor participation of less than 25% and still receive preference points?**

A17: No, a Non-Small Business bidder must commit to SB or MB subcontractor participation of 25 percent (25%) of its net bid price to receive five percent (5%) preference points, which are based on the highest responsible bidder's total score, if the highest scored proposal is submitted by a business other than a certified SB. A Non-Small Business that qualifies for this preference may not take an award away from a certified SB or MB.

Additional information is available in Volume 1, Chapter 8 of the [State Contracting Manual](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM) (https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM), as well as Section V of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q18: Could you clarify how the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Incentive amount is calculated and applied?**

A18: Bidders who include 0.01% DVBE participation or greater will receive the DVBE incentive, which may be used in conjunction with the Small Business (SB) preference. The DVBE incentive points are included in the sum of non-cost points. The percentage is based on the total possible available points not including preference points. DVBE incentive points cannot be used to achieve any applicable minimum point requirements.

Additional information is available in Volume 1, Chapter 8 of the [State Contracting Manual](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM) (https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM), as well as Section V of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q19: Could you clarify how the Non-Small Business preference is calculated and applied?**

A19: A Non-Small Business bidder must commit to SB or MB subcontractor participation of 25 percent (25%) of its net bid price to receive five percent (5%) preference points, which are based on the highest responsible bidder's total score, if the highest scored proposal is submitted by a business other than a certified SB. A Non-Small Business that qualifies for this preference may not take an award away from a certified SB or MB.

Additional information is available in Volume 1, Chapter 8 of the [State Contracting Manual](https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM) (https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/Resources/SCM), as well as Section V of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Cost Evaluation Criteria Questions**

**Q20: In past RFPs, the CEC provided an expected number of hours by task to place all bidders on an even playing field in terms of cost evaluation. Is this something the CEC would consider?**

A20: The CEC posted Addendum 01 to the solicitation manual and budget forms (Attachment 7), as well as an Addendum 01 Cover Letter on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) on September 13, 2024. As a result of the changes made via this addendum, the expected total hours per task are now present on the “Att 7b Total Exp Labor Cost” tab of the Budget Forms (Attachment 7). Please review the posted Addendum 01 documents for additional information.

**Q21: Task 3 of the Scope of Work requires “at least” four (4) buildings to be studied. This may lead to a variation in cost bids. Some bidders will assume the bare minimum while others will budget for a larger number and propose that four (4) is not sufficient. The CEC may not receive comparable cost bids and penalize those bidders who propose a higher value to CEC. What can the CEC do to remedy this?**

A21: The CEC posted Addendum 01 to the solicitation manual and budget forms (Attachment 7), as well as an Addendum 01 Cover Letter on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) on September 13, 2024. As a result of the changes made via this addendum, the total number of representative covered buildings is now one (1) building for each of the four (4) categories. Please review the posted Addendum 01 documents for additional information.

**Q22: How will the CEC apply the Cost Evaluation Criteria to evaluate the contingent and undefined scope for Task 7 of the Scope of Work?**

A22: The CEC posted Addendum 01 to the solicitation manual and budget forms (Attachment 7), as well as an Addendum 01 Cover Letter on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) on September 13, 2024. As a result of the changes made via this addendum, the expected total hours for Task 7 are now present on the “Att 7b Total Exp Labor Cost” tab of the Budget Forms (Attachment 7). Please review the posted Addendum 01 documents for additional information.

**Due Date / Schedule Questions**

**Q23: The solicitation manual states this will result in a twenty-four (24) month agreement. The Agreement Deliverables table in the Scope of Work shows a last deliverable due date of 200 business days after the agreement start date, while the contract period is approximately 500 days. Does the CEC have other activities planned for the year two (2) of the agreement, or will the due dates for the Agreement Deliverables be revised?**

A23: While the agreement resulting from this solicitation will have a twenty-four (24) term, it is possible that all required work may be completed and/or all contract funds expended prior to the agreement end date. CEC staff will work with the awarded contractor to provide as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the agreement and the law.

