



Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG)

Request for Proposals SBCOG #2023-01

General Legal Services

December 21, 2023, 3:00 PM

Prepared By:

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SECTION 1. REQUEST

The Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG) is seeking a qualified attorney or law firm interested in serving as the general legal counsel to SBCOG, providing legal advice and representation on transportation law and contracts.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) describes the scope of services, outlines proposal requirements, lists the criteria that will be used to evaluate the proposals, and provides the selection schedule.

See Section 3: Scope of Services for more detail. Consultants are invited to submit a Proposal to provide the scope of services outlined in Section 3: Scope of Services.

~ END SECTION 1 ~

SECTION 2. BACKGROUND

The Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG) is San Benito County's regional transportation planning agency. SBCOG was established in 1973 for the purpose of forming consensus on regional issues facing San Benito County. Its member agencies consist of the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and the County of San Benito. SBCOG plays a central role in transportation infrastructure planning and funding assistance for both the cities, county, and transit operators.

Structure

SBCOG is governed by a board comprised of 5 elected officials (two from the City of Hollister, two from the County of San Benito and one from the City of San Juan Bautista). The Director of Caltrans District 5 or their designee has an ex-officio seat. SBCOG is led by an executive director appointed by the board.

The SBCOG board of directors typically meets on the third Thursday of every month from 4pm-6pm.

Authorities:

In terms of authorities, SBCOG has several key designations:

- Designated by the State of California as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the County of San Benito.
- Council of Governments for Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)
- Local Transportation Authority administers and operates public transportation services in the county.
- Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)
- Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE)
- Local transportation sales tax authority to administer Measure G program.

~ END SECTION 2 ~

SECTION 3. SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 General Description

SBCOG seeks an attorney or law firm to provide general legal services for SBCOG. The service specifically entails providing legal review and advice to the agency on documents, agreements and responsibilities related to transportation planning and funding.

Examples of duties:

- Provision of all legal advice to SBCOG’s executive director, board members, and other designated personnel as appropriate.
- Providing legal review and advice on documents, contracts, memoranda, and Resolutions and Ordinances.
- Providing guidance on compliance with the Brown Act, Public Records Act requests, ethics, and conflict of interest law.
- Attendance at all SBCOG board meetings, and/or other SBCOG meetings deemed necessary or as requested by SBCOG Board of Directors or executive director.
- Providing guidance on compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations pertaining to regional transportation planning agencies (RTPA), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the Transportation Development Act (TDA), federal transportation and transit laws, regulations, and funding.
- Providing guidance on compliance with State and Federal Constitutional law and other laws and regulations pertaining to eminent domain, Civil Rights, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Provide guidance related to environmental regulations including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- Compliance with state and federal procurement and contract requirements established by Caltrans and U.S. Department of Transportation.
- Provide legal advice and review of transportation sales tax measures (Measure A and Measure G).

Attendance at Board meetings is required. Virtual attendance is an option at the discretion of the Board and/or Executive Director.

~ END SECTION 3 ~

SECTION 4. INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS

4.1 Responding to RFP

Respondents shall submit a completed Proposal via email, as one PDF attachment, with appropriate attachments or explanatory materials in response to SBCOG RFP #2023-01. All attachments shall be identified with the Respondent’s name, the RFP number and page number. No hardcopies, oral, telegraph, telephone, facsimile, or photocopies will be accepted. Emailed proposals should contain “**Proposal for General Legal Services**” in the subject line. Late proposals will not be accepted.

4.2 RFP Documents

The following exhibits, in addition to this RFP and the Official Proposal Form set forth in Section 5 of this RFP, are included as a part of this RFP:

- Exhibit A – Respondent Fact Sheet
- Exhibit B – Acknowledgment of Addenda Form
- Exhibit C – Customer References
- Exhibit D – Designation of Subcontractors
- Exhibit E – Non-Collusion Declaration
- Exhibit F – Fee Schedule
- Exhibit G – Standard Contract

4.3 RFP Process Schedule

The following is an anticipated RFP schedule. SBCOG may change the estimated dates and process as deemed necessary.

The proposed schedule for the submittal reviews and notification is as follows:

Activity	Date
Release RFP online at: www.sanbenitocog.org	November 17, 2023
Deadline for Written Questions	December 15, 2023
SBCOG Deadline to Respond to Questions	December 18, 2023
Deadline for Proposals	December 21, 3:00 PM
Review Proposals	January 2 – January 3, 2024
Interviews (as needed)	January 4, 2024
Select Consultant, Negotiate Contract	January 5, 2024
Approximate Award Date	January 19, 2024

4.4 Submission of Proposals

Respondent shall submit the Proposal on the form(s) provided, to the two (2) email addresses listed below. Please compile Proposal into one (1) PDF document. All items shall be filled in and the signatures of all persons signing shall be written and printed in longhand. Respondent shall submit one (1) electronic copy including all applicable supporting documentation, including but not limited to the Exhibits set forth in Section 6 of this RFP, emailed to the individuals named below:

Binu Abraham, Executive Director
babraham@sanbenitocog.org

Norma Aceves, Administrative Services Specialist
norma@sanbenitocog.org

All Proposals must be received via email by no later than **3:00 PM, Pacific Time, on December 21, 2023**. You will receive an email response from SBCOG that your proposal has been received. Facsimile transmission of Proposals or hardcopies will not be accepted. Proposals must be signed by the Respondent or by a duly authorized officer of the Respondent, emailed along with all required documents, to the agency representative specified in this RFP.

