# **RFP-24-802**

# **November 12, 2024**

# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

# **Technical Support for Low-Carbon Fuel Potential in California**

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: The bulleted items listed the scoring criteria for Section C "Approach to Managing Work – Program Management" (Page 17-18) appear very different than those items listed under Section C on page 13. Is this intentional? Given bidders are page limited, can CEC please review these two sections of the RFP and confirm what is required of bidders in the narrative of Section C and how those 15 points will be scored?**

A1:Yes, the CEC has reviewed both sections of the RFP and have made revisions to address concerns. These revisions appear in Addendum 1.

**Q2: The RFP asks for Sample Work Products on Page 13 (Section E), however there is no score assigned to sample work products in the scoring criteria. Can CEC clarify how sample work products will factor into its evaluation of bidders?**

A2: The CEC has corrected this issue and has revised the Evaluation Criteria to now include points for the sample work product(s). Please see revisions in Addendum 1.

**Q3: Given this is a work authorization-based contract it behooves CEC staff to have access to the full $750K funds available to address any potential need that may arise during the contract. If a bidder submits a lower total expected labor cost they are only constraining what can be done in the contract to earn additional Cost Points in the evaluation process. We respectfully request CEC consider using a weighted average bill rate rather than total expected labor cost to determine the allocation of the 25 Cost Points. This enables CEC to still compare bidders based on cost value while also maximizing flexibility in the contract.**

A3: While CEC anticipates work under this contract to be at the level specified, the cost evaluation criteria reflects the Department of General Services requirements. The cost evaluation criteria will be calculated as stated in the solicitation manual.

**Q4: Page 11 says "Electronic files must be in Microsoft Word and Excel Office Suite formats". Can sample work products be submitted as PDF format? We are unable to provide editable versions of sample work products. Similarly, can resumes be submitted as PDFs given they may contain special formatting best viewed in PDF?**

A4: PDF versions or web links to the files, if public, is preferred for sample work products. The solicitation specifically mentions on page 13 that web links are preferred.

**Q5: Section D. Client References states "Each bidder shall complete Client Reference Forms. Three client references are required for the Contractor and three for each subcontractor."**

**a. Are there any limitations on which entities may serve as a client reference? Can we provide references from other CEC divisions (outside of EAD)?**

**b. Some small subcontractors may not have 3 references specifically related to the topic of hydrogen but will have 3 references that are still reflections of their professional capabilities in the clean energy industry. Can subcontractor references requirement reduced from 3 or can subcontractors provide references from non-hydrogen related projects that still represent their professional capabilities/skills?**

A5: a) There are no limitations on which entities may serve as a client reference, as long as the reference provides information that demonstrates the client’s professional capabilities and skills. References from other CEC divisions, outside of EAD, will be sufficient.

b) If references for subcontractors are not available for hydrogen-related work, the CEC will accept other references for projects that represent their professional capabilities and skills in the clean energy industry.

**Q6: In Task 2.1, there is a requirement for the "Analysis of the potential for imports of low carbon fuels." Does this analysis need to include imports from outside the United States?**

A6: Analysis may include imports from outside the United States. The CEC will determine whether this is valuable in a work authorization.

**Q7: Is it permissible for the bidder to recreate the CEC-provided forms in Word within the proposal body, thus omitting the CEC-specific footers on each form?**

A7:No, this is not permissible. Please do not re-create these forms in Word. We ask that bidders use the CEC-provided forms that include the CEC-specific footers.

**Q8: May the resumes requested in Section C-3 be included in the Appendix?**

A8: Resumes may be included in an appendix and are not counted toward page total.

**Q9: For the Tableau dashboards, will the contractor be expected to host any of the finalized dashboards in the contractor's IT environment, or will hosting be performed by CEC in CEC's IT environment?**

A9: No, the contractor will not be expected to host the finalized dashboards. The CEC will host the dashboards.

**Q10: On Page 8, the RFP states, "This analysis may consider options for generating and converting hydrogen to ammonia for transport." Is the reference to transport meant to refer to ammonia being transported as a hydrogen carrier (or energy carrier), or is it meant to refer to ammonia as a transportation fuel (e.g., for marine vessels)?**

A10: The meaning of "This analysis may consider options for generating and converting hydrogen to ammonia for transport" is that the ammonia would be transported as a hydrogen carrier. However, in subtask 2.3, the CEC includes exploring ammonia as a possible end-use for the transportation sector.

