



**CAMERON COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

RFQ NUMBER # 230203

RFQ TITLE: ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR COMPLETING AN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT FOR PENDING USDA PLANNING GRANT FOCUSED ON MITIGATING FLOODING IN COLONIA ESQUINA

DATE DUE: MARCH 7, 2023

DUE NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M.

RFQ's will be opened at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Brownsville, Texas in the Purchasing Department – 3rd Floor – Room # 345 at 3:01 p.m. (per Purchasing Dept. time clock) on deadline due date.

RFQs received later than the date and time above will not be considered.

Please return RFQ **ORIGINAL (marked "ORIGINAL") AND SEVEN (7) COPIES (marked "COPY")** sets and **an electronic (PDF format file only)** of your qualification statement for review by evaluation committee in a sealed envelope. Be sure that return envelope shows the RFQ Number, Description and is marked "SEALED RFQ".

RETURN RFQ TO:

by U.S. mail or delivered to the office of Purchasing Dept., **County Courthouse (Dancy Bldg.)
1100 E. Monroe St, 3rd Floor, Room 345, Brownsville, Texas 78520.**

For additional information or to request addendum email: [Ignacio Amezcuca](mailto:Ignacio.Amezcuca@co.cameron.tx.us), [Roberto Luna](mailto:Roberto.Luna@co.cameron.tx.us) and/or [Dalia Loera](mailto:Dalia.Loera@co.cameron.tx.us) at ignacio.amezcua@co.cameron.tx.us Roberto.luna@co.cameron.tx.us or dalia.loera@co.cameron.tx.us

YOU MUST SIGN BELOW IN INK. FAILURE TO SIGN WILL DISQUALIFY THE OFFER.

Company Name: _____

Company Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Historically Underutilized Business (State of Texas) Certification VID Number: _____

Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____ e-mail _____

Print Name: _____ **SIGNATURE:** _____

How did you find out about this RFQ? _____ (ex: Newspaper, Web, and Mail)

Is Bidder's principal place of Business within Cameron County? Yes No

If yes what City: _____

(Your signature attests to your offer to provide the goods and/or services in this RFQ according to the published provision of this RFQ. When an award letter is issued, this RFQ becomes the contract. If an RFQ required specific Contract is to be utilized in addition to this RFQ, this signed RFQ will become part of that contract. When an additional Contract is required a RFQ award does not constitute a contract award and RFQ / Contract is not valid until contract is awarded by Commissioners Court (when applicable) signed by County Judge) and Purchase Order is issued.

CHECK LIST

Items checked below represent components which comprise this RFQ proposal package. If the item **IS NOT** checked, it is **NOT APPLICABLE** to this RFQ/proposal. Offerors are asked to review the package to be sure that all applicable parts are included. If any portion of the package is missing, notify the Purchasing Department immediately. It is the Offeror's responsibility to be familiar with all the Requirements and Specifications. Be sure you understand the following before you return your RFQ packet.

- Cover Sheet**
Your company name, address and your signature (**IN INK**) should appear on this page.
- Instructions to Proposers**
You should be familiar with all of the Instructions to Proposers.
- Special Requirements**
This section provides information you must know in order to make an offer properly.
- Specifications / Scope of Work**
This section contains the detailed description of the product/service sought by the County.

Attachments

- Attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I**
Be sure to complete these forms and return with packet.

Other - Final Reminders to double check before submitting RFQ

- Is your RFQ sealed with RFQ #, title, Proposer Name, & return address, on outside?
- Did you complete, sign and submit page 1?
- Did you complete and submit attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I?
- Did you provide the number of copies as required on the cover page?
- Did you visit our website for any addendums?

<https://www.cameroncounty.us/purchasing-bids-rfpq-addms-tabs/>

If not interested in responding to this RFQ, please let us know your reasons for deciding not to respond and e-mail them to: Purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us . Thank you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING RFQ'S

These General Instructions apply to all offers made to Cameron County, Texas (herein after referred to as "County") by all prospective vendors (herein after referred to as "Proposers") on behalf of Solicitations including, but not limited to, Invitations to RFQ and Requests for Quotes.

Carefully read all instructions, requirements and specifications. Fill out all forms properly and completely. Submit your RFQ with all appropriate supplements and/or samples. Prior to returning your sealed RFQ response / submittal, all Addendums - if issued - should be reviewed and downloaded by entering the County Purchasing web at: <https://www.cameroncounty.us/purchasing-bids-rfpq-addms-tabs/>

Addendums Column (updated Addendums). These Addendums must be signed and returned with your RFQ in order to avoid disqualification. All Tabulations can also be viewed and downloaded at this site. Annual award information can be accessed at: <https://www.cameroncounty.us/purchasing-bids-rfpq-addms-tabs/>

Review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFQ is complete, and double check your RFQ for accuracy. Cameron County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Review this document in its entirety. Be sure your RFQ is complete, and double check your RFQ for accuracy. **GOVERNING FORMS:** In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall document, Cameron County's interpretation shall govern. Where substitutions are used, they must be of equivalent value or service, and specified by the Proposer as such, in the columns to the right on the "Minimum Specifications' Forms". The County's specifications may be exceeded and should be noted by the Vendor as such. Any RFQ NOT MEETING the Minimum Requirements specified will be rejected.

GOVERNING FORMS: In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall document, Cameron County's interpretation shall govern.

GOVERNING LAW: This invitation to RFQ is governed by the competitive RFQ requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, §262.021 et seq., as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and that Cameron County may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the County Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements.

Questions requiring only clarification of instructions or specifications will be handled verbally. If any questions result in a change or addition to this RFQ, the Change(s) and addition(s) will be forwarded to all vendors involved as quickly as possible in the form of an addendum. Verbal changes to Bids/RFP's/RFQ's must be backed-up by written addendum or written Q/A clarifications which would be posted on County Purchasing Web site. Without written Addendum or written Q / A clarification, verbal changes to RFQ will not apply.