All costs of the preparation of a Proposal shall be the sole responsibility of the Respondent. All materials submitted in response to the Request for Proposal become the property of SBCOG and shall not be returned.

All Proposals shall remain firm for at least ninety (90) calendar days after the Proposal Due Date or unless otherwise specified. Within ninety (90) calendar days after the Proposal Due Date, a contract may be awarded by SBCOG to the highest ranked Respondent, as it may deem proper in its absolute discretion. The time for awarding a contract may be extended at the sole discretion of SBCOG, if required to evaluate Proposals of for such other purposes as SBCOG may determine, unless the Respondent objects to such extension in writing, submitted with the Proposal.

A responsive Proposal shall be limited in length to **no more than 15 double-sided pages**, and 12 point size font. Page limit is not inclusive of cost Proposal, certification forms, or résumés. Submissions beyond the page limit will not be considered.

A responsive Proposal shall include, at a minimum, the following items:

- The fully completed and executed Official Proposal Form set forth in Section 5 of this RFP
- Fully completed and executed Exhibits A through F of this RFP
- A cover letter
- A brief description of the Respondent's experience, including the year the firm was established, type of firm (partnership, corporation, etc.), and a statement of the Respondent's qualifications for performing the subject services, demonstrating Respondent has at least two (2) years' of experience providing the services described in Section 3, Scope of Work
- Evidence of Respondent's possession of all personal license(s), business license(s) needed in order to perform the services required and/or any other licenses and/or permits required to do business in the City of Hollister, County of San Benito, and/or State of California
- An organizational chart depicting the names of the individual or team proposed by the Respondent and a brief summary of the qualifications and experience of each member proposed as the project team, demonstrating each has the personal license(s) necessary and at least two (2) years' of experience providing the services described in Section 3, Scope of Work
- A concise, but detailed description on the Respondent's approach to meet the requirements set forth in Section 3, Scope of Work
- The relevant qualifications and experience of any Subcontractors to be used, as well as customer references for each Subcontractor
- A cost Proposal that includes the hourly rates for all positions and staff persons expected to work on the project, including the annual hourly rate for the duration of the contract, and any other related costs that are billed directly. Hourly rates should indicate

overhead rates applied (as appropriate). Once the contract is signed, hourly and other rates shall remain in effect for the duration of the contract. The cost Proposal must be submitted in a separate email. Cost proposal shall be email to Norma Aceves at norma@sanbenitocog.org.

- Any past, current or upcoming projects by your firm or professionals that may result in an actual or perceived conflict of interest with this representation.
- Other relevant information that will assist SBCOG in selecting the most qualified Respondent(s).

4.5 Proprietary Information

All information appearing within the Proposal may be subject to public inspection. Any proprietary information must be clearly marked as such and submitted in a separate email to Norma Aceves at norma@sanbenitocog.org, marked proprietary in the subject line, and referenced only within the body of the Proposal.

4.6 Point of Contact

All questions regarding this RFP shall be directed to Norma Aceves, Administrative Services Specialist norma@sanbenitocog.org with the subject: “**Questions for COG RFP 2023-01 General Legal Services**” followed by a brief description. No other individual has the authority to respond to any questions submitted unless specifically authorized by Binu Abraham, Executive Director or her designee. Failure to adhere to this process may disqualify the Respondent.

4.7 Interpretation

Should any discrepancies or omissions be found in the RFP specifications/requirements, or doubt as to their meaning, the Respondent shall notify SBCOG in writing at once (e-mail is acceptable). SBCOG will post addenda with further instruction or clarification on www.SanBenitoCOG.org for all interested parties to view. SBCOG shall not be held responsible for oral interpretations. Questions must be received at least seven (7) days before the Proposal due date and will be answered via Addenda.

4.8 Questions

Questions must be received by **December 15, 2023 at 4:00 PM, Pacific Time**. All Addenda issued shall be incorporated into the contract. It is the Respondent’s responsibility to check the website to obtain the most current information regarding this RFP.

4.9 Updates and Addenda

No one is authorized to amend any of these documents in any respect by an oral statement or to make any representation or interpretation in conflict with their provisions. Any changes to these documents will be issued in writing via Addendum by Binu Abraham or her designee, to be posted on SBCOG’s website at www.SanBenitoCOG.org for all interested parties to view, and to be faxed, emailed, or mailed to all prospective Respondents known by SBCOG, if and when necessary. All Addenda issued shall be incorporated into the contract. Respondents shall be responsible for monitoring SBCOG’s website at www.SanBenitoCOG.org to obtain the most current information regarding this RFP. Current information may be in the form of an update or a formal Addendum. The last day for updates and Addenda to be posted on the above mentioned website is **December 18, 2023, at 5:00 PM, Pacific Time**.