Time constraints under [California Public Resources Code (PRC) 25402.16](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) require the CEC to submit our final Building Energy Performance Strategy Report and recommendations to the California legislature by August 1, 2026. The final report will need to be adopted by the CEC by June 2026 to meet that schedule, and it will have to enter the CEC internal review process a few months in advance of that adoption date due to our standard review process and timeframes.

If the due dates in the Agreement Deliverables table need to be revised after the execution of the agreement, the awarded contractor can work with CEC staff to agree on the new deliverable due dates. While the dates can be revised, the deliverables cannot be changed through this process, and the revised dates cannot extend beyond the term end date of the agreement.

**Q24:** **According to the CEC presentation at the Lead Commissioner Workshop to Kick-Off and Scope the Development of the California Building Energy Performance Strategy Report on July 31, 2024, the Draft Strategy is expected to be complete by January 2025 and the Final Strategy by December 2025. When is stakeholder engagement on the draft strategy expected to end?**

A24: The time period associated with the stakeholder engagement process is linked to the contract execution date and therefore cannot be stated definitively at this time. It is an accurate assessment that the deliverable due dates and timelines are tight. CEC staff will work with the awarded contractor to provide as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the resulting contract and the law.

Time constraints under [California Public Resources Code (PRC) 25402.16](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) require the CEC to submit our final Building Energy Performance Strategy Report and recommendations to the California legislature by August 1, 2026. The final report will need to be adopted by the CEC by June 2026 to meet that schedule, and it will have to enter the CEC internal review process a few months in advance of that adoption date due to our standard review process and timeframes.

If the due dates in the Agreement Deliverables table need to be revised after the execution of the agreement, the awarded contractor can work with CEC staff to agree on the new deliverable due dates. While the dates can be revised, the deliverables cannot be changed through this process, and the revised dates cannot extend beyond the term end date of the agreement.

**Q25: The Task 2 Revised Stakeholder List is due 40 business days and the Outreach Assessment Report is due 60 business day after the agreement start, which leaves 20 business days to complete stakeholder outreach across at least 11 categories of stakeholders. Alternatively, the Task 3 descriptions and justifications of example buildings identified for each of the four (4) categories is due 60 business days after the agreement start date. The Model Compliance Plans are due 120 business days after agreement start date, which leaves 60 business days to conduct the field study and develop the Model Compliance Plans. Is there any flexibility in these timelines to ensure engagement is meaningful and well attended by stakeholders?**

A25: It is an accurate assessment that the deliverable due dates and timelines are tight. CEC staff will work with the awarded contractor to provide as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the resulting contract and the law.

Time constraints under [California Public Resources Code (PRC) 25402.16](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) require the CEC to submit our final Building Energy Performance Strategy Report and recommendations to the California legislature by August 1, 2026. The final report will need to be adopted by the CEC by June 2026 to meet that schedule, and it will have to enter the CEC internal review process a few months in advance of that adoption date due to our standard review process and timeframes.

If the due dates in the Agreement Deliverables table need to be revised after the execution of the agreement, the awarded contractor can work with CEC staff to agree on the new deliverable due dates. While the dates can be revised, the deliverables cannot be changed through this process, and the revised dates cannot extend beyond the term end date of the agreement.

**Q26: Regarding Task 2, the Outreach Assessment Plan and Schedule deliverable includes the task “develop and facilitate a series of stakeholder engagement and information gathering meetings to collect input on the Draft California Building Energy Performance Strategy Report”. Are these sessions expected to be scheduled, hosted, and completed within 20 business days of finishing the Revised Stakeholder Contact List?**

A26: It is an accurate assessment that the deliverable due dates and timelines are tight. CEC staff will work with the awarded contractor to provide as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the resulting contract and the law.

