

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Gordon-Shaw Heavy Maintenance Facility, Madera County

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Madera County Planning Department is making a Request for Qualifications for the Gordon-Shaw Heavy Maintenance Facility (HMF) County level environmental assessment and review as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The subject Gordon-Shaw property includes 472 available acres located along the east side of Highway 99 north of the Highway 99 and Avenue 18 ½ interchange. The HMF is located adjacent to the hybrid alignment as recently selected by the High Speed Rail Authority through Madera County. A CEQA consultant is needed, along with additional expertise necessary to complete site assessment and project impact related studies.

DATE OF ADVERTISEMENT: April 10, 2012

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL: May 14, 2012

INTRODUCTION:

The Gordon-Shaw HMF site was included as an alternative within the Merced to Fresno Section High Speed Rail EIR/EIS; however, only a portion of the subject site was evaluated within the EIR/EIS. The County desires to move forward with site approvals in preparation of selection by the High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA). The project site is currently in agricultural production as a vineyard and would involve the displacement of agricultural use. A seasonal stream with associated riparian habitat marks the northern boundary of the site. The site is partially located within the 100-year floodplain. Located between the cities of Chowchilla and Madera, the Union Pacific Railroad abuts the site's western boundary and the site is adjacent to two interchanges along Highway 99.

County level entitlement approvals will be sought for the Gordon-Shaw HMF, including a General Plan Amendment, Rezone, and Site Plan Review. In order to determine impacts associated with the proposed project, an environmental assessment will be needed, including the preparation of a project description and initial study. Note that the completion of a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report is not included as a project task at this time.

A CEQA consultant will serve as the prime consultant tasked with preparing a project description and initial study. The prime consultant will oversee subconsultants as necessary in order to complete comprehensive site assessment and project impact related studies.

All pages are to be numbered and shall include a table of contents. In addition to the original document, one digital version of the proposal and five (5) copies shall be submitted.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2010, an Expression of Interest was sent to the HSRA regarding the availability of the Gordon-Shaw site for a HMF along the A-2 (Union Pacific Railroad) route in Madera County. The California High Speed Rail Merced to Fresno Section EIR/EIS included the Gordon-Shaw site as an alternative through the project level EIR/EIS. As stated within the EIR/EIS, five maintenance facilities remain under consideration within the Merced to Fresno segment of the High Speed Rail project. With the recent selection of the Hybrid route for the Merced to Fresno section, the Gordon-Shaw site remains viable, located adjacent to the selected route.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work for this project involves two main elements:

1. The prime consultant must build a project team with the necessary expertise to complete the following studies:
 - a. Traffic Study
 - b. Air Quality Impact Study
 - c. Biological Impact Study
 - d. Cultural Resources Assessment
 - e. Water Supply Assessment
 - f. Hydrological Study
 - g. Noise Study

Coordinate with subconsultants, as necessary, to complete the noted studies. The prime consultant will coordinate to ensure that all studies are completed in a timely and thorough manner. It is important to note that other studies in addition to those as noted may be required based upon site characteristics and the project's potential impacts.

2. The prime consultant is to prepare the following documents as required by CEQA in order to understand the environmental impacts of the HMF:
 - a. Project Description: review all available site specific and background data, conducting field visits where appropriate, and interviewing relevant parties. Task to include site and area baseline conditions characterization.
 - b. Initial Study: utilize completed site assessment and project impact related studies to assess potential environmental impacts.
3. Expect a minimum of three (3) in-person meetings with County staff.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. Type of Organization, size, location, professional registrations and affiliations, number of years as a company.
2. Names and qualifications of personnel assigned to the Project, including a main County contact.
3. Outline and graphics of recent projects completed that are similar to this project.
4. Client references from recent projects, including name, address and telephone of individuals to contact.

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH

1. Summary of approach to be taken for the project.
2. A definitive work program and time line. Identify and include all tasks not under your control, and provide estimated time frames based upon prior experience.

INSURANCE

1. Insurance coverage for proposed services shall include general liability and automobile insurance in an amount to be determined by Madera County Risk Management. Professional Liability Insurance (E&O) coverage of \$1 million is also required.

SUBMITTAL

1. All documents must be received by the Resource Management Agency on or before 5:00 PM on May 14, 2012. Postmarks not accepted. Late submittals will not be considered. All submittals will be followed up with a telephone discussion. Interviews of top candidates will be conducted as deemed necessary.
2. All correspondences should be directed to:

 COUNTY OF MADERA
 Resource Management Agency
 Planning Department
 2037 W. Cleveland Avenue M.S. G
 Madera, California 93637
3. Inquiries should be directed to either Scott Harmstead or Matt Treber at the following:
 Phone: (559) 675-7821
 Email: scott.harmstead@madera-county.com
 matthew.treber@madera-county.com
4. All costs for preparation of statement of qualifications shall be borne by the proposer.
5. This request does not constitute an offer of employment or to contract for services.
6. The County reserves the right to retain all statements of qualifications.