Sign the Vendor's Affidavit Notice, **complete answers to Attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, and return all with your RFQ.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE:

For all persons and business entities doing business with Cameron County:

This questionnaire must be submitted with the response to this RFQ and filed in accordance with chapter 176 of the Local Government Code by a persons and business entities doing business with Cameron County. By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the Cameron County Clerk's office not later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code.

A person (or entity or both) commits an offense if the person violates Section 176.006, Local Govt. Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor:

(1) is required to file a conflict of interest questionnaire under Section 176.006; and either:

(A) knowingly fails to file the required questionnaire with the appropriate records administrator not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the vendor becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the questionnaire; or

(B) knowingly fails to file the required questionnaire with the appropriate records administrator not later than 5 p.m. on the seventh business day after the date on which the vendor becomes aware of an event that would make a statement in a questionnaire previously filed by the vendor incomplete or inaccurate.

Under Section 176.013, Local Government Code An offense under this section is (1) a Class C misdemeanor if the contract amount is less than \$1 million or if there is no contract amount for the contract; (2) a Class B misdemeanor if the contract amount is at least \$1 million but less than \$5 million; or (3) a Class A misdemeanor if the contract amount is at least \$5 million.

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this Conflict of Interest form, you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

The form can be downloaded at the following web site:

https://www.cameroncounty.us/wp-content/uploads/Purchasing/docs/Conflict_of_Interest_Questionnaire_New_2015_.pdf

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS:

This questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk's Office) of the local government and no later than the 7th business day after the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed. Cameron County, Texas requires all persons or firms seeking to do business with the County to **provide the following information if the person becomes aware of facts that require this statement to be filed.** Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with "N/A."

Please review this entire document, if for any reason there is any information to disclose, relative to any questions in this disclosure of interest form, you must file with County Clerk's Office subject to above instructions.

The form can be downloaded at the following web site:

<https://www.cameroncounty.us/wp-content/uploads/Purchasing/CIS.pdf>

TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION FORM 1295

All RFQs prior to award or award of Contract by Commissioner's Court will require that the Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) Form 1295 Electronic (on line) Vendor filing procedure be completed by Vendor.

All Vendors being recommended to Commissioners Court for award or renewal of award on Agenda must register and obtain a TEC Certification for the specific award. This Certification Form 1295 must be electronically submitted, printed and notarized. Notarized form must be emailed or delivered to County Purchasing Department making the request for form. This process must be completed prior to Commissioners Court Agenda for approval consideration of RFQ award. There is no charge for this TEC online process.

Texas Ethics Commission (TEC) Form 1295 must be completed (by firm - on line "New Form 1295 Certificate of Interested Parties Electronic Filing Application" Site at:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm)

If any Vendors have questions as to TEC Form 1295 visit the County Purchasing Web site left column tab "**Vendor – TEC Form 1295**" for more information. TEC Web site links can be found at this location including Question / Answers and Video instructions.

tab Link: <https://www.cameroncounty.us/vendors-tec-form-1295/>

Respondents SHALL SUBMIT RESPONSES TO THIS RFQ ON THE FORM PROVIDED, SIGN THE VENDOR AFFIDAVIT, AND RETURN ENTIRE RFQ PACKET. In the event of inclement weather and County Offices are officially closed on a RFQs deadline day, RFQ's will be received unit 2:00 p.m. of the next business day. Qualifications will be opened at the Cameron County Courthouse, 1100 East Monroe Street, Brownsville, Texas in the Purchasing Department – 3rd Floor – Room # 345 (as per Purchasing Dept. time clock.

RFQs SUBMITTED AFTER THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE SHALL BE RETURNED UNOPENED AND WILL BE CONSIDERED VOID AND UNACCEPTABLE.

PROPOSERS MAY ATTEND PUBLICLY HELD COMM COURT MEETING FOR AWARD OF THIS SOLICITATION. All responding bidders/ proposers are welcome to attend the publicly held Commissioners Court meeting relative to the outcome / award of this solicitation. Court Meeting agenda date and times may be obtained at the following web site: <http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/judge/agenda.htm>

SUCCESSFUL VENDOR WILL BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL. All responding vendors will receive written notification regarding the outcome of the award.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY

THIS IS THE ONLY APPROVED INSTRUCTION FOR USE ON YOUR RFQ. ITEMS BELOW APPLY TO AND BECOME A PART OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RFQ. ANY EXCEPTIONS THERETO MUST BE IN WRITING.

1. **ORIGINAL (marked "ORIGINAL") AND SEVEN (7) COPIES OF RFQs and one electronic "PDF file format only" MUST BE SUBMITTED.** Each RFQ shall be placed in a separate envelope completely and properly identified with the name and number of the RFQ. RFQ's must be in the Purchasing Department BEFORE the hour and date specified.
2. RFQ's MUST give full firm name and address of the Proposer. Failure to manually sign RFQ will disqualify it. Person signing RFQ should show TITLE or AUTHORITY TO BIND THE FIRM IN A CONTRACT.
3. RFQ's CANNOT be altered or amended after deadline time. Any alterations made before deadline time must be initiated by Proposer or his authorized agent. No RFQ can be withdrawn after opening time without approval by the Commissioners Court based on a written acceptable reason.
4. The County is exempt from State Sales Tax and Federal Excise Tax. DO NOT INCLUDE TAX IN RFQ. Cameron County claims exemption from all sales and/or use taxes under Texas Tax Code §151.309, as amended. Texas Limited Sales Tax Exemption Certificates will be furnished upon written request to the Cameron County Purchasing Agent.
7. If RESPONDENT takes no exception to specifications or reference data, RESPONDENT will be required to provide details etc. as specified.
8. Written and verbal inquires pertaining to RFQ's must give RFQ Number and Company.
9. NO substitutions or cancellations permitted without written approval of Purchasing Agent.
10. The County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any RFQ, waiver minor technicalities. The County of Cameron reserves the right to award by item category or by total RFQ.
11. This is a RFQ inquiry only and implies no obligation on the part of Cameron County.
12. Partial or incomplete RFQ submittals will not be accepted. The County is seeking qualifications for the Respondent to write and administer a complete solution to the subject matter of this RFQ. All RFQ requests must be addressed in the Respondent's submittal.
13. It is expected that the RESPONDENT will meet all state and federal safety standards and laws in effect on the date of the
12. Acceptance of and final payment for the item will be contingent upon satisfactory performance of the product received by Cameron County.
13. Partial RFQ's will not be accepted unless awarded by category or line item. **To be awarded by total RFQ.**
14. It is expected that the Proposer will meet all state and federal safety standards and laws in effect on the date of the RFQ for the item(s) being specified, and the particular use for which they are meant.
15. **This RFQ procurement is subject to federal funding requirements and regulations. All participants must comply with "Exhibit 1 ROCUREMENT SUBJECT TO FEDERAL FUNDING" PROCEDURES AS PER LANGUAGE IN CAMERON COUNTY PURCHASING MANUAL. & Exhibit 2 FEDERAL PROCUREMENT STANDARDS as per 2 CFR 200.318 – 200.3327**

