



Stanislaus Regional Water Authority
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March 8, 2022

Dear Interested Parties:

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - STANISLAUS REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY - REGIONAL SURFACE WATER TREATMENT PLANT – MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Stanislaus Regional Water Authority (SRWA), a Joint Powers Authority formed in 2015 by the cities of Turlock and Ceres, California (Cities), is issuing this Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify local governmental agencies having an interest in and the resources and experience to provide management support to operate and maintain the SRWA Regional Surface Water Supply Project (RSWSP).

The RSWSP is currently in the construction phase and when completed will deliver a new surface water supply to the Cities. The project is anticipated to complete acceptance testing and permitting through the State Division of Drinking Water (DDW) in the summer of 2023. Beginning in early 2023, SRWA's Design-Build contractor will commence training of operations staff in advance of the acceptance testing phase and therefore it is imperative that SRWA has staff in-place to become familiar with the plant facilities that are the subject of this EOI. Depending on the response to this EOI, it is anticipated SRWA will either employ the required operations staff or procure and contract for all or part of management, operations, and maintenance personnel in late 2022 and early 2023.

SRWA issues this EOI for information and planning purposes to determine the interest in a cooperative agreement to water treatment staffing and resource sharing as it relates to water treatment. This is not a Request for Proposal (RFP), nor a commitment to issue an RFP in the future. This EOI does not commit SRWA to contract for services and all costs associated with preparing an EOI will be solely at the interested parties' expense. Interested parties must respond to this EOI request to be considered for any future solicitations related to this EOI.

State law (Government Code sections 54980 – 54983) authorizes SRWA to enter into a service contract with a county, city, or special district for the performance of utility services. SRWA lacks the legal authority to approve an operations contract with a private company. Consequently, this EOI is limited to local government agencies that can provide water utility related services.

BACKGROUND

SRWA is developing a new surface water supply to enable the Cities to increase the reliability and sustainability of their domestic water supplies in response to future droughts. This multi-benefit project will enable the Cities to maximize water supply reliability over varying

hydrological conditions through conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, while increasing the volume of stored groundwater and improving water quality.

SRWA recognizes that one of the largest operating costs and ongoing, long-term obligation is the employment of labor. SRWA is exploring ways to partner with regional water treatment facility operations to find ways to become more efficient and productive in operating and maintaining its facilities. Assuming interested parties may also be seeking opportunities to more cost-effectively manage, operate and maintain their facilities, SRWA, through this EOI, is offering an opportunity to explore ways to partner and achieve common goals.

To better understand SRWA's facilities and how interested parties might align their resources, a description of the SRWA facilities is provided here. The SRWA website at <https://stanrwa.com/> provides additional background information.

The RSWSP facilities include the following:

- Raw Water Pump Station at the Tuolumne River infiltration gallery
- Raw Water Transmission Main (RWTM) facilities to convey raw water from the Raw Water Pump Station to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and the Ceres Main Canal
- 15 MGD Water Treatment Plant, expandable to 20 MGD with filter re-rating
- Finished Water Transmission Mains (FWTMs) to convey treated water from the WTP to the Cities.

These specific elements of the RSWSP are described as follows:

Raw Water Pump Station:

The Raw Water Pump Station will convey raw water to the WTP and the Ceres Main Canal. The Raw Water Pump Station will incorporate the Wet Well previously constructed by the SRWA, as well as the existing infiltration gallery that was constructed by the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) in the early 2000's.

Raw Water Flow Split Structure:

The Raw Water Flow Split Structure will be located along the RWTM within the WTP property. This structure will allow for the diversion of raw water to both the WTP and the Ceres Main Canal Outlet Structure independently and simultaneously at flow rates set by the SRWA and TID, respectively.

Water Treatment Plant:

The 15 mgd water treatment plant facilities include flash mixing followed by flocculation and sedimentation, ozone contactor, biological filtration, finished water storage and pumping to the Cities' terminal facilities. Treatment chemicals will be applied throughout the treatment process. Filter to waste and filter backwash will be equalized prior to solids treatment and recovery. Other facilities include a chemical building, maintenance building and administration building. The WTP is easily expandable to 20 mgd through a filter re-rating process approval from the DDW. Future phases are

anticipated to include 2-15 mgd increments as needed to meet the Cities' future demands.