Time constraints under [California Public Resources Code (PRC) 25402.16](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) require the CEC to submit our Building Energy Performance Strategy Report and recommendations to the California legislature by August 1, 2026. The final report will need to be adopted by the CEC by June 2026 to meet that schedule, and it will have to enter the CEC internal review process a few months in advance of that adoption date due to our standard review process and timeframes.

If the due dates in the Agreement Deliverables table need to be revised after the execution of the agreement, the awarded contractor can work with CEC staff to agree on the new deliverable due dates. While the dates can be revised, the deliverables cannot be changed through this process, and the revised dates cannot extend beyond the term end date of the agreement.

**Q27: The Task 3 descriptions and justifications of example buildings identified for each of the four (4) categories is due 60 business days after the agreement start date. The Model Compliance Plans are due 120 business days after agreement start date, which leaves 60 business days to conduct the field study and develop the plans. Is the CEC receptive to a longer timeline for this task?**

A27: It is an accurate assessment that the deliverable due dates and timelines are tight. CEC staff will work with the awarded contractor to provide as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the resulting contract and the law.

Time constraints under [California Public Resources Code (PRC) 25402.16](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) require the CEC to submit our final Building Energy Performance Strategy Report and recommendations to the California legislature by August 1, 2026. The final report will need to be adopted by the CEC by June 2026 to meet that schedule, and it will have to enter the CEC internal review process a few months in advance of that adoption date due to our standard review process and timeframes.

If the due dates in the Agreement Deliverables table need to be revised after the execution of the agreement, the awarded contractor can work with CEC staff to agree on the new deliverable due dates. While the dates can be revised, the deliverables cannot be changed through this process, and the revised dates cannot extend beyond the term end date of the agreement.

**Q28: Certain buildings may benefit from longer data collection periods to capture seasonal variations. For the Task 3 Summary Model Compliance Plans, will the CEC consider a delivery date longer than 120 business days after the agreement start date?**

A28: The CEC is open to ideas or suggestions from respondents to this solicitation regarding longer data collection periods to capture seasonal variations for certain buildings. Responses shall be in the form of a proposal. While following all proposal format instructions, answering all questions, and supplying all required information, bidders may also include this information as part of their proposal. The CEC must evaluate each proposal uniformly and fairly.

Format requirements and instructions on how to submit a proposal are located in Section III of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

It is important to note CEC staff will work with the awarded contractor to provide as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the resulting contract and the law. Time constraints under [California Public Resources Code (PRC) 25402.16](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) require the CEC to submit our final Building Energy Performance Strategy Report and recommendations to the California legislature by August 1, 2026. The final report will need to be adopted by the CEC by June 2026 to meet that schedule, and it will have to enter the CEC internal review process a few months in advance of that adoption date due to our standard review process and timeframes.

If the due dates in the Agreement Deliverables table need to be revised after the execution of the agreement, the awarded contractor can work with CEC staff to agree on the new deliverable due dates. While the dates can be revised, the deliverables cannot be changed through this process, and the revised dates cannot extend beyond the term end date of the agreement.

**Q29: Under Task 6, the contact lists are due 200 business days after the contract start date. This is approximately October 20, 2025. According to the CEC presentation at the Lead Commissioner Workshop to Kick-Off and Scope the Development of the California Building Energy Performance Strategy Report on July 31, 2024, the Final Strategy is expected to be complete by December 2025. Given the short timeline, how does the CEC envision the Excel workbook deliverables from Task 6 being used to develop the final strategy?**

A29: Consultations between CEC staff and the awarded contractor will be critical when the contractor team begins work on this task and determines how the Excel workbook deliverables from Task 6 will be used to develop the final strategy. It is an accurate assessment that the deliverable due dates and timelines are tight. CEC staff will work with the awarded contractor to provide as much flexibility as possible within the constraints of the resulting contract and the law.