**Q11: Our read of the RFP is that the focus of the work is on hydrogen. Is CEC expecting a significant amount of work to focus on non-hydrogen low carbon fuels as the end use fuel (e.g. combustion of biogas)?**

A11: A large portion of the work will focus on clean and renewable hydrogen in support of Senate Bill 1075 requirements. There is likely to be analysis needed on other low carbon fuels.

**Q12: Page 13 - section F. Budget Forms. The RFP specifies the following, “Detailed instructions for completing these forms are included at the beginning of Attachment 7.” But, there are no instructions at the beginning of Attachment 7. There are only instructions indicated on tabs “Att 7a Loaded Rate Calculation” and “Att 7b Total Exp Labor Cost”. Question: Will we receive additional instructions pertinent to completing the Attachment 7 Budget Form?**

A12: It appears that the Instructions tab is hidden within Attachment 7, Budget Forms. To unhide the Instructions tab, at the bottom of the spreadsheet, right click on one of the tabs and select “unhide”. The “unhide” box will appear, which will allow you to select which tab/sheet to unhide. Select “Instructions” and click ok. You should now be able to view the instructions. In addition, there may be instructions, for each tab, on rows that may be hidden. If so, please highlight the hidden row(s), right click, and select “unhide” to see the hidden row(s).

**Q13: Page 9 Scope of Work – Task 2 The subtask 2.6 mentioned “Support on analysis of other technologies, feedstocks, resources and end uses for low carbon fuels”. Would you please elaborate of the level of details for this support? Would you please provide a list of “other technologies, feedstocks, resources and end uses”? The scope is quite board.**

A13: There is the potential for CEC to identify new technologies, feedstocks, resources, or uses that have not been previously identified. This subtask provides the breadth of scope to request analysis. The work will be scoped in a work authorization.

**Q14: Page 9 Scope of Work – Task 2 For subtask 2.4, could you confirm if the combustion mitigation solutions of interest would be for hydrogen and natural gas blends or full hydrogen blend fuels?**

A14: This question refers to the following excerpt from Task 2, subtask 2.4 in the RFP: “The analysis may explore emission mitigation solutions from combustion at power plants.” This may include analysis of 100 percent hydrogen or hydrogen/natural gas blends.

**Q15: Page 9 Scope of Work – Task 2 For subtask 2.4, could you please clarify if the GHG impact analysis is limited to hydrogen leakage at each stage (e.g. production, transport, and storage)? Or if the leakage of methane (as a feedstock) also needs to be considered?**

A15: This question refers to the following excerpt from Task 2, subtask 2.4 in the RFP: “The analysis will develop estimates of leakage and the impact of the emissions from hydrogen gas into the atmosphere at each stage (e.g., production, transport, and storage), with a focus on greenhouse gas emission impacts as well as criteria air pollutants, including NOX.” The CEC wants a focus on hydrogen gas but may require a comparison to natural gas leakage. This would be identified in a work authorization.

**Q16: Page 9 Scope of Work – Task 2 For subtask 2.3, there is mention of “building upon previous CEC analysis of cost estimates,” is this included for both electricity generation and transportation sectors?**

A16: Yes, the CEC wants to be able to include and build upon cost estimates for both electricity generation and transportation sectors.

**Q17: Page 8 Scope of Work – Task 2 For subtask 2.2, we would like to confirm if the interest regarding hydrogen transport via pipeline is specifically for dedicated pipelines or is there interest potentially exploring hydrogen blending into natural gas pipelines? Also, there is mention of considering delivery of hydrogen into California from out of state, is there interest in international production as well or would it be possible to limit to within the U.S.?**

A17: a) This question refers to the following excerpt from Task 2, subtask 2.2 in the RFP: “This analysis will assess various delivery methods (e.g., dedicated pipelines, truck, ship,) and compare costs.” For the purposes of this analysis, this subtask is referring to delivery methods, which could include dedicated pipelines and a comparison to injection costs.

b) Analysis may include imports from outside the United States. The CEC will determine whether this is valuable in a work authorization.

**Q18: Page 8 Scope of Work – Task 2 Subtask 2.1 mentions “Comparisons may be made to other clean energy resources...”, are there specific clean energy resources of interest?**

A18: By clean energy resources, this is referring to those either currently in deployment (e.g., solar, wind) or emerging (e.g., season energy storage).

**Questions asked during the workshop:**

**Q19: Will a list of attendees be posted?**

A19: Yes, the Attendees List has been posted to the CEC solicitation webpage at the following link: [RFP-24-802 - Technical Support for Low-Carbon Fuel Potential in California](https://www.energy.ca.gov/solicitations/2024-10/rfp-24-802-technical-support-low-carbon-fuel-potential-california).