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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANNUAL PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR RIVERSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given by the Riverside Unified School District ("District") that prime or general contractors and mechanical, electrical and plumbing ("MEP") subcontractors (as defined in Public Contract Code section 20111.6) planning to participate in bidding on certain public projects to be undertaken by the District, must be pre-qualified prior to submitting public projects using funds received pursuant to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 or any funds from any future state school bond that involves a projected public project expenditure of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more, must be pre-qualified.

Prequalification approval will remain valid for one calendar year only, except that the District reserves the right during that time to adjust, increase, limit, suspend or rescind the pre-qualification ratings based on subsequently learned information and after giving notice of the proposed action to the prospective bidder and an opportunity for a hearing consistent with the hearing procedures described below for appealing a pre-qualification subcontractors as defined about for specific projects in its sole discretion.

### **Timeline**

The District is utilizing PQBids to handle the District's Prequalification application process. Bidders may access the District prequalification package at the following website <https://pqbids.com/riverside/>. A completed prequalification application must be submitted by all contractors on the PQBids website by no later than Friday, February 14, 2020 by 3:00 p.m. The district reserves the right to reopen enrollment on a per project basis where necessary; but does not guarantee additional open enrollment periods. Bidders interested in bidding on projects for the 2020 calendar year are encouraged to submit their application prior to the annual open enrollment deadline.

In order to submit a valid bid for any project requiring pre-qualification, prospective bidders must submit a pre-qualification questionnaire, a financial statement, and standardized bidding form at least ten (10) business days prior to the date fixed for the public opening of sealed bids. All prospective bidders must be deemed pre-qualified to bid at least five (5) business days prior to that date.

The prequalification packet includes a questionnaire and financial statement to be submitted to PQBids website to be verified and certified under oath. The District will use the information and attachments required by the packet to prequalify general contractors and MEP subcontractors in accordance with Public Contract Code section 20111.6.

### **Financial Statement**

In addition to completing the on-line questionnaire, each prospective bidder must upload its most current reviewed or year-end audited financial statement, which must have been prepared by a certified public accountant within twelve (12) months of each prospective bidder's submission of the prequalification package. Each prospective bidder must also upload its most current financial statement, which must have been prepared within three (3) months of each prospective bidder's submission of the prequalification package. Finally, each prospective bidder must submit a notarized statement from an

admitted surety insurer (approved by the California Department of Insurance and authorized to issue bonds in the State of California) which states your current bonding capacity.

Financial statements uploaded with this prequalification application shall not be prepared by any individual who is in the regular employ of the firm submitting the statement, nor by any individual or entity who has more than a ten percent (10%) financial interest in the firm's business. If the individual or entity that prepared a financial statement submitted with this prequalification package has only financial interest in the firm's business, the firm shall notify the District of such financial interest in a separate signed statement accompanying this prequalification package.

### **Submission**

Prospective bidders are encouraged to submit prequalification packages as soon as possible, so that they may be notified at prequalification status well in advance of the bid process. The prequalification application must be submitted online:

[www.PQBids.com](http://www.PQBids.com)

Questions please contact PQBids 888-218-4173

The questionnaire answers and financial statements included in the prequalification application submitted by prospective bidders are not public record and are not open to public inspection. All such information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law, although the contents may be disclosed to third parties for the purpose of verification, investigation of substantial allegations, and in the process of any subsequent proceedings State law requires that the names of contractors applying for prequalification status shall be public records subject to disclosure, and the first page of the questionnaire will be used for that purpose.

### **Evaluation by the District**

PQBids will evaluate the information provided and issue each submission a rating of "Prequalified" or "Not Prequalified." The decision will be based on the information provided, references, and such additional outside information as the District in its discretion deems reasonable and necessary to obtain. The District may, but is not obligated to, investigate the truth of any statements or information provided by a prospective bidder in response hereto.

While it is the intent of the prequalification questionnaire required herein to assist the District in determining bidder responsibility prior to the submission of bids and to aid the District in selecting the lowest responsible bidder, neither the fact of prequalification, nor any prequalification rating, will preclude the District from a post-bid consideration and determination on a specific project to whether a bidder has the quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the proposed work, and has demonstrated the requisite trust-worthiness.

### **Appeal**

A prospective bidder who has timely submitted a completed application online to PQBids, and who receives a rating of "Not Prequalified" from the District may appeal that determination. There is no appeal from a finding that a prospective bidder is not prequalified because of a late application or a failure to submit required information. A prospective bidder may appeal the District's decision with

respect to its request for prequalification, by giving written notice to the District no later than five (5) business days after receipt of notice of its qualification status. Notice shall be sent to the address listed above. Unless a prospective bidder files a timely appeal, the prospective bidder waives any and rights to challenge the qualification decision of the District, whether by administrative process, judicial process or any other legal process or proceeding. The District reserves the right to resolve appeals before or after bid opening or award of any contract. The date for submission and opening of bids for a specific project (s) and any subsequent contract award will not be delayed or postponed allowing for completion of an appeal process.

After receipt of a request for appeal, the District will provide the prospective bidder any supporting evidence that has been received from others or adduced as a result of an investigation by the District. The appealing prospective bidder will be provided an opportunity to rebut any evidence. The District, in its sole discretion, may conduct a hearing regarding the prospective bidder's timely appeal. If such a hearing is conducted, the prospective bidder consents to the District's Contract Analyst or Director of Purchasing, or his or her designee, to act as the hearing officer.

### **Bidding**

Bids will not be accepted from any prospective bidder that did not timely submit a completed prequalification questionnaire and uploading supporting documents, including financial statements, to the designated website [www.PQBids.com](http://www.PQBids.com). Omission of requested information, falsification or information may result in a finding of "not prequalified".

MEP subcontractors (licensed pursuant to Section 7058 of the Business and Professions Code, specifically contractors holding C-4, C-7, C-10, C-16, C-20, C-34, C-36, C-38, C-42, C-43, and C-46 licenses) must also meet prequalification requirements on all project using funds received pursuant to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 or any funds from any future state school bond that involves a projected expenditure of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more. If a project includes electrical, mechanical, or plumbing components that will be performed by MEP subcontractors, a list of prequalified general contractors and MEP subcontractors will be made available by the District to all bidders at least five (5) business days prior to the dates fixed for the public opening of sealed bids.

If a general contractor uses any MEP subcontractor required for any project, such MEP subcontractor must be prequalified pursuant to the prequalification application and requirements at [www.PQBids.com](http://www.PQBids.com). If a MEP subcontractor in any general contractor bid is not prequalified, that bid will not be accepted.

Prospective bidders are warned that a project may have specific requirements that differ or are in addition to being properly prequalified pursuant to the pre-qualification application. A determination that a contractor or MEP subcontractor is prequalified pursuant to the prequalification application does not automatically mean a contractor or MEP subcontractor meet all of the requirements of a specific project. Prospective bidders are instructed to carefully review the requirements for each project before submitting a bid.

The District reserves the right to amend the prequalification application at any time. The District reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and omissions in the information contained in the prequalification application submitted and to make all final determinations. Additionally, a

determination by the District that a prospective bidder is prequalified does not amount to a final determination that such prospective bidder is responsible or responsive for purposes of bid evaluation. The District may, in accordance with applicable law reject a prequalified contractor's bid, and the District may additionally reject all bids if it determines such action is in the best interest of the public.