4.10 Late Responses

All responses to the RFP must be emailed to babraham@sanbenitocog.org AND norma@sanbenitocog.org no later than **3:00 PM, December 21, 2023, Pacific Time**.

Respondents shall be responsible for the timely delivery of their Proposals. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted and will be unopened and discarded.

4.11 Multiple Proposals

Only one Proposal will be accepted from any one person, partnership, corporation or other entity; however, several alternatives may be included in one Proposal.

4.12 Proposal Evaluation Criteria

If an award is made, it will be made to the responsive Proposal by a responsible Respondent that offers SBCOG the greatest value based on an analysis involving a number of criteria. SBCOG intends to award a Contract to the Proposer that offers the best value, considering a variety of qualitative factors, including price. SBCOG reserves the right to determine that the highest-ranked Proposer provides the best value to SBCOG, even if the highest-ranked Proposer does not offer the lowest price. An Evaluation Committee (Committee) that SBCOG designates will evaluate proposals SBCOG receives based on the evaluation criteria set forth herein.

An Evaluation Committee will review each Proposal for completeness and content. Each Proposal will be evaluated based upon the relevant experience of the Respondent. The Evaluation Committee will review and rank the Proposals according to the Evaluation Criteria described below and assigned points per criteria as indicated. The Evaluation Committee may conduct interviews, if necessary. The rankings will be based upon the evaluation criteria that may include, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

Evaluation Criteria	Max. Points
Organization, Experience, and Reference	25
Qualifications	30
Staff	20
Technical Approach	15
Cost proposal	10
TOTAL	100

- **Organization, Experience, and Reference:** Does the Respondent’s organizational structure show sufficient depth for its present workload? Has the Respondent demonstrated the ability to successfully provide services for projects of a similar complexity and nature as described herein? Are the Respondent’s references from past clients and associates favorable? Does the Respondent show financial and operational stability?
- **Qualification:** Showcase the breadth and quality of services required for the anticipated project. Demonstrate examples of creative and collaborative solutions.
- **Staff:** Do the qualifications of key personnel to be assigned to the anticipated projects coincide with project requirements? What will be key personnel’s proposed response time to query’s?
- **Technical Approach:** Does the Respondent have an understanding of the services they will be providing? Does the Respondent understand their role for the Project? What is the Respondent’s performance methodology? What is the Respondent’s workflow? Will the Respondent be able to perform the Scope of Work within a timely manner?
- **Cost:** Does the Respondent provide the hourly rate for attorney(s) and staff (including law clerks and paralegals) to be assigned to SBCOG and a summary of any other related costs that are billed directly?

4.13 Selection Procedure

SBCOG shall perform an initial review of all Proposals to determine responsiveness as specified in Paragraph 4.4 in this RFP. The Evaluation Committee will review all responsive Proposals and will rank Proposals in descending order of preference according to the weighted criteria identified in section 4.12. The Evaluation Committee will then select the preferred Proposal, that best meets the needs as set forth in this RFP, is the best qualified, and is able to provide the requested services as follows:

- **PRE-SELECTION:** The Evaluation Committee will review and screen the Proposals for completeness. Proposals that are incomplete, or improperly written, may be considered non-responsive and may be rejected. Each Proposal will be evaluated for its completeness and responsiveness to the Evaluation Criteria set forth in Section 4.11 above, and to the Scope of Services outlined in Section 3 of this RFP. Based upon the scores of responsive Proposals, the Evaluation Committee will set a competitive range and may invite Respondents in the competitive range to participate in an in-person or virtual interview. Top ranking Respondents will be asked to prepare an oral presentation of their Proposal to the Evaluation Committee. References may be contacted by any person of the Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to evaluate the interview and presentation, and to reevaluate the initial Proposal based upon new information provided during the interview component. The Evaluation Committee will make its recommendations to the SBCOG Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make the final determination regarding the highest ranked Respondent, based on the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee.
- **SELECTION:** Award of a contract shall not be based on cost alone, but on the strength of qualifications of the Respondent and the Respondents' capability of providing the services outlined in the RFP. The Evaluation Committee will rank the Proposals based upon the interview, compliance with the RFP terms and conditions, quality and performance of the services offered based on previous contracts, reference checks for the same or similar services, and the capacity of the Respondent to perform the required services.
- **NEGOTIATIONS:** Following final selection by the SBCOG Board of Directors of the highest ranked Respondent, staff will enter negotiations with the highest ranked Respondent, regarding the terms of a contract consistent with the RFP and the Proposal, which will be submitted to SBCOG Board of Directors for approval. The successful Respondent will be expected to enter into the agreement appended as Exhibit G to this RFP. No modifications to the general terms and conditions of the standard contract appended as Exhibit G to this RFP will be considered. If an agreement is not reached within a reasonable time after the highest ranked Proposal is identified, SBCOG reserves its right to terminate negotiations with the highest ranked Respondent and begin negotiations with the next highest ranked Respondent, suspend the process entirely or request new Proposals. This process will continue until an agreement is reached or all Proposals are rejected.

All Respondents may be notified of the Proposal which is ranked highest. No other information will be released.