16. ALTERING RFQ: Any interlineations alterations, or erasures made before opening time must be initialed by the Respondent, guaranteeing authenticity.

WITHDRAWAL OF RFQ: An RFQ may not be withdrawn or cancelled by the Respondent without the written acknowledgement of the County for a period of (60) days following the date designated for the receipt of RFQ, and Respondent so agrees upon submittal of Respondent's response to the RFQ.

ORAL CHANGES: No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise change, or affect the terms, conditions or specifications stated of this RFQ. All changes to this RFQ will be made in writing by the Cameron County Purchasing Department.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: No public official shall have an interest in this RFQ except in accordance with Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated, Local Government Code Title 5, Subtitle C, Chapter 171.

ETHICS: The Respondent shall not offer or accept any gifts or anything of value nor enter into any business agreement with any employee or agent of Cameron County.

ADDENDA: Any interpretations, corrections or changes to this RFQ will be made by addenda. Sole issuing authority of addenda shall be vested in Cameron County Purchasing Department. Addenda will be posted to the purchasing Bids web site in the Addm column. Respondents shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda in writing.

SUCCESSFUL RESPONDENTS, UPON ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY, SHALL BE REQUIRED TO DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS CAMERON COUNTY AND ALL ITS OFFICERS, AGENT, EMPLOYEES FROM ALL SUITS, ACTIONS, OR OTHER CLAIMS OF ANY PERSON, PERSONS, OR PROPERTY ON ACCOUNT OF NEGLIGENT ACT OR FAULT OF THE SUCCESSFUL RESPONDENT.

NOTICE: Any notice provided by this RFQ or required by Law to be given to the successful Respondent by Cameron County shall be conclusively deemed to have been given and received on the next day after such written notice has been deposited in the mail in Brownsville, Texas by Registered or Certified mail sufficient postage affixed thereto, addressed to the successful Respondent at the address so provided: this shall not prevent the giving of actual notice in any other manner.

VENUE: Any agreement arising out of this RFQ will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. The obligation and undertaking of each of the parties to this RFQ shall be performable in Cameron County, Texas.

INVOICES AND PAYMENTS: (a) Seller shall submit separate invoices, in duplicate, on each purchase order after each delivery or service is rendered. Invoices shall indicate the purchase order number, shall be itemized and transportation charges, if any, shall be listed separately. A copy of the bill of lading and the freight weigh bill when applicable, should be attached to the invoice. Mail to: Cameron County, ATTN: Auditor's Office, **1100 E. Monroe St, 3rd Floor**, Brownsville, Texas 78520. Payment shall not be due until the above instruments are submitted after delivery. Suppliers should keep the Finance Department advised of any changes in your remittance addresses. (b) Buyer's obligation is payable only and solely from funds available for the purpose of the purchase. Lack of funds shall render this contract null and void to the extend funds are not available and any delivered buy unpaid for goods will be returned to Seller by Buyer. (c) Do not include Federal Excise, State or City Sales Tax. County shall furnish tax exemption certificate if required.

Any invoice, which cannot be verified by the contract price and/or is otherwise incorrect, will be returned to the offeror for correction. Under term contracts, when multiple deliveries and/or services are required, the offeror may invoice following each delivery and the County will pay on invoice. Contracts providing for a monthly charge will be billed and paid on a monthly basis only. Prior to any and all payments made for good and/or services provided under this contract, the offeror should provide his Taxpayer Identification Number or social security number as applicable. This information must be on file with the Cameron County Auditor's office. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in payment and/or back-up withholding as required by the Internal Revenue Services.

Proposer shall submit two (2) copies of an itemized invoice showing RFQ number and purchase order number to:

**CAMERON COUNTY AUDITOR
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
1100 E. Monroe St, 3rd Floor,
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS 78520**

Please note that any payment due under this RFQ award will be applied towards any debt, including but not limited to delinquent taxes that is owed to Cameron County.

PAYMENT DISCOUNT: Indicate the payment discount (s) available depending on the when invoices are paid. For example, 1/30 means a 1% discount if paid within 30 days, 2/15 means a 2% discount if paid within 15 days, etc.

Payment in full will be made within thirty (30) days of delivery, inspection, and receipt of invoice.

All costs quotations must include all the various features needed to satisfy the requirements. Note: No amounts will be paid for the items in this RFQ in excess of the amounts quoted.