Time constraints under [California Public Resources Code (PRC) 25402.16](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.16) require the CEC to submit our final Building Energy Performance Strategy Report and recommendations to the California legislature by August 1, 2026. The final report will need to be adopted by the CEC by June 2026 to meet that schedule, and it will have to enter the CEC internal review process a few months in advance of that adoption date due to our standard review process and timeframes.

If the due dates in the Agreement Deliverables table need to be revised after the execution of the agreement, the awarded contractor can work with CEC staff to agree on the new deliverable due dates. While the dates can be revised, the deliverables cannot be changed through this process, and the revised dates cannot extend beyond the term end date of the agreement.

**Technical Tasks / Scope of Work Questions**

**Q30: Is drafting of the Building Energy Performance Strategy Report part of this Scope of Work? If not, does the CEC have a consultant onboard to draft the Building Energy Performance Strategy Report?**

A30: No, drafting of the Building Energy Performance Strategy Report is not part of the Scope of Work for this solicitation, nor does the CEC have a consultant or contractor on board because it will be drafted in-house by CEC staff. However, the bidder awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will support the CEC in their efforts to draft the Building Energy Performance Strategy Report as part of the Scope of Work. Additional information is present in Section II of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q31: Could you clarify the points of interaction/collaboration between the activities involved in drafting the Building Performance Strategy Report (which we understand the CEC is drafting internally) and the Scope of Work?**

A31: This will depend on the schedule for the project and at what point the awarded contractor becomes involved. There was some uncertainty when drafting this solicitation about the timing of when the awarded contractor would come on board and be able to participate in the project. As a result, some flexibility was included in the language to ensure that the awarded contractor could participate in the project items identified in the Scope of Work as effectively as possible. Consultations between CEC staff and the awarded contractor will be critical when the contractor team begins work on this task.

**Q32: What level of involvement will the contractor have in terms of implementing plans for enacting measures for benchmarking reporters who need to demonstrate improvements in their benchmarking scores? What levers/carrots/sticks would be available if the contractor is supposed to implement such plans?**

A32: The bidder awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will not be part of implementing plans. Implementation will be handled separately from this agreement by CEC staff.

**Q33: Is there currently any feedback submitted by clients under the Benchmarking Program to identify issues?**

A33: To date, there has been no formal collection of feedback submitted by clients/stakeholders.

**Q34: What are the benchmarking data's input and output file types?**

A34: The benchmarking data’s input and output file types include, but are not limited to, Excel, XML, and flat file. All available data fields/formats along with supporting documentation will be made available at the start of the agreement resulting from this solicitation.

**Q35: Can you provide more information on how data is currently received and organized, and what information is currently available?**

A35: Benchmarking data is currently received and organized through Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM), collected from local exempt benchmarking jurisdictions, and derived from Touchstone IQ for Governments software. CEC staff also maintains downloadable Excel files, which are available on the California Building Energy Benchmarking Program website. At a minimum the data will include what is included in the CEC’s Public Disclosure Dashboard. Any other available data fields/formats along with supporting documentation will be made available at the start of the agreement resulting from this solicitation.

**Q36: What is the current compliance rate and what is the CEC’s target compliance rate for the California Building Energy Benchmarking Program?**

A36: The compliance rate for the California Building Energy Benchmarking Program was approximately fifty percent (50%) for the 2023 reporting cycle. The compliance rate for the 2024 reporting cycle has not yet been determined. The ultimate goal is to achieve one hundred percent (100%) compliance.