The evaluation of the Proposals shall be within the sole judgment and discretion of the Evaluation Committee and the SBCOG Board of Directors. SBCOG reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals received pursuant to the RFP. The award of a contract is contingent on funding availability and SBCOG Board of Directors' approval. SBCOG is under no obligation to award any contract. There shall be no appeal of any decision of SBCOG, or any SBCOG representative.

4.14 Reservations

SBCOG reserves the right to do the following at any time and for its own convenience, at its sole discretion:

- To reject any and all Proposals, without indicating any reason for such rejection
- Waive or correct any minor or inadvertent defect, irregularity or technical error in the RFP or any RFP procedure, in any Proposal, or in any subsequent negotiation process
- Terminate this RFP and issue a new RFP anytime thereafter
- Procure any services specified in the RFP by other means
- Extend any or all deadlines specified in the RFP, including deadlines for accepting Proposals, by issuance of an Addendum at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of Proposals
- Disqualify any Respondent on the basis of any real or perceived conflict of interest or evidence of collusion that is disclosed by the Proposal or other data available to SBCOG. Such disqualification is at the sole discretion of SBCOG
- Reject the Proposal of any Respondent that is in breach of or in default under any other agreement with SBCOG.
- Reject any Respondent deemed by SBCOG to be non-responsive, unreliable, unqualified, or non-responsible.

4.15 Notification of Modification or Withdrawal of Proposals

The Respondent may modify or withdraw a Proposal by submitting a written request for its modification or withdrawal to a SBCOG representative at any time prior to the Proposal submission deadline. The withdrawal shall be signed by the Respondent or an authorized agent of the Respondent.

The Respondent may thereafter submit a new Proposal prior to the deadline. All Proposals not modified or withdrawn prior to the deadline will become SBCOG's property. Modifications of a Proposal offered in any manner, oral or written, will not be considered after the deadline.

4.16 Notice of Intent to Award

Notice of Intent to Award may be issued upon receipt of all required documents.

4.17 Contractor Responsibility and Performance

SBCOG will consider the Contractor to be the sole point of contact with regard to all contractual matters.

Contractor shall provide the services of one (1) or more qualified contract manager(s) responsible for assuring that the services provided under the contract are satisfactory.

4.18 Insurance

The Contractor, at its sole cost and expense, for the full term of this contract (and extensions thereof), shall obtain and maintain at minimum all of the following insurance coverage. Such insurance coverage shall be primary coverage as respects SBCOG and any insurance or self-insurance maintained by SBCOG shall be in excess of the Contractor's insurance coverage and shall not contribute to it.

1. Types of Insurance and Minimum Limits

- a) Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance in conformance with the laws of the State of California.
- b) The Contractor's vehicles used in the performance of this contract, including owned, non-owned (e.g. owned by the Contractor's employees), leased or hired vehicles, shall each be covered with Automobile Liability Insurance in the minimum amount of \$500,000 combined single limit per accident for bodily injury and property damage.
- c) The Contractor shall obtain and maintain Comprehensive General Liability Insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 combined single limit, including bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage. Such insurance coverage shall include, without limitation:
 - (i) Contractual liability coverage adequate to meet the Contractor's indemnification obligations under this Request;
 - (ii) Full Personal Injury coverage;
 - (iii) Broad form Property Damage coverage, and
 - (iv) A cross-liability clause in favor of SBCOG.
- d) The Contractor shall obtain and maintain Professional Liability Insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 combined single limit. Such insurance coverage shall include, without limitation:
 - (i) Contractual liability coverage adequate to meet the Contractor's indemnification obligations under this Request; and
 - (ii) A cross-liability clause in favor of SBCOG.

2. Other Insurance Provisions

- a. As to all insurance coverage required herein, any deductible or self-insured retention exceeding \$5,000 shall be disclosed to and be subject to written approval by SBCOG.
- b. All required Automobile Liability Insurance, Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability Insurance or Professional Liability Insurance shall contain the following endorsement as a part of each policy:

"The Council of San Benito County Governments is hereby added as an additional insured as respects the operations of the named insured."
- c. All the insurance required herein shall contain the following clause:

"It is agreed that these policies shall not be cancelled nor the coverage reduced until thirty (30) days after the Council of San Benito County Governments ("SBCOG") shall have received written notice of such cancellation or reduction. The notice shall be deemed effective the date delivered to SBCOG as evidenced

by properly validated return receipt. Such notice shall be sent to: Council of San Benito County Governments, 330 Tres Pinos Road Suite C7, Hollister, CA 95023".

- d. The prospective Contractor agrees to provide SBCOG at or before the effective date of any award resulting from this RFP with a certificate of insurance of the coverage required.
- e. All required insurance policies shall be endorsed to contain the following clause: This Insurance shall not be cancelled until after thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to:

Council of San Benito County Governments
Binu Abraham, Executive Director
330 Tres Pinos Road, Suite C7
Hollister, CA 95023

The Contractor agrees to provide its insurance broker(s) with a full copy of these insurance requirements and provide SBCOG on or before the effective date of this contract Certificates of Insurance for all required coverage. By submitting a Proposal, the proposing Respondent agrees to provide the insurance specified in Paragraph 3.17 of this RFP.