RFO # 230203
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR COMPLETING AN ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AND
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT FOR PENDING USDA PLANNING GRANT
FOCUSED ON MITIGATING FLOODING IN COLONIA ESQUINA

A. INTENT OF PROPOSAL

The County of Cameron, Texas (the "County"), requests Statements of Qualifications from qualified engineering firm with current experience working with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in preparing both the required environmental report and preliminary engineering report required for a USDA Water & Waste Disposal Predevelopment Planning Grant that will mitigate constant flooding in the Esquina subdivision located north of Los Fresnos at the South East corner of FM 1847 & FM 510 in Cameron County, Tx. Engineering firms interested in providing these services must demonstrate experience and expertise in engineering requirements related to the development of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) environmental report and the USDA preliminary report to mitigate flooding in residential subdivision areas. The engineering firm must demonstrate the ability to work with local, state and federal governmental entities. Cameron County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals for any reason it finds to be in the best interest of the County.

B. SCOPE OF SERVICES:

The engineering contract will encompass all project-related engineering services to the USDA Planning Grant, including but not limited to the following:

- Develop an environmental report and the associated preliminary engineering report to comply with federal law and grants.
- Develop mitigation flooding plan and report to comply with federal law and grants.
- Develop funding schemes to implement water & waste water disposal management plan.
- Work with municipalities, County, Drainage District and water supply corporations or utility entities to incorporate them into the mitigation flooding plan to comply with USDA grant.
- Coordinate with the necessary the area drainage district, local, state and federal entities to ensure plan complies with their respective requirements.
- Review existing and other planned flooding mitigation plans from other entities for the Colonia Esquina and incorporate the information into the USDA preliminary engineering study.
- Present at minimum three methods or options for mitigating the flooding in Colonia Esquina.

C. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Engineering firm shall provide a description of the history and background of the firm, identification of the services currently being provided to federal, state and local government entities, districts and other political subdivisions in Texas and other information relevant to the provision of the requested services:

1. General information about the firm.
 - A. Name, address, and telephone number of the firm.

- B. History of the firm.
- C. List names and titles of employees of the firm who are directly responsible for services under this Proposal.
- D. Information pertaining to the firm's compliance with licensing and other requirements.

As such, please provide within your proposal a list of past local, state and federal government clients, as well as resumes of all [engineers /surveyors] that will or may be assigned to this project if you receive the engineering services contract award.

- 2. References.
List of two (2) references to those listed in #1 above.
- 3. Identify personnel to be assigned responsibility for administering the account (provide resume for the individual representatives that the firm will assign to the account).
- 4. Additional services - describe any other service or experience of the firm, which you deem beneficial in providing services under the firm's Proposal. List or referenced USDA projects to demonstrate experienced with this RFQ.
- 5. Attach a copy of the engineering services contract proposed by your firm.
- 6. Provide evidence that Engineer/Firm is not debarred or suspended from the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) of the System for Award Management (SAM) www.Sam.gov .
- 7. Also, please provide a copy of your current certificate of insurance for professional liability.

D. SELECTION CRITERIA SUMMARY

The following criteria will be used as a basis for the selection of the engineering firm:

- **EXPERIENCE OF PERSONNEL - 30 points**
To assess the background and experience of the personnel in working with federal, state and local government entities, and other political subdivisions.
- **TEAM MEMBERS – 30 points**
To identify the personnel the firm proposes to commit on a day-to-day basis and evaluate the specific qualifications of these individuals.
- **REFERENCES – 20 points**
To demonstrate client satisfaction and the candidate's familiarity with the required experience and expertise.
- **FINANCIAL CONDITION - 20 points**
To demonstrate the firm's financial condition.

- For costs of engineering professional services, negotiations must occur after the initial selection of the engineer or architect as price cannot be used as a selection factor. (See 2 CFR 200.320(d)(5) and Texas Government Code § 2254.004)

Questions regarding the County's RFQ requirements and procedures should be referred in writing only to the County's Purchasing Department, attention Ignacio Amezcua, Purchasing Agent via email to: ignacio.amezcua@co.cameron.tx.us and/or Assistant Purchasing Agent, Roberto C. Luna via email at: Roberto.luna@co.cameron.tx.us

RFQ Title _____

Proposers Name _____

Date: _____

REFERENCES

Please list three (3) references of current customers who can verify the quality of service your company provides. The County prefers customers of similar size and scope of work to this RFP/RFQ.

REFERENCE ONE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE TWO

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

REFERENCE THREE

Government/Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person and Title: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address: _____

Contract Period: _____ Scope of Work _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

AFFIDAVIT

The undersigned certifies that the RFQ prices contained in this RFQ have been carefully checked and are submitted as correct and final and if RFQ is accepted (within 90 days unless otherwise noted by vendor), agrees to furnish any and/or all items upon which prices are offered, at the price(s) and upon the conditions contained in the Specifications.

**STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF CAMERON**

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, A Notary Public in and for the State of Texas, on this day personally appeared

_____ who, after having first been duly sworn, upon oath did depose and say;

That the foregoing RFQ submitted by _____ hereinafter called "Proposer" is the duly authorized agent of said company and that the person signing said proposal has been duly authorized to execute the same. Proposer affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this company, corporation, firm, partnership or individual has not prepared this RFQ in collusion with any other Proposer. The Proposer is not a member of any trust, pool, or combination to control the price of products or services RFQ on, or to influence any person to RFQ or not to RFQ thereon. I further affirm that the Proposer has not given, offered to give, nor intends to give, at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discounts, trip, favor, or service to a public servant in connection with the submitted RFQ. The contents of this RFQ as to prices, terms or conditions of said RFQ have not been communicated by the undersigned nor by any employee or agent to any other person engaged in this type of business prior to the official opening of this RFQ.

Name and Address of Proposer:

Telephone number _____

Fax number _____

Signature
Name: _____

Title: _____

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBE BEFORE ME THIS _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

RESIDENCE CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to Texas Government Code §2252.001 *et seq.*, as amended, Cameron County requests Residence Certification. §2252.001 *et seq.* of the Government Code provides some restrictions on the awarding of governmental contracts; pertinent provisions of §2252.001 are stated below:

- (3) “Nonresident Proposer” refers to a person who is not a resident.
- (4) “Resident Proposer ” refers to a person whose principal place of business is in this state, including a contractor whose ultimate parent company or majority owner has its principal place of business in this state.

