

Questions and Answers for December 11, 2025

RFP Pre-Bid Conference

General/Administrative

Q1 - Who is the current contractor for CEC's Energy Efficiency Technical Support?

The current contractor is Guidehouse Inc.

Q2 - Is CEC's goal to find a different contractor than current one?

No, the goal is to find the best contractor for the work outlined in this RFP Solicitation Manual.

Q3 - Is CEC planning to extend the timeline for submission of this proposal?

No, the CEC is not planning to extend the timeline for this proposal.

Q4 - Will a list of attendees and contact information be released following the pre-proposal meeting on December 11th?

List of attendees can be requested by contacting the Commission Agreement Officer, Chester Hong via email to chester.hong@energy.ca.gov.

(Duplicate/similar questions included in response.)

*Will you publish a list of attendees from this call?
How can we see the link that Chester said to use?*

Q5 - Is there a planholders list available for review?

No, there is not a planholders list.

Q6 - Some links are not working: "Report" below SB100, Volumes and Forecast, Building Decarbonization (Volume 1, Pages 28-40), California Energy Demand Forecast. Could you please direct us to the documents or provide working links?

The link for SB 100 can be found here - 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report, Achieving 100 Percent Clean Electricity in California: An Initial Assessment

The link for the Volumes and Forecast Building Decarbonization (Volume 1, Pages 28-40) can be found here - 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report

Q7 - Page 19 says Previous Work Products are “(Optional)” but page 20 says “Each bidder shall provide at least one example of a similar work product for the services to be provided. If subcontractors will be providing technical support in a task area, each subcontractor shall also submit one example work product that demonstrates experience in potential work assignments described in this RFP.” Can the CEC please clarify if Work Products are required or optional?

Yes, work products should be submitted as their review is integral in up to 10 points of final score.

Q8 - If work samples are required, can the CEC please clarify if they are required for all 5 tasks or just the technical tasks (Task 2-5).

Yes, previous work products are required for the technical tasks 2 through 5.

Q9 - If work samples are required for Tasks 2-5 only, can the CEC please clarify if each member of the consultant team that is proposed to work on a task must each provide a work sample for each task? For example, if a prime will work on all four technical tasks, one sub will work on three tasks, and another sub will work on two tasks, then the submission should include a total of nine work samples (one from each member)?

Yes, the bidder (and any subcontractors) will want to provide a work sample for each task to demonstrate the bidder (and any subcontractors) has experience with this type of work.

Q10 - Page 10 says “The goal of this task is to develop and manage all technical and budgetary aspects of work authorizations (WA) in accordance with the requirements of this Agreement for work to be performed under Technical Tasks 2 through 6.” Section 2 only lists 5 tasks in total. Can the CEC clarify if there is a 6th task or not?

The RFP Solicitation Manual has a typo; there are only 5 tasks. There are four technical tasks - Task 2 through Task 5.

Q11 - Are the tasks outlined for the first year only or the 3 year duration of the contract?

The tasks set forth in this proposal will occur over the 3-year pendency of the contract. Some of those tasks may occur in the first year, others may occur in the second or third year; additionally, some tasks may occur over multiple years during the contract.

Q12 - Is the intention for the contract to be awarded to a single contractor that can provide all applicable services, or is a multi-award (bench, etc.) expected? Should a

proposing team (with subcontractors as applicable) be capable of providing all services in the scope of work?

The contract will be awarded to a single contractor that can provide all applicable services through the award. If a bidder needs to use a subcontractor(s) to assist with the work required to complete tasks, that is acceptable so long as a bidder includes information regarding subcontractor(s) in their bid. No points will be awarded or deducted from a proposal based on the presence, or absence, of subcontractors.

Q13 - Is there any difference in the preference points received for the inclusion of a Small Business subconsultant vs. a Micro-SBE subconsultant?

No, the inclusion of either may result in a five percent bonus. Please see page 33 of the RFP Solicitation Manual.

Q14 - Can the CEC provide any resources or guidance to SBE subconsultants seeking Prime firms to partner with for this pursuit?

No. However, by attaining a list of attendees, SBE consultants are welcome to reach out to entities that attended the pre-bid conference regarding whether they are looking for partners. For a list of attendees, please contact the Commission Agreement Officer, Chester Hong via email to chester.hong@energy.ca.gov

Q15 - Section II Scope of Work and Deliverables lists "Expected General Classifications" for each of the tasks and subtasks, which across all tasks includes the following roles: Analyst, Scientist, Engineer, Project Manager, Director, and Accountant. Can the respondent propose additional roles beyond these Expected General Classifications?

No, the bidders must use the roles that were listed in the RFP Solicitation Manual.

Q16 - Attachment 7b Total Exp Labor Cost has a column for "Expected Total Hours for Task" that is blank. Should bidders populate the field or does the CEC have an expected number of hours in mind for each?

No, the CEC staff does not have an expected number of hours for each task. The bidders should populate the field to make sure each task is completed in the best manner.

Q17 - Can bidders add additional Expected General Classifications to technical tasks when filling out the Attachment 7b?

No, bidders shall use the classifications that were provided in Attachment 7.

Q18 - Is CEC expecting bidders to provide a budget commensurate with the full 3 years of the contract (not to exceed \$1.5M) or just one year (not to exceed \$500k)?

Bidders are expected to provide a budget for the full three years not to exceed \$1.5 million in total with no more than \$500,000 being allocated for each of the three years.