4.19 Pre-Award Conference

If requested, successful Respondent(s) shall meet with SBCOG representatives prior to the Award of Contract to review the specifications and finalize the initiation of the proposed contract.

4.20 Execution of Agreement

Upon successful reference checks, evaluations and receipt of all required documents, the agreement must be executed by both parties. The successful Respondent will be expected to enter into the agreement appended as Exhibit G to this RFP, with other terms and conditions specified in this RFP incorporated therein. No modifications to the general terms and conditions of the standard contract appended as Exhibit G to this RFP will be considered. Submittal of a Proposal shall constitute concurrence with the terms and conditions set forth in SBCOG's standard contract and in this RFP.

4.21 Cost of Service

SBCOG reserves the right to negotiate the proposed cost with the successful Respondent prior to contract signing. Agreed to costs and cash discounts are to be firm through the end of the contract term. Upon renewal, rates may be adjusted by mutual agreement. Any subsequent cost increase will be no more than the change in the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose, CA area for the twelve (12) months preceding the agreement's expiration date. However, in the case of an announced cost decrease, such decrease shall be passed on to SBCOG.

~ END SECTION 4 ~

SECTION 5. OFFICIAL PROPOSAL FORM

The undersigned offers and agrees to furnish all work, materials, supplies, equipment and other incidentals required to complete the services subject to this Request for Proposals, for the costs stated and in conformance with all requirements, conditions and instructions. All hours are approximate and there is no guarantee that all hours will be met. No minimum or maximum hours apply to the resulting contract. The respondent is to consider the estimated number of hours as only a ball park figure based on prior history for the same services.

Complete the following Exhibit A including costs of services as shown. Please note any deviation from the hourly charge and indicate the number of hours needed to complete each task.

Have you complied with all specifications, requirements, terms and conditions of this RFP?

Yes No

A “no” answer requires a detailed explanation giving reference to all deviations to be submitted on company letterhead in attachment form. All exceptions must reference the RFP paragraph and section number followed by an explanation

Executed in _____, California, on _____, _____

Signature _____ Title _____

Print Name _____

Name of Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have not been a party with any other Respondent to offer a fixed cost in conjunction with this Request for Proposal.

~ END SECTION 5 ~

EXHIBIT B—ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ADDENDA FORM

_____ (Respondent or Proposed Subcontractor Business Name)

hereby acknowledges receipt of all Addenda through and including:

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Addendum No. _____ , dated _____ .

Authorized Representative Name and Title: _____

Authorized Representative Signature: _____

Date _____

END OF EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT C—CUSTOMER REFERENCES

List and submit with this Proposal four (4) customer references, for whom you have furnished similar product or services.

1. Company Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Contact Person: _____
 Telephone No.: _____

2. Company Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Contact Person: _____
 Telephone No.: _____

3. Company Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Contact Person: _____
 Telephone No.: _____

4. Company Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Contact Person: _____
 Telephone No.: _____

END OF EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT E—NON-COLLUSION DECLARATION

TO BE EXECUTED BY RESPONDENT AND SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL

I, _____, am the
Name
_____ of _____,
Position/Title Company

the party making the foregoing Proposal that the Proposal is not made in the interest of, or on behalf of, any undisclosed person, partnership, company, association, organization, or corporation; that the Proposal is genuine and not collusive or sham; that the Respondent has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other Respondent to put in a false or sham Proposal; and has not directly or indirectly colluded, conspired, connived, or agreed with any Respondent or anyone else to put in a sham Proposal, or that anyone shall refrain from responding; that the Respondent has not in any manner directly or indirectly, sought by agreement, communication, or conference with anyone to fix the Proposal price of the Respondent or any other Respondent, or to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the Proposal price, or of that of any other Respondent, or to secure any advantage against the public body awarding the contract of anyone interested in the proposed contract; that all statements contained in the Proposal are true; and, further, that the Respondent has not, directly or indirectly, submitted his or her Proposal price or any breakdown thereof, or the contents thereof, or divulged information or data relative thereto, or paid, and will not pay, any fee to any corporation, partnership, company association, organization, Proposal depository, or to any member or agent thereof to effectuate a collusive or sham Proposal.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct:

Date Signature

END OF EXHIBIT E

EXHIBIT F—FEE SCHEDULE

		Hourly Rate	Est. Hours	Total Cost
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				

Total overall cost for services identified: _____

END OF EXHIBIT F

EXHIBIT G—STANDARD CONTRACT

The following is a copy of the Standard Contract used by SBCOG for contracting with consultants or individuals for professional services. This document shall serve as the basis for a contract with the successful consultants (s) or individual(s). *Respondents should not respond to this RFP if they cannot agree to the standard contract terms and conditions.*

The COUNCIL OF SAN BENITO COUNTY GOVERNMENTS ("COG") and _____ ("CONTRACTOR") enter into this contract which shall be effective on the date stated in Paragraph 1.

1. Duration of Contract.

This contract shall commence on _____, and end on _____ unless sooner terminated as specified herein.

2. Scope of Services.

CONTRACTOR, for COG's benefit shall perform the services specified on Attachment A to this contract. Attachment A is made a part of this contract.

3. Compensation for Services.

In consideration for CONTRACTOR'S performance, COG shall pay compensation to CONTRACTOR according to the terms specified in Attachment B. Attachment B is made a part of this contract.