**Q37: Under Task 2, will the contractor be responsible for holding meetings or workshops with the stakeholder groups? Otherwise, should we assume that the CEC will hold any relevant meetings or workshops?**

A37: As stated on page 20 of the solicitation manual for Task 2, the bidder awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will be required to “Develop and facilitate a series of stakeholder engagement and information gathering meetings to collect input on the Draft California Building Energy Performance Strategy Report” and “Ensure all stakeholder groups identified in PRC section 25402.16(d) are included in these engagement sessions”. Additional information is present in Section II of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q38: For Task 2, the Outreach Assessment Report requires the contractor to "conduct outreach to all stakeholders to inquire about proceeding participation and ways to improve engagement." Is this an assessment of stakeholder engagement in the process so far, or to assess how stakeholders would like to be engaged with in the future?**

A38: Primarily the former, but ideally both. This will depend on the schedule for the project and at what point the awarded contractor becomes involved. There was some uncertainty when drafting this solicitation about the timing of when the awarded contractor would come on board and be able to participate in the project. As a result, some flexibility was included in the language to ensure that the awarded contractor could participate in the project items identified in the Scope of Work as effectively as possible. Consultations between CEC staff and the awarded contractor will be critical when the contractor team begins work on this task.

**Q39: Under Task 2, is the stakeholder engagement expected to be virtual or in person?**

A39: Stakeholder engagement is expected to be mostly, if not entirely, virtual rather than in-person. Travel should only be undertaken when it is the most effective means of conducting business. If a meeting or workshop can be attended remotely/virtually by the awarded contractor, it must be attended remotely. Reimbursement of travel expenses will only occur when in-person attendance is absolutely required and requested specifically by the CEC. The contractor shall be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses using the [Energy Commission Contractor Travel Rates](http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/TRAVEL_PER_DIEM.PDF) (http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/TRAVEL\_PER\_DIEM.PDF). The contractor must pay for travel in excess of these rates.

For more information about travel, please see the Standard Agreement Example (Attachment 8), which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q40: For Task 2, is the list of stakeholder groups on the Stakeholder Contact List available to be viewed?**

A40: No, the Stakeholder Contact List is not available as part of the solicitation process. However, as stated on page 20 of the solicitation manual, the contractor awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will be able to view the Stakeholder Contact List prepared by CEC staff. They will also be required to provide recommendations for improvement, update the list with current contact information and a summary of proceeding participation, as well as obtain feedback from CEC staff and revise the list as necessary.

Please see the solicitation manual for more information. It is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q41: Task 2 includes the development of a Stakeholder Engagement Facilitation Plan and Schedule. Does the CEC expect the contractor to facilitate the stakeholder engagement or only develop and provide the plan?**

A41: As stated on page 20 of the solicitation manual for Task 2, the bidder awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will be required to “Develop and facilitate a series of stakeholder engagement and information gathering meetings to collect input on the Draft California Building Energy Performance Strategy Report” and “Ensure all stakeholder groups identified in PRC section 25402.16(d) are included in these engagement sessions”. Additional information is present in Section II of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q42: For Task 3, how many sites total across the four (4) categories?**

A42: The CEC posted Addendum 01 to the solicitation manual and budget forms (Attachment 7), as well as an Addendum 01 Cover Letter on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) on September 13, 2024. As a result of the changes made via this addendum, the total number of representative covered buildings is now one (1) building for each of the four (4) categories. Please review the posted Addendum 01 documents for additional information.

**Q43: Can bidders propose additional building types to the four (4) that are listed for Task 3?**

A43: The contractor awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation must identify one (1) representative covered building in each of the required four (4) categories to be as example that will be the subject of data collection and analysis to demonstrate a building performance compliance path.

Please see Section II of the solicitation manual for more information, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

The CEC is open to ideas or suggestions from respondents to this solicitation regarding additional building types to the four (4) listed in the solicitation manual for the field study. However, covered buildings are subject to the benchmarking requirements. Responses shall be in the form of a proposal. While following all proposal format instructions, answering all questions, and supplying all required information, bidders may also include this information as part of their proposal. The CEC must evaluate each proposal uniformly and fairly.

Format requirements and instructions on how to submit a proposal are located in Section III of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q44: Under Task 3, can we create a survey and then design a generic building for each of the four (4) types using an average of all collected data? What is the strategy to engage with building owners? Where does the source data come from?**

A44: As stated on page 21 of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support), “The goal of this task is to develop and conduct a field study of representative buildings within California to provide case study examples of real buildings complying with building performance pathways that achieve California’s goal of zero carbon by 2045.”