(Duplicate/similar questions included in response.)

Did I hear anything about a budget?

Q19 - Section 2, Technical and Cost Proposal lists "Labor Hours by Personnel and Task" as a section to be included in the technical and cost proposal. However, there is no paragraph describing the submission requirements for this section on pages 20 or 21. Also, the budget forms do not include a sheet for hours by personnel and task. Can the CEC please provide clarification on the requirements for this section?

For budget specific questions, please see Attachment 7; the instructions are on the form: RFP-25-801 Attachment 07 Budget Forms.

Q20 - Can a contractor develop a proposal for just one task or is the contracting team required to propose on all tasks?

The submittal needs to be for all tasks. It needs to encompass all the work in the RFP Solicitation Manual.

Q21 - What is the maximum amount of points or percentage that can be applied to total scores across all preferences (DVBE/SB/TACPA)?

The maximum number of points is 110 points, inclusive of preference points for the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Preference and/or the Small/Micro Business Preference. Please see pages 32 and 33 in the RFP Solicitation Manual for more information on this subject.

Q22 - To be clear we should just include the "Labor Hours by Personnel and Task" as Attachment 7, rather than anything in the Section 2 narrative?

The Attachment 7 instructions will direct you on what to fill out for labor hours by personnel and task, but make sure that you do not miss anything else that is required in Section 2 of the RFP Solicitation Manual.

Q23 - Please confirm there is no page limit to the proposal submission.

There are no page limits to the proposal submission.

Q24 - Can CEC please confirm if the work can be completed remotely?

Yes, the work can be completed remotely.

Q25 - Can CEC please confirm if offshore/nearshore resources are allowable?

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 (SOS) prior to its project being recommended for approval at an 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(s) (should the application be successful). For more information, visit the SOS website at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/>. Sole proprietors using a fictitious business name must be registered with the appropriate county and provide evidence of registration to the CEC prior to their project being recommended for approval at a CEC Business Meeting.

Additionally, to the extent that the winning bidder and/or its subcontractors will have access to personal and/or confidential information (as defined in Section 9. to Exhibit D. in Attachment 8, available at RFP-25-801 Attachment 08 Standard Agreement Example), the winning bidder must comply with Section 9. to Exhibit D in Attachment 8, inclusive of implementing an Information Security Program Plan that meets or exceeds the minimum necessary requirements as stated in the California State Administrative Manual (SAM) Chapter 5300. Specifically, SAM 5308.5 requires compliance with the SAM, generally, inclusive of SAM 4983.1, section VIII.g. which specifies that such personal and confidential information may only be stored and accessed within the Continental United States and Hawaii.

Technical

Q26 - What documentation is available for the current CEC model assumptions on Energy Efficiency, Demand Response and Electrification?

This documentation is available in both the RFP Solicitation Manual and the Power Point slides with links to the references in the slides.

Q27 - Is documentation available on the Common Platform Tool?

CEC does not have any public documents or shareable documentation, but recommends that potential bidders be familiar with the following tools and resources to better understand what the CEC is looking for:

GraphDB

Protégé

Resource Description Framework (RDF)

Web Ontology Language (OWL)

Q28 - Does CEC have cooperation from CPUC and other data source providers?

Yes, the California Energy Commission does work with the CPUC and other organizations to collect the data staff will be using and especially any regulatory data for the IOUs and the work on the potential and goals study for the IOUs. Staff also work with CARB and the POUs and the POUs' representatives such as California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA), Northern California Power Agency (NCPA), and Southern California Public Power Association (SCPPA).

Q29 - Within Section II, Task 5: Common Platform Implementation Support mentions "CEC's Common Platform is a general-purpose tool built using an ontology-based knowledge framework." We are requesting clarification around the Common Platform and data use, specifically:

- What is the current technology stack of the Common Platform and its Ontology and Knowledge Base?

The current technology stack allows staff to build ontologies and knowledge bases centers on knowledge graphs that integrate semantic standards (RDF, OWL, SPARQL) for structured reasoning, with GraphDB as the semantic triple store. Staff is open to suggestions on alternatives to the current technology stack.

- Is unstructured data currently ingested and if so, what tools/methods are used?

No. CEC staff looks forward to your proposals on how the CEC can include this type of data.

- What data is available in the Common Platform?

Eventually the CEC plans to connect all servers that have data necessary for the CEC's demand forecast workflow, from the most granular meter data to the broadest statewide rollups.

Q30 - What constitutes approved ML/LLMs? Are there any specific CEC guidelines?

CEC staff hope to incorporate machine learning (ML) into our energy models. Currently, CEC guidelines allow staff to have access to use Microsoft Office 365 CoPilot and may approve other Large Language Models (LLMs) in the future.

Q31 - Will CEC provide a weather scenario datasets or is it contractor responsibility?

Yes, CEC staff will provide the weather data.

Q32 - Task 3: "Identify improvements in understanding electrification measure impacts with additional geographic granularity" What level of geographical granularity is expected?

The CEC expects to go beyond the climate and forecast zone levels currently in the model to improve modeling of the impacts from zero-NOx emission regulations at the air quality district level and in CPUC's Neighborhood Decarbonization Zones (as spurred by [SB 1221](#), [SB 1221 \(Min 2024\) Implementation: Gas Distribution Maps and Pilot Neighborhood Decarbonization](#)).