4. General Terms and Conditions.

The rights and duties of the parties to this contract are governed by the general terms and conditions mutually agreed to and listed in Attachment C. Attachment C is made a part of this contract.

5. Insurance Limits.

CONTRACTOR shall maintain the following insurance policy limits of coverage consistent with the further insurance requirements specified in Attachment C.

- (a) Comprehensive general liability insurance: \$1,000,000
- (b) Professional liability insurance: \$1,000,000
- (c) Comprehensive motor vehicle liability insurance: \$1,000,000

6. Termination.

The number of days of advance written notice required for termination of this contract is thirty (30) days.

7. Specific Terms and Conditions. (check one)

- There are no additional provisions to this contract.
- The rights and duties of the parties to this contract are additionally governed by the specific, additional terms mutually agreed to and listed in Attachment D. Attachment D is made a part of this contract.

8. Information about Contract Administrators.

The following names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers are the pertinent information for the respective contract administrators for the parties.

Contract Administrator for COG:

Name: Binu Abraham

Title: Executive Director

Address: 330 Tres Pinos Road, Ste. C7

Hollister, California 95023

Phone No.: (831) 637-7665

Fax No.: (831) 636-4160

Contract Administrator for CONTRACTOR:

Name:

Title:

Address:

SIGNATURES

APPROVED BY CONTRACTOR:

Name:

Chair

Date:

Name:

Title:

Date:

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

San Benito County Counsel's Office

By:

Shirley L. Murphy, Deputy County Counsel

Date:

ATTACHMENT A
Scope of Services

This section has been intentionally left blank as the scope of services will be provided following selection of a qualified Respondent.

~ END ATTACHMENT A ~

ATTACHMENT B
Payment Schedule

B-L. BILLING

Charges for services rendered pursuant to the terms and conditions of this contract shall be invoiced on the following basis: (check one)

- One month in arrears.
- Upon the complete performance of the services specified in Attachment A.
- The basis specified in paragraph B-4.

B-2. PAYMENT

Payment shall be made by COG to CONTRACTOR at the address specified in paragraph 7 of this contract, net thirty (30) days from the invoice date.

B-3. COMPENSATION

COG shall pay to CONTRACTOR: (check one)

- a total lump sum payment of \$ _____, or
- a total sum not to exceed \$ _____.

for services rendered pursuant to the terms and conditions of this contract and pursuant to any special compensation terms specified in this attachment, Attachment B.

B-4. SPECIAL COMPENSATION TERMS: (check one)

- There are no additional terms of compensation.
- The following specific terms of compensation shall apply: (Specify)

CONTRACTOR shall invoice monthly at an hourly rate for services rendered pursuant to B-4 and of this Contract. CONTRACTOR shall provide a monthly progress report as a part of the monthly invoice which tracks tasks specified in Attachment A, Scope of Services, with services completed by CONTRACTOR. The monthly progress report shall include the following:

- Description of the tasks in progress or achieved
- Description of the tasks still to be achieved
- Percentage of work still anticipated for each task

~ END ATTACHMENT B ~

ATTACHMENT C
General Terms and Conditions

C-1. INDEMNIFICATION.

CONTRACTOR and COG each agree to indemnify, defend and save harmless the other party and the other party's officers and employees, from and against any and all claims and losses whatsoever arising out of, or in any way related to, the indemnifying party's performance under this contract, including, but not limited to, claims for property damage, personal injury, death, and any legal expenses (such as attorneys' fees, court costs, investigation costs, and experts' fees) incurred by the indemnitee in connection with such claims or losses. A party's "performance" includes the party's action or inaction and the action or inaction of that party's officers and employees.

C-2. GENERAL INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS.

Without limiting CONTRACTOR'S duty to indemnify COG, CONTRACTOR shall comply with the insurance coverage requirements set forth in the contract and in this attachment. Those insurance policies mandated by Paragraph C-3 shall satisfy the following requirements:

- (a) Each policy shall be issued by a company authorized by law to transact business in the State of California.
- (b) Each policy shall provide that COG shall be given notice in writing at least thirty (30) days in advance of any change, cancellation, or nonrenewal thereof.
- (c) The comprehensive motor vehicle and comprehensive general liability policies shall each provide an endorsement naming the County of San Benito and its officers, agents and employees as additional insureds.
- (d) The required coverage shall be maintained in effect throughout the term of this contract.

CONTRACTOR shall require all Subcontractors performing work under this contract to obtain substantially the identical insurance coverage required of CONTRACTOR pursuant to this agreement.

C-3. INSURANCE COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.

If required by paragraph 5 of the contract, CONTRACTOR shall maintain the following insurance policies in full force and effect during the term of this contract:

- (a) Comprehensive general liability insurance. CONTRACTOR shall maintain comprehensive general liability insurance, covering all of CONTRACTOR'S operations with a combined single limit of not less than the amount set out in paragraph 5 of this contract.
- (b) Professional liability insurance. CONTRACTOR shall maintain professional liability insurance with liability limits of not less than the amount set out in paragraph 5 of this contract.
- (c) Comprehensive motor vehicle liability insurance. CONTRACTOR shall maintain comprehensive motor vehicle insurance covering all motor vehicles (including owned, non-owned and hired) used in providing services under this contract, with a combined single limit of not less than the amount set out in Paragraph 5 of this contract.