The CEC is open to ideas or suggestions from respondents to this solicitation regarding the strategy to engage with building owners and/or where to obtain the source data for the field study. Responses shall be in the form of a proposal. While following all proposal format instructions, answering all questions, and supplying all required information, bidders may also include this information as part of their proposal. The CEC must evaluate each proposal uniformly and fairly.

Format requirements and instructions on how to submit a proposal are located in Section III of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q45: Besides the four (4) building categories, is there a square footage minimum for the representative covered buildings selected for the field study in Task 3?**

A45: As stated on page 21 of the solicitation manual, “Covered buildings are subject to the benchmarking requirements.” The Building Energy Benchmarking Program was authorized by [California Public Resources Code (PRC) section 25402.10](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.10.) (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25402.10). It requires the owners of commercial buildings with more than 50,000 square feet of gross floor area, as well as the owners of multifamily residential buildings with more than 50,000 square feet of gross floor area and seventeen (17) or more utility accounts to report energy usage and building characteristic information annually to the State.

**Q46: Regarding Task 3, can you please clarify the level of detail required for the decarbonization field studies? Should the data collection focus primarily on energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, or also include other performance metrics such as occupant comfort, building resilience, and operational costs? Additionally, are there specific technologies or data collection methods that CEC would prefer to be used?**

A46: The CEC is open to ideas or suggestions from respondents to this solicitation regarding the level of detail required for the decarbonization field studies, as well as the use of any specific technologies or data collection methods. Responses shall be in the form of a proposal. While following all proposal format instructions, answering all questions, and supplying all required information, bidders may also include this information as part of their proposal. The CEC must evaluate each proposal uniformly and fairly.

Format requirements and instructions on how to submit a proposal are located in Section III of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

In addition, please see Section II of the solicitation manual for more information about Task 3, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q47: For Task 3, it can be very difficult to persuade building owners to publish detailed information about their properties, including the address, owner identify, costs, decarbonization pathways, etc. Is there a possibility of having anonymization of some or all of the information about the properties selected for the field study so that it will be easier to persuade building owners to participate?**

A47: The CEC is open to ideas or suggestions from respondents to this solicitation regarding the anonymization of some or all of the published building information for the field study. Responses shall be in the form of a proposal. While following all proposal format instructions, answering all questions, and supplying all required information, bidders may also include this information as part of their proposal. The CEC must evaluate each proposal uniformly and fairly.

Format requirements and instructions on how to submit a proposal are located in Section III of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q48: Under Task 3, are you anticipating any implementation/installation of the decarbonization measures modeled for compliance?**

A48: No, the CEC will not be asking the contractor awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation to actually implement or install the decarbonization measure modeled for compliance. Instead, the CEC is requesting the contractor to complete an analysis that identifies decarbonization steps that would satisfy compliance with the specified metrics.

Please see Section II of the solicitation manual for more information. It is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q49: Are there cost criteria for the compliance path recommended for buildings under Task 3? Or is the target carbon reduction towards the State goal at any cost?**

A49: The target is the metric analyzed in the draft report. So, the goal of that task is to identify or demonstrate realistic pathways for compliance with the identified building performance metrics in the draft report. Consultations between CEC staff and the awarded contractor will be critical when the contractor team begins work on this task in the development of cost criteria.

**Q50: For Task 3, will we need to collect data from every building that meets the criteria, or will we have access to a public data set for the initial analysis (e.g., Energy Star Portfolio Manager)? If Energy Star Portfolio Manager (ESPM), could you share the details on how that data can be accessed and the format it comes in? If we will not have a complete data set, what threshold of completeness is acceptable to work from?**

A50: Benchmarking data’s input and output file types include, but are not limited to, Excel, XML, and flat file. At a minimum, the data will include what is included in the CEC’s Public Disclosure Dashboard. Any other available data fields/formats, along with supporting documentation and information about formatting and data access, will be made available at the start of the agreement resulting from this solicitation.