Finished Water Transmission Mains:

Two (2) FWTMs will convey finished water to terminal facilities located within the City of Turlock and the City of Ceres. The finished water compliance point will be at the respective terminal facility. SRWA will operate and maintain the WTP pumping facility and the FWTMs to meet the Cities' demands for quality and quantity of finished surface water in conjunction with their existing potable water distribution system.

Acceptance Testing (to be performed by the SRWA Design-Builder):

During the Acceptance Test period, SRWA's contracted design-builder will demonstrate compliance with the Performance Standards at varying flow rates.

STAFFING APPROACH

The SRWA Board of Directors approved a staffing plan that establishes the anticipated administrative, operations and maintenance positions at its meeting of February 17, 2022. These positions are identified in Table 1.

Given this initial staffing level, the SRWA is soliciting this EOI for management and operations responsibility under contract with the SRWA, for all identified positions, or a hybrid of operational support, by position, to achieve SRWA's goals.

SRWA's interest is not limited to staffing and could include other resource needs such as chemicals, treatment process materials such as granular activated carbon, equipment, and service contracts such as solids handling and disposal. SRWA is open to considering other potential opportunities that have not been mentioned for mutual benefit collaboration.

The term of engagement is not known at this time and will be considered when there is an established formal interest through a possible future RFP solicitation or negotiation with an interested party.

Table 1

Position (Min. DDW Certification)	Number of Positions
Water Treatment Plant Manager (T-5, D-4)	1
Water Treatment Operations Supervisor (T-4, D-4)	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Accountant	1
Human Resources Analyst	1
Senior Operator (T-3, D-3)	5
Operator (T-2, D-2)	2
Apprentice Operator (T-1, D-1)	2
Instrumentation Technician	1
Mechanic	2
General Manager	1
Total Staff	18

RESPONDING TO THE EOI

SRWA will accept and evaluate all reasonable interest that meets the intent and purpose as described in this request.

Submission

Interested local government agencies who consider themselves qualified to perform all or part of the services envisioned in this request are invited to submit a capability and interest statement to this EOI, or statement indicating no interest, to the SRWA by no later than 4:00 P.M. PDT on April 22, 2022.

At a minimum, EOI responses should contain the following:

1. Organization name, name of person responsible for EOI submission, address, email address, and telephone number.
2. Capability and interest statements addressing the following:
 - a. Organization and staff capability to provide all or some of the RSWSP operation, maintenance, or administration related services.
 - b. Description of the approach to meeting the requirements.
 - c. Identify any challenges or risks you deem pertinent to this EOI.
3. Description of the managing office in relation to the SRWA WTP, in terms of location and distance.
4. Organization structure alignment with the SRWA, i.e., plant operations description, DDW certifications, type of WTP currently operated, number of staffing in your organization.
5. If not interested in full SRWA operations and maintenance support, identify those positions in Table 1 that your organization would consider offering to serve the SRWA.
6. Mutual aid opportunities and how mutual aid could provide an important resource sharing opportunity for the SRWA and your organization.

Questions Regarding this EOI

SRWA does not intend to conduct a pre submittal meeting, however, questions regarding this solicitation are welcomed and should be directed to the SRWA General Manager at the email listed below. SRWA intends to evaluate the EOI responses and determine next steps (e.g., issue RFP, request additional information, negotiate with one or more respondents).

SRWA reserves the right to conduct contract negotiations with any party (whether or not it has submitted an EOI response), to verify the information in any EOI response, to waive any informality in the process, to alter the selection process in any way, to request additional information or clarifications, to allow corrections of errors or omissions, to extend the deadline for submission, to withdraw this EOI at any time without prior notice, and to decide whether or not to contract with any party. This EOI is not an offer to contract. All EOI responses shall

become the property of SRWA and SRWA may copy, publicly review and discuss, and retain response. All EOI responses received by SRWA will be considered public records subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Submittal Instructions

Submit Letters of Expression of Interest electronically to:

granbergassociates@gmail.com

SRWA looks forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Granberg

Robert L. Granberg, P.E., DBIA
General Manager