- d) Workers' compensation insurance. CONTRACTOR shall maintain a workers' compensation plan covering all of its employees as required by California Labor Code Section 3700, either through workers' compensation insurance issued by an insurance company or through a plan of self-insurance certified by the State Director of Industrial Relations. If CONTRACTOR elects to be self-insured, the certificate of insurance otherwise required by this contract shall be replaced with a consent to self-insure issued by the State Director of Industrial Relations.

C-4. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE.

Prior to the commencement of performance of services by CONTRACTOR and prior to any obligations of COG, CONTRACTOR shall file certificates of insurance with COG, showing that CONTRACTOR has in effect the insurance required by this contract. CONTRACTOR shall file a new or amended certificate promptly after any change is made in any insurance policy which would alter the information on the certificate then on file. In lieu of providing proof of insurance, CONTRACTOR may provide proof of self-insurance meeting requirements equivalent to those imposed herein. CONTRACTOR warrants that CONTRACTOR'S self-insurance provides substantially the same protection to COG as the insurance required herein. CONTRACTOR further agrees to notify COG in the event any change in self-insurance occurs that would alter the obligations undertaken in this contract within thirty (30) days of such change.

C-5. RECORDS TO BE MAINTAINED.

CONTRACTOR shall keep and maintain accurate records of all costs incurred and all time expended for work under this contract. CONTRACTOR shall contractually require that all of CONTRACTOR'S Subcontractors performing work called for under this contract also keep and maintain such records. All such records, whether kept by CONTRACTOR or any SUBCONTRACTOR, shall be made available to COG or its authorized representative, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), or any duly authorized representative of the Federal Government or officials of the State of California for review or audit during normal business hours, upon reasonable advance notice given by COG, its authorized representative, or officials of the State of California.

C-6. RETENTION OF RECORDS.

CONTRACTOR shall maintain and preserve all records related to this contract for a period of three years from the close of the fiscal year in which final payment under this contract is made. CONTRACTOR shall also contractually require the maintenance of such records in the possession of any third party performing work related to this contract for the same period of time. Such records shall be retained beyond the three-year period, if any audit involving such records is then pending, until the audit findings are resolved. The obligation to insure the maintenance of the records beyond the initial three year period shall arise only if the COG notifies CONTRACTOR of the commencement of an audit prior to the expiration of the three year period.

C-7. TITLE TO DOCUMENTS; COPYRIGHT.

All reports and other materials collected or produced by the CONTRACTOR or any Subcontractor of CONTRACTOR shall, after completion and acceptance of the contract, become the property of COG, and shall not be subject to any copyright claimed by the CONTRACTOR, SUBCONTRACTOR, or their agents or employees. CONTRACTOR may retain copies of all such materials exclusively for administrative purposes. Any use of completed or uncompleted documents for other projects by CONTRACTOR, any Subcontractor, or any of their agents or employees, without the prior written consent of COG is prohibited.

C-8. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.

CONTRACTOR and its officers and employees, in the performance of this contract, are independent CONTRACTORS in relation to COG and not officers or employees of COG. Nothing in this contract shall create any of the rights, powers, privileges or immunities of any officer or employee of COG. CONTRACTOR shall be solely liable for all applicable taxes or benefits, including, but not limited to, federal and state income taxes, Social Security taxes, or ERISA retirement benefits, which taxes or benefits arise out of the performance of this contract. CONTRACTOR further represents to COG that CONTRACTOR has no expectation of receiving any benefits incidental to employment.

C-9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

CONTRACTOR covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, financial or otherwise, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of the services hereunder. CONTRACTOR further covenants that, in the performance of this contract, no Subcontractor or person having such an interest shall be used or employed.

C-10. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS.

CONTRACTOR shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws now, or hereafter, in force, and with any applicable regulations, in performing the work and providing the services specified in this contract. This obligation includes, without limitation, the acquisition, and maintenance of any permits, licenses, or other entitlements necessary to perform the duties imposed expressly or impliedly under this contract.

C-11. NONDISCRIMINATION.

CONTRACTOR shall not discriminate in the employment of persons necessary to perform this contract on any legally impermissible basis, including on the basis of the race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, age, sex, or disability of such person.

C-12. BANKRUPTCY.

CONTRACTOR shall immediately notify COG in the event that CONTRACTOR ceases conducting business in the normal manner, becomes insolvent, makes a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, suffers or permits the appointment of a receiver for its business or assets, or avails itself of, or becomes subject to, any proceeding under the Federal Bankruptcy Act or any other statute of any state relating to insolvency or protection of the rights of creditors.

C-13. PROHIBITION AGAINST ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION OF DUTIES.

Except as specifically authorized herein, no rights under this contract may be assigned and no duties under this contract may be delegated by CONTRACTOR without the prior written consent of COG, and any attempted assignment or delegation without such consent shall be void.

C-14. NEGOTIATED CONTRACT.