In addition, as stated on page 21 of the solicitation manual, the bidder awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will be required to identify (1) representative covered building for each of the four (4) categories for Task 3.

See Section II of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q51: Will the CEC decide which four (4) case study examples are chosen for the building performance study in Task 3, or is it up to the contractor?**

A51: As stated on page 21 of the solicitation manual for Task 3, the bidder awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will be required to identify the representative covered buildings for each of the four (4) categories, as well as submit descriptions and justifications of the example buildings identified for CEC staff for approval. Additional information is present in Section II of the solicitation manual, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q52: Could you clarify how the CEC will use the results of Task 3 field study?**

A52: Consultations between CEC staff and the awarded contractor will be critical when the contractor team begins work on this task and determines the parameters of the Task 3 field study’s applicability to, and usage in, the project. The bidder awarded the agreement resulting from this solicitation will be required to develop a Model Compliance Plan for each building that demonstrates successful retrofit to zero carbon by 2045, as well as summarize each proposed Model Compliance Plan in a summary report that is intended to educate building owners and policy makers. Please see Section II of the solicitation manual for more information about Task 3, which is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Q53: Is Task 4 expected to involve significant stakeholder engagement or to focus on technical analysis?**

A53: Yes, significant stakeholder engagement is expected in order to fulfil the goals of Task 4 of the Scope of Work.

**Q54: For Task 5, is the data in question that the contractor is going to review the same as the data that is eventually made public on the CEC’s Public Disclosure Dashboard? Can CEC provide a data dictionary and other descriptive statistics (i.e., total number of buildings) expected to be in the dataset?**

A54: Yes, at a minimum the data will include what is included in the CEC’s Public Disclosure Dashboard and a data dictionary will be provided. All available data fields/formats along with supporting documentation will be made available at the start of the agreement resulting from this solicitation.

**Q55: Task 5 asks for recommendations for improving data quality based on current software applications. Does the CEC use any software besides ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (ESPM) for the benchmarking program?**

A55: The CEC Benchmarking Program uses Touchstone IQ for Governments software for compliance tracking, communication, analysis, and quality control checks.

**Q56: Could you clarify the data that will be provided to the successful bidder under Task 5?**

A56: At a minimum the data provided will include what is included in the CEC’s Public Disclosure Dashboard. Any other available data fields/formats, along with supporting documentation, will be made available at the start of the agreement resulting from this solicitation.

**Q57: Is the intent of Task 7 primarily to support the CEC’s submission of the final Building Energy Performance Strategy Report to the California legislature?**

A57: As stated in the solicitation manual, the intent of Task 7 is for the awarded contractor to develop program components beyond what is specifically described in Tasks 2-6 related to technical support for the CEC Benchmarking Program and Senate Bill 48 (SB 48) implementation proceeding. The work in this task is expected to include, but not be limited to, providing technical expertise to conduct unexpected research and analysis needed to develop program components as they arise throughout the agreement period, as well as delivering general knowledge transfer to CEC staff. Please see the solicitation manual for more information. It is available on the [RFP-24-401 solicitation webpage](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support) (https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-08/rfp-24-401-building-energy-performance-strategy-report-benchmarking-support).

**Miscellaneous Questions**

**Q58: Can you please provide some context or history around why the available budget for this solicitation is $9 million, as opposed to another dollar amount?**

A58: The funding for this solicitation and the resulting contract was authorized in the Budget Act of 2023, also known as [Assembly Bill 102, Section 68, Provision 1](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB102), (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\_id=202320240AB102). Of the total authorized amount, the CEC retained $1 million to support internal administrative costs related to Senate Bill 48 (SB 48) implementation. The remaining $9 million was included in this solicitation.