I certify that _____ is a Resident
(Company Name)

Proposer of Texas as defined in Government Code §2252.001.

I certify that _____ is a Nonresident
(Company Name)

Proposer as defined in Government Code §2252.001 and our principal place of business is

(City and State)

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

Attachment D

CAMERON COUNTY EXPRESSLY REQUESTS THAT BIDDERS / PROPOSERS NOT DISCUSS THIS ENGAGEMENT OR THIS BIDDER'S / PROPOSER'S PLANS, EXPERIENCE OR CREDENTIALS WITH OTHER BIDDERS / PROPOSERS OR ANY MEMBER OF COMMISSIONERS' COURT, ANY COUNTY OFFICIAL, OR ANY EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT. EXCLUDED ARE PRE-BID OR PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCES, EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED VENDOR PRESENTATIONS OR VENDOR INTERVIEWS, OR EVALUATION COMMITTEE SCHEDULED EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES DEMONSTRATIONS. YOU MAY CONTACT THE PURCHASING AGENT /PURCHASING DEPARTMENT AT ANY TIME.

FROM RFQ OPENING DATE THROUGH COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING FOR SELECTION, VENDORS WILL NOT APPROACH THE COUNTY JUDGE OR COMMISSIONERS TO DISCUSS MATTERS PERTAINING TO THIS RFQ.

01. Has any individual with the firm submitting this Proposal/Bid/Response made any contact with any member of Commissioners Court, any County Official, or an Evaluation Committee member concerning this Invitation to Bid/RFP/RFQ, other than questions to the Assistant County Auditor/Purchasing Officer?

02. Has any individual with the firm submitting this Proposal/Bid/Response made any contact with any other Bidder or Proposer concerning this Invitation to Bid/RFP/RFQ?

Signature of person submitting this Bid

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

ORDER NO.

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF CAMERON §

**ORDER ADOPTING CONTRACTING RULES
FOR PERSONS INDEBTED TO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, pursuant to V.T.C.A., Local Government Code, Section 262.0276, a commissioners court is authorized to adopt rules permitting a county to refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person indebted to the county;

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Cameron County finds it is in the best interest of Cameron County to adopt such rules;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Cameron County, that the following rules be adopted regarding Cameron County and persons interested in doing business with Cameron County:

1. Cameron County may refuse to enter into a contract or other transaction with a person with a past due debt to Cameron County, including delinquent ad valorem taxes, even if the person is the lowest bidder or successful proposer; and
2. For purposes of this Order, a debt is past due if it is not received in the County Treasurer’s Office by the due date in a written agreement or notice, and ad valorem taxes are past due if not received in the County Tax Assessor/Collector’s Office by February 1st following the January 1st on which the ad valorem taxes are due.
3. For purposes of this Order, a person includes an individual, sole proprietorship, corporation, nonprofit corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, and any other entity that proposes or otherwise seeks to enter into a contract or other transaction with Cameron County requiring approval by the Commissioners Court.

ADOPTED this 13 day of March, 2020

Taxpayer Identification Number (T.I.N.): _____

Cameron County Acct #'s: Real Estate _____ Personal Property _____

01. Is the person or the firm submitting this RFQ current with all local and State taxes?

Signature of person submitting this RFQ

Date

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, in the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, theory, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated of cause or default.

Company Name: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

If the Bidder / Proposer is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such Bidder / Proposer should attach an explanation to this Bid / Proposal.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE
For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

FORM CIQ

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2 **Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire.** (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.

 Name of Officer

4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.

6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).