This contract has been arrived at through negotiation between the parties. Neither party is to be deemed the party which prepared this contract within the meaning of California Civil Code Section 1654.

C-15. SEVERABILITY.

Should any provision herein be found or deemed to be invalid, this contract shall be construed as not containing such provision, and all other provisions which are otherwise lawful shall remain in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this contract are declared to be severable.

C-16. ENTIRE CONTRACT.

This contract is the entire agreement of the parties. There are no understandings or agreements pertaining to this contract except as are expressly stated in writing in this contract or in any document attached hereto or incorporated herein by reference.

C-17. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Time is of the essence in the performance of this contract.

C-18. TERMINATION.

Either party may terminate this contract, with or without cause, at any time. In order to terminate this contract, the terminating party shall give advance written notice to the other party. The termination shall be effective no earlier than the expiration of the number of days specified in paragraph 6 of this contract. The termination notice shall be made as specified in paragraph C-19, below. In the event of termination, COG shall pay CONTRACTOR for all work satisfactorily performed prior to the effective date of the termination.

C-19. NOTICES.

Notices to the parties in connection with the administration of this contract shall be given to the parties' contract administrator personally, by regular mail, or by facsimile transmission as more particularly specified in this paragraph. Notices will be deemed given on:

- (a) The day the notice is personally delivered to the contract administrator or the office of the party's contract administrator; or
- (b) Five days after the date the notice is deposited in the United States mail, addressed to a party's contract administrator as indicated in this contract, with first-class postage fully prepaid; or
- (c) On the day that the notice is transmitted by facsimile to a party's facsimile number specified in paragraph 8 of this contract, provided that an original of such notice is deposited in the United States mail, addressed to a party's contract administrator as indicated in this contract, on the same day as the facsimile transmission is made.

C-20. RESPONSIBILITY OF CONTRACT ADMINISTRATORS.

All matters concerning this contract which are within the responsibility of the parties shall be under the direction of, or shall be submitted to, the respective contract administrators or to the party's employee specified, in writing, by the contract administrator. A party may, in its sole discretion, change its designation of its contract administrator and shall promptly give written notice to the other party of any such change.

C-21. MATERIALITY.

The parties consider each and every term, covenant, and provision of this contract to be material and reasonable.

C-22. WAIVER.

Waiver by either party of a breach of any covenant of this contract will not be construed to be a continuing waiver of any subsequent breach. COG's receipt of consideration with knowledge of CONTRACTOR'S violation of a covenant does not waive its right to enforce any covenant of this contract. The parties shall not waive any provisions of this contract unless the waiver is in writing and signed by all parties.

C-23. AUTHORITY AND CAPACITY.

CONTRACTOR and CONTRACTOR'S signatory each warrant and represent that each has full authority and capacity to enter into this contract.

C-24. BINDING ON SUCCESSORS.

All of the conditions, covenants and terms herein contained shall apply to, and bind, the heirs, successors, executors, administrators and assigns of CONTRACTOR. CONTRACTOR and all of CONTRACTOR'S heirs, successors, executors, administrators, and assigns shall be jointly and severally liable under this contract.

C-25. CUMULATION OF REMEDIES.

All of the various rights, options, elections, powers and remedies of the parties shall be construed as cumulative, and no one of them exclusive of any other or of any other legal or equitable remedy which a party might otherwise have in the event of a breach or default of any condition, covenant or term by the other party. The exercise of any single right, option, election, power or remedy shall not, in any way, impair any other right, option, election, power or remedy until all duties and obligations imposed shall have been fully performed.

C-26. INDEPENDENT ADVICE.

Each party hereby represents and warrants that in executing this contract it does so with full knowledge of the rights and duties it may have with respect to the other. Each party also represents and warrants that it has received independent legal advice from its attorney with respect to the matters set forth in this contract and the rights and duties arising out of this contract, or that such party willingly foregoes any such consultation.

C-27. NO RELIANCE ON REPRESENTATIONS.

Each party hereby represents and warrants that it is not relying, and has not relied, upon any representation or statement made by the other party with respect to the facts involved or its rights or duties. Each party understands and agrees that the facts relevant, or believed to be relevant to this contract may hereunder turn out to be other than, or different from the facts now known to such party as true, or believed by such party to be true. The parties expressly assume the risk of the facts turning out to be different and agree that this contract shall be effective in all respects and shall not be subject to rescission by reason of any such difference in facts.

C-28. REDUCTION OF CONSIDERATION.

CONTRACTOR agrees that COG shall have the right to deduct from any payments specified in Attachment B any amount owed to COG by CONTRACTOR as a result of any obligation arising prior to, or after, the execution of this contract. For purposes of this paragraph, obligations arising prior to, or after, the execution of this contract may include, without limitation, any property tax, secured or unsecured, which tax is in arrears. If COG exercises the right to reduce the consideration specified in Attachment B, COG, at the time of making a reduced payment, shall give CONTRACTOR notice of the amount of any off-set and the reason for the reduction.

C-29. COUNTERPARTS.

This contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original. The counterparts shall together constitute one contract.

~ END ATTACHMENT C ~

~ END EXHIBIT G ~

~ END SECTION 6 ~