**American Council of Engineering Companies of Louisiana**

**Water Resources Committee**

**January 2022 - Monthly Report**

**Old Business/Updates**

* + Water Resource Committee Meeting was conducted on December 17, 2021 via video conference
  + Target Agencies
    - CPRA
      * Alternative Financing mechanism
        + No update
      * Contracting Mechanism
        + IDIQ Utilization

Do we have a feel for quantity of contracts awarded

No Limit on firms on the list

The firm qualification associated with the solicitation will most likely dictate quantity of primes

Potential for major and minor projects/task orders

Tasks are driven by work required and funding streams. There is no guarantee of work

However they do try to match the breadth of the contract with the work needed.

Can you be a prime and also a Sub

Primes cannot sub within solicitation. Can prime all 5, prime 1 sub 4 etc

General Engineering,

Coastal Engineering,

Limited Engineering,

Geotechnical and

Surveying services.

What is the exact timeline for implementation

March/April 2022 with implementation Jan 2023

Will try to sync up contract terms with consultant services (3 years)

* + - * + Alternative Contracting Mechanism (if one will be utilized)

Limited Service Contracts are intended to be directed to smaller projects/local firms

These projects are not financed with oil spill funds and dependent on funding

LA Economic Development is working in collaboration on this program

CPRA recommends the Prime be Hudson Initiative Certified

CPRA also recommends firms utilize the Louisiana Economic Development Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) at to potentially link small firms with larger firms

Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) is an idea generated and funded through Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). LED and CPRA have identified a need to assist Louisiana-based, small businesses in obtaining contracts with entities involved in the restoration and recovery efforts of coastal Louisiana. Facilitating such efforts will fall to longtime partner of LED and Regional Economic Development Organization, the South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC).

Bid Barataria – Construction Engineering and Materials Testing solicitation (mid 2022)

Bid Breton – CE&I 6 to 12 months following

* + - * Open Discussion/input from the group

Getting CPRA contracts:

* They will recognize similar work for another client, such as USACE. However, if a firm is trying to claim water projects that are not coastal, then that work is likely not going to satisfy the experience criteria.
* Best way to earn experience is as a sub to a prime. Particularly if you are a sub with a specialized service.
* There are consulting service contracts that would allow a new and/or small firm to get work with CPRA. These are typically analysis work.
* READ the solicitation. Some firms take for granted that the solicitation is the same every year and they miss including key information that costs them points. There are often new services that are included that would enable subs to partner with a prime.
* Firms are also submitting old rate sheets.
* Don’t submit projects as experience that are not relevant.
* READ THE ANNUAL PLAN. This was emphasized heavily. They see proposals that come through that doesn’t even reference the plan or demonstrate that the firm understands the work to be funded and designed. The Annual Plan describes projects three years out and which your proposal should demonstrate you understand.
* Attend CPRA meetings so you know their priorities.
* There are larger and fewer projects. They won’t have the same number of projects as in past. Most of the money now going to construction.
  + - * + There will be CE&I work for the construction.
        + Next projects coming out are mostly diversion, gated structures.
        + They do check references so make sure your reference will be positive.
        + CPRA takes this process seriously and spends a lot of time considering consultant feedback.
        + Any additional info requests
    - Water Institute
      * Model Repository
        + No update
        + Decreed by JBE in 2020
        + Restore Act Center of Excellence for Louisiana has publications
    - Louisiana Watershed Initiative
      * Feedback on programmatic schedule
        + No update
      * Office of Community Development - Water Sector Commission
        + No update
        + Round 2 – drainage included
        + Municipality contracts – contract for all phases of work (ARPA funds)

If the match utilized goes toward engineering fees – then this is not an issue

Check with LMA (Louisiana municipal association)

* + - New Agencies—Open discussion
      * USACE-MVN (used to administer water grants and wastewater grants) – volunteer to take up agency
        + Expect funding in early 2022
        + Water Resources Projects
        + Opportunities, new policies, procurement
        + Potential leads - Dan Grandel, Dennis Passman
  + Target Policies
    - Legislative Review of Water Resource matters – Open Discussion
      * Infrastructure Package
        + Road and bridge through FHA
  + Water Summit
    - Key Issue
      * Streamlined administrative oversight and compliance
      * Integrated committees, boards, and commissions
      * Industry Best Management Practices
    - Key Drivers
      * Drainage issues and local moratoriums on development to Watershed
* **Upcoming Events**
  + Next Meeting – February 17 at 10:00 am
  + Conferences/Events
    - * None
  + Agency Meetings
    - Louisiana Watershed Initiative
      * Calendar Link - [Louisiana Watershed Initiative (la.gov)](https://www.watershed.la.gov/calendar/month/2021/10)
    - CPRA
      * Board Meeting - Jan 19 at 9:30