7

 Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

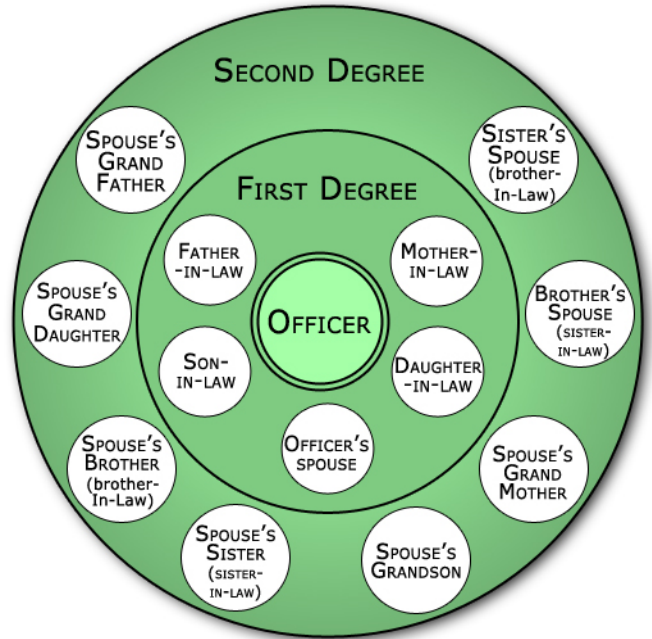
 Date

NEPOTISM CHART

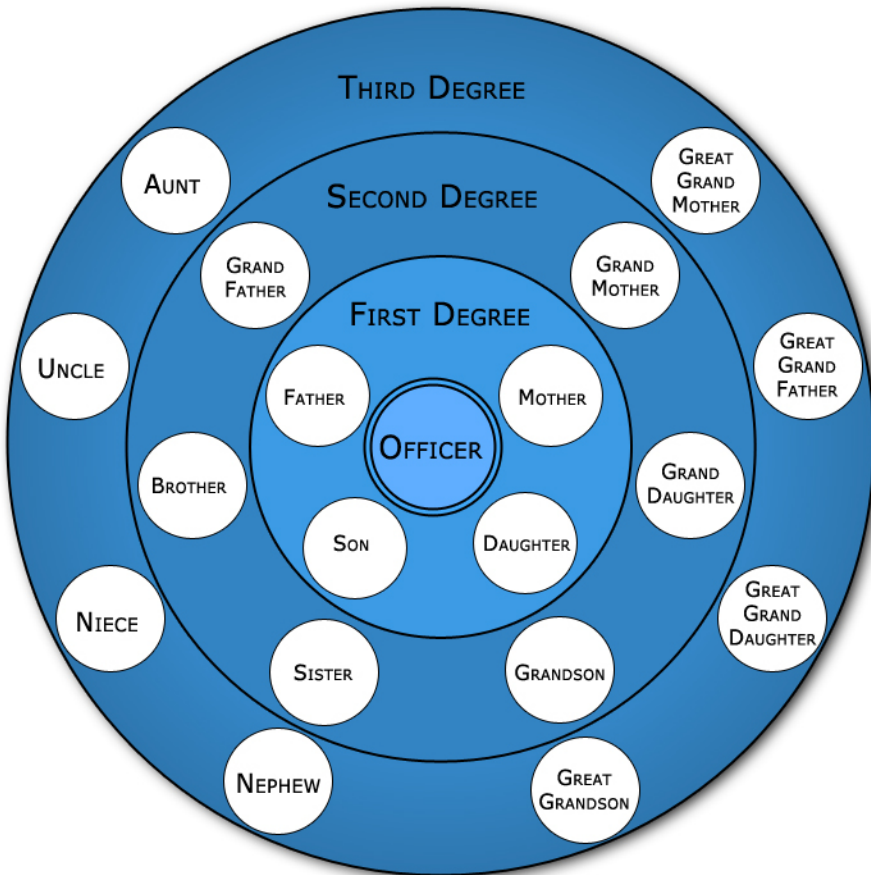
The chart below shows

- **Affinity Kinship** (relationship by marriage)
- **Consanguinity Kinship** (relationship by blood) for purposes of interpreting nepotism as defined in VTCA Government Code, Chapter 573, §§573.021 - .025

AFFINITY KINSHIP Relationship by Marriage



CONSANGUINITY KINSHIP Relationship by Blood



DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SUBMITTED WITH THE BID/RFP/RFQ
IF DISCLOSING: BIDDER / PROPOSER MUST ALSO FILE WITH THE COUNTY CLERK’S OFFICE
THE PURCHASING DEPT. WILL NOT BE FILING ON THE BIDDER’S BEHALF

Cameron County, Texas requires all persons or firms seeking to do business with the County to provide the following information. Every question must be answered. If the question is not applicable, answer with “N/A.” By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator (County Clerk’s Office) of the local government.

Date _____

FIRM NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

FIRM is: 1. Corporation () 2. Partnership () 3. Sole Owner ()
4. Association () 5. Other () _____

DISCLOSURE QUESTIONS

If additional space is necessary, please use the reverse side of this page or attach separate sheet.

1. State the names of each “employee, elected official, or member of Commissioners Court” of Cameron County having Substantial Interest in Business Entity Local Govt. Code 171.002

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (CONTINUED)

- a) For purpose of this chapter, a person has a substantial interest in a business entity if:
 - (1) the person owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the business entity or owns either 10 percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of the business entity; or
 - (2) funds received by the person from the business entity exceeds 10 percent of the person’s gross income for the previous year.
- b) A person has a substantial interest in real property if the interest is an equitable or legal ownership with a fair market value of \$2,500 or more.
- c) A local public official is considered to have a substantial interest under this section if a person related to the official in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as determined under Chapter 573, Government Code, has a substantial interest under this section.

Name	Title	Department

CERTIFICATE

I certify that all information provided is true and correct as of the date of this statement, that I have not knowingly withheld disclosure of any information requested; and that supplemental statements will be promptly submitted to the Cameron County as changes occur.

Certifying Person: _____ Title: _____
 (Type or Print)

Signature of Certifying Person: _____ Date: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS (RFQ)

ADDENDA: If RFQ specifications, terms or conditions are revised, the Cameron County Purchasing Department will issue an addendum addressing the nature of the changes and notify interested potential respondents. Respondents must acknowledge receipt and consideration of any such changes by signing the addendum and including it in the RFQ package containing the Respondent's submittal.

ADVERTISING: Unless otherwise required by law, respondents to County RFQs shall not publish and shall keep confidential their intentions and actions respecting any response to the RFQ.

AWARD: Cameron County may hold RFQ responses for a period of sixty (60) days. Cameron County reserves the right to reject any or all responses to RFQs. Cameron County reserves the right to award a contract, if any, based on the Respondent's response when compared to the EVALUATION CRITERIA (AS STATED IN RFQ) and, in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, reserves the right to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one Respondent. Commissioners Court reserves the right to determine the method and procedures for the final award of all RFQs at any time they so choose, regardless of the Point System used by the Evaluation Committee.

BONDS: If the contract that may be entered into between an RFQ respondent and the County will likely require a performance guarantee or bond, the Purchasing Department will attach a separate page to the RFQ explaining those requirements.

CANCELLATION AND TERMINATION: In any contract resulting from the RFQ, the County shall have the right to cancel all or any part of the undelivered portion of the contract if Respondent breaches any of the terms hereof, including, but not limited to warranties, and/or Respondent becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy. Such right of cancellation is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which the County may have in law or equity. Cancellation of work hereunder shall be affected by the delivery to the Respondent of a "Notice of Cancellation of Undelivered Work" specifying the extent to which performance of work under the contract is or cancelled and the date upon which such cancellation becomes effective.

The performance of work under any resulting contract may be terminated in whole, or in part, by the County in accordance with this provision. The County shall have the right to cancel all or any part of the contract if Respondent breaches any of the terms hereof, including, but not limited to warranties, and/or Respondent becomes insolvent or files for bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other remedies which the County may have in law or equity. Termination of work hereunder shall be affected by the delivery to the Respondent of a "Notice of Termination" specifying the extent to which performance of work under the contract is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective.

