



CITY OF MERCED

ADDENDUM/ADDENDA NO: 1

SOLICITATION NO: **03082024A**

SOLICITATION NAME: **General Laboratory Services**

DATE: **03/05/2024**

The additions, omissions, clarifications, and corrections herein shall be made to the proposal and shall be included in the proposal submittal. The remainder of the documents remain unchanged.

Q&A:

Q: You have "PFAS" under Drinking Water Requirements. Which EPA Method you are needing us to perform?

A: Use both EPA 533 and EPA 537.1

Q: You have "Full Title 22" under Drinking Water Requirements. Certain items on this list can vary (ie: asbestos, dioxin, TCP, Diuron, and the range of radiochemicals). Is it possible to get an actual list of analytes to be sure we are all bidding on the same items? Or perhaps a past report?

A: Please see attached certificate of analysis for "Full Title 22" example

Q: In Footnote 3, Biosolid and Soil Profile, you require "fecal & total coliform". Is this analysis done as an LTB (multi-tube). and if so, is it LTB15, LTB25 or LTB35?

A: Use method SM 9221

Q: Can you provide the NPDES Permit (or at least the Permit Number) and other Chemical Monitoring Requirements that the City operates under?

A: Please see attached permit copy.

Q: Do any of your detection limits fall under the "Ocean Plan" or "SIP" programs?

A: The analytical methods' reporting limits (RLs) for priority pollutants shall be consistent with the Minimum Levels (MLs) in the SIP, Appendix 4.

Q: Regarding Fee Estimates:

(a) Is there a form or format you want utilized?

A: You can use the attached excel and add a column next to the "Matrix" column.



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(b) Will a line-by-line quote matching your list of Sampling Requirements be acceptable? Do you want our Fee Estimates to show our Unit Price and the Extended Price using the No. of Samples you have shown for each line item? For example: 52 for TKN, 4 for Dissolved Organic Carbon, etc.

Yes, you can add additional columns to show unit price and total for each test, then total all the programs together for a total annual cost for everything.

Q: What is the approximate start date?

A: July 1, 2024 is the exact start date and the contract is for 3 years.

Q: Will samples be collected quarterly?

A: Since there are several programs involved, samples will need to be picked up from the City twice a week.

Q: In Attachment B documents, EPA methods 8081 and 8260 are designated for "NPDES Sampling Requirements" on WW (a wastewater) and EPA 8260 on "Groundwater Sample Requirements". Your permit (R5-2020-0014) states that, "Pollutants shall be analyzed using applicable methods described in 40 CFR part 136; or by methods approved by the Central Valley Water Board or the State Water Board." Our lab conducts wastewater analyses by EPA methods 624 and 608; equivalent GCMS and GC methods to 8260 and 8081, to achieve the same purpose. These are well accepted methods with the Water Boards and meet the requirements set forth in your permit, including those stated on page E-15: "Methods for Organic Chemical Analysis of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater". Will you permit the substitution EPA 608 and 624 methods in these instances?

A: Please quote per what is listed.

Q: Can you confirm that laboratory-provided courier pickup service is a required element of being awarded the contract?

A: Yes, a courier pickup service needs to be provided.

Q: If so, does the City have a routine sampling schedule for which courier service can be planned? If so, can you provide the frequencies of routine courier pickups?

A: We typically set up two pick up days per week to accommodate all programs. Usually a Tuesday and a Thursday pick up days.

Q: On days that routine courier pickup is required, can you provide the time window for earliest arrival and latest arrival?

A: We prefer pickup to be no earlier than lunchtime (12PM) and no later than 3PM.

Q: For unplanned sampling events, does the City anticipate the need for same-day courier



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pickup requests?

A: We do not anticipate a need for same-day pick up for unplanned sample events. Most hold times are sufficient to make a Tuesday or Thursday pick up.

Q: Who is/are the incumbent chemical lab(s) for the City?

A: Currently we are contracted with BSK Associates.

Q: Who is the contract microbiology lab for the City?

A: All microbiology samples are handled inhouse, other than for biosolid samples for which BSK receives them.

Q: Does the City contract require firm pricing over the term, or is there an allowance for modest annual adjustments during the City's annual performance review of the contract lab?

A: The overall bid shall be a "not to exceed" price for laboratory services. There should also be a 10% contingency for unforeseen costs included in the bid.

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Purchasing Supervisor

End of Addendum