CHANGE ORDERS: No oral statement of any person shall modify or otherwise change, or affect the terms, conditions or specifications stated in the resulting contract. All change orders to the contract will be made in writing by mutual consent of the Respondent and the County.

CONTRACT RENEWALS: Contract Renewals must receive Commissioners Court approval. For contract renewal status and information, please contact Elisa Cisneros at 956-982-5405 e-mail: Elisa.Cisneros2@co.cameron.tx.us Cameron County Purchasing Dept. or Dylbia Jeffries 956-550-1340 djefferies@co.cameron.tx.us at the Cameron County Civil Legal Division. Any price escalations are limited to those stated by the original contract terms. All contracts with a one (1) year renewal option requires that the Respondent must notify Cameron County of any anticipated price increases in writing at least three months (90 calendar days) prior to the annual renewal award date unless otherwise specified within the specific provisions of the contract up for renewal. This allows the County sufficient time to find an alternative vendor if possible. Respondent fails to notify the County within time noted it shall be assumed that there will be no price increase for the following year's award period if renewed. This procedure does not apply to any contract which allows for Open Market Price increases or Cost allowance increases.

DISCRIMINATION: In order to encourage fair employment practices, the Respondent agrees as follows: 1.) Respondent will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, sex, color, age, religion, handicap, or national origin; 2) in all solicitations or advertisements for employees, the Respondent will state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, sex, age, religion, handicap or national origin; 3) the Respondent will furnish such relevant information and reports as requested by the County for the purpose of determining compliance with these regulations; and 4) failure of the Respondent to comply with these laws will be deemed a breach of contract and it may be cancelled, terminated or suspended in whole or in part.

DISQUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENT: Upon submitting a response to this RFQ, Respondent certifies that the Respondent has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code 15.01, *et seq.*, as amended, or the federal antitrust laws, and has not communicated directly or indirectly its RFQ considerations, plan or response to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any and all responses may be rejected if the County believes that collusion exists among the respondents. If multiples are submitted by a respondent and, after all responses to the RFQs are opened, one or more of the responses are withdrawn, the result will be that all of the responses submitted by that respondent will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits a respondent from submitting multiples for different products or services.

EVALUATION: All responses will be evaluated in accordance with law and reviewed to assure they are in the best interest of Cameron County. Evaluations shall be based on criteria bearing on performance in the user environment. Any specific criteria section or sections identified elsewhere in this RFQ may be evaluated by one or more evaluators once the basis and details of this process have been approved by the Purchasing Officer and acknowledged by the Evaluation Committee. Detailed information pertaining to this selective evaluation process is available to respondents and the Commissioners Court upon request. Evaluation sheets and summary of all responses are subject to review by the Cameron County Purchasing Department and Evaluation Committee's recommendation to Cameron County Commissioners Court. Compliance with all RFQ requirements, delivery and needs of the using department are considerations in evaluating responses. The Cameron County Purchasing Department reserves the right to contact any Respondent, at any time, to clarify, verify or request information with regard to that Respondent's response. The Cameron County Purchasing Department further reserves the right to hold negotiation discussions with any responsible Respondent's response determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award in accordance with law.

PROTEST PROCEDURES: Procedure - This protest procedure is available to Respondents responding to this RFQ and requesting a debriefing conference.

Debriefing Conference – A debriefing conference must be requested in writing to the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days from the date of the RFQ award by the Cameron County Commissioners Court. Debriefing questions must be submitted (in writing - to the Purchasing Department) no later than two (2) business days before the scheduled date for the Debriefing Conference. These questions will be answered at the debriefing conference. Follow-up questions must be submitted (in writing) no later than one (1) business day after the date of the Debriefing Conference and answered no later than two (2) business days after the date of the Debriefing Conference. Follow-up answers will be sent via e-mail or fax (if e-mail not available). For RFQs, Respondents are given the opportunity to ask questions of the Evaluation Committee relative to their responses and scores received by the Respondent.

Protests are made:

1. To the Purchasing Department after the debriefing conference. Respondent protests shall be received, in writing, by the Purchasing Department within five (5) business days after the debriefing conference.
2. To the Protest Committee, only after the protest to the Purchasing Department was not satisfactorily resolved. Protests to the Protest Committee shall be made within five (5) business days after the Respondent has received notification from the County Purchasing Department of the decision.

Grounds for protest:

1. Errors were made in computing the score.
2. The County failed to follow procedures established in the RFQ, the Purchasing policy on acquisitions or applicable state or federal laws or regulations.
3. Bias, discrimination or conflict of interest on the part of an evaluator. Protests not based on these criteria shall not be considered.

Format and Content - Protesting Respondents shall include, in their written protest to the Cameron County Purchasing Department, all facts and arguments upon which they rely. Respondents shall, at a minimum, provide:

1. Information about the protesting vendor; name of firm, mailing address, phone number and name of individual responsible for submission of the protest.
2. Information about the acquisition and the acquisition method.
3. Specific and complete statement of the County's action(s) protested.
4. Specific reference to the grounds for the protest.
5. Description of the relief or corrective action requested.
6. For protests to the Protest Committee, a copy of the Purchasing Department's written decision on the protest.

Review Process:

1. Upon receipt of a Respondent protest, the Purchasing Department shall postpone further steps in the acquisition process until the Respondent protest has been resolved.
2. The Department's internal protest review procedures consist of the following: a) The Purchasing Department shall perform an objective review of the protest by individuals not involved in the acquisition protested. The review shall be based on the written protest material submitted by the Respondent. b) A written decision will be delivered to the Respondent within five business days after receipt of the protest, unless more time is needed. The protesting Respondent shall be notified if additional time is necessary.

Final Determination - The final determination shall:

1. Find the protest lacking in merit and uphold the agency's action; or
2. Find only technical or harmless errors in the agency's acquisition process conduct, determine the agency to be in substantial compliance, and reject the protest; or
3. Find merit in the protest and provide the agency options which may include a) Correct its errors and reevaluate all proposals, and/or b) Reissue the Respondent solicitation document; or c) Make other findings and determine other courses of action as appropriate.

Protest Committee Review Process: Protests to the Protest Committee may be made only for Protest Committee approved acquisitions and only after review by County Purchasing Department. Protests of the decisions of County Purchasing Department shall be made by letter to the Protest Committee, who may establish procedures to resolve the protest. Protests shall be received by the Protest Committee within five business days after the decision of Purchasing Department in order to be considered. The resulting decision is final with no further administrative appeal available.

FISCAL FUNDING: A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement (if requested by the Special Requirements/Instructions), or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include a fiscal funding “out” clause. If, for any reason, funds are not appropriated to continue the lease or contract, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the Respondent from the using department without penalty of any kind or form to Cameron County. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and redelivery shall be the responsibility of the Respondent.

GRATUITIES AND PROHIBITION AGAINST PERSONAL INTEREST IN CONTRACTS: Any elected or appointed official who has any substantial interest, either direct or indirect, in any business entity seeking to contract with the County, shall, before any vote or decision on any matter involving the business entity, file an affidavit stating the nature and extent of interest and shall abstain from any participation in the matter. This is not required if the vote or decision will not have any special effect on the entity other than its effect on the public. However, if a majority of the governing body is also required to file, and do file similar affidavits, then the member is not required to abstain from further participation. Attached and included is a disclosure of all of this Company's business or pecuniary financial relationships with officers or employees of Cameron County or County entities (if any such relationships exist) must be attached and included with RFQ submitted. The County may, by written notice to the Respondent, cancel this contract without liability to Respondent if it is determined by County that gratuities, in the form of entertainment, gifts, or otherwise, were offered or given by the Respondent, or any agent, or representative of the Respondent, to any officer or employee of Cameron County with a view toward securing a contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending or the making or any determinations with respect to the performance of such a contract. In the event this contract is cancelled by County pursuant to this provision, County shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover or withhold the amount of the cost incurred by Respondent in providing such gratuities. Consistent and continued tie RFQ responses could cause rejection of an RFQ response by the County and/or investigation for Anti-Trust violations. Respondent guarantees that he has not retained a person to solicit or secure any contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies maintained by the Respondent for the purpose of securing business.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) CERTIFICATION: If Respondent is a Certified Historically Underutilized Business (HUB), please include a copy of your HUB Certificate with your response. This information will assist Cameron County in the percentage tracking of HUB utilization.

INSURANCE: The Respondent shall secure and maintain, throughout the duration of the Contract, insurance of such types and in such amounts as may be necessary to protect the Respondent and the interests of the County against all hazards or risks of loss as hereinafter specified. The form and limits of such insurance, together with the insurer, must be acceptable to the County. It shall be the responsibility of the Respondent to maintain adequate insurance coverage at all times. Failure of the Respondent to maintain adequate coverage shall not relieve the Respondent of any contractual responsibility or obligation.

SCANNED RE-TYPED RESPONSE - FLOPPY DISK: If in its RFQ response, Respondent either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published RFQ package, then, in event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published RFQ specifications or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the RFQ response made by Respondent, the County's RFQ specifications as published shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published RFQ specifications is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed, the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS: The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practices are to be used.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: Respondents are responsible for including all pertinent data in the returned RFQ package. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the RFQ package and any

other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the respondent wishes to include as a condition of the RFQ, must also be in the returned RFQ package. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the entire RFQ.

USAGE REPORTS: Cameron County reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost up to two (2) times during the contract period, a usage report detailing services furnished to date under a contract resulting from this RFQ. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) working days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by the Cameron County department using the services with a description of services rendered, the unit and total price.

WARRANTY: Respondents may not limit or exclude any implied warranties. **Respondent warrants that services provided to the County shall conform to the highest commercial and/or professional standards in the industry.**

APPLICABLE LAW

ASSIGNMENT DELEGATION: No right or interest in this contract shall be assigned or delegation of any obligation made by Respondent without the written permission of the County. Any attempted assignment or delegation by Respondent shall be wholly void and totally ineffective for all purposes unless made in conformity with this paragraph. Any contract entered into pursuant to this request is not assignable, nor the duties thereunder, by either party, without the written consent of the other party, the Commissioners Court, and County Auditor.

CONTRACT OBLIGATION: Cameron County Commissioners Court must award any resulting contract and the County Judge or other person authorized by the Cameron County Commissioners Court must sign the contract before it becomes binding on Cameron County or the Respondent. Department heads are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Cameron

County. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until the contract requirements have been satisfied.

ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: Errors and Omissions in the RFQ of any provision herein described will not be construed as to relieve the Respondent of any responsibility or obligation requisite to the complete and satisfactory implementation, operation, and support of all obligations under any resulting contract.

FORCE MAJEURE: If, by reason of Force Majeure, either party hereto shall be rendered unable wholly, or in part, to carry out its obligations under this RFQ and any resulting contract, then such party shall give notice and full particulars of Force Majeure in writing to the other party within a reasonable time after occurrence of the event or cause relied upon, and the obligation of the party giving such notice, so far as it is affected by such Force Majeure, shall be suspended during the continuance of the inability then claimed, except as hereinafter provided, but for no longer period, and such party shall endeavor to remove or overcome such inability with all reasonable dispatch. The term "Force Majeure" as employed herein, shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, or other industrial disturbances, act of public enemy, orders of any kind of government of the United States or the State of Texas or any civil or military authority, insurrections, riots, epidemics, landslides, lightening, earthquakes, fires, hurricanes, storms, floods, washouts, droughts, arrests, restraint of government and people, civil disturbances, explosions, breakage or accidents to machinery, pipelines or canals, or other causes not reasonably within the control of the party claiming such inability. It is understood and agreed that the settlement of strikes and lockouts shall be entirely with the discretion of the party having the difficulty, and that the above requirement that any Force Majeure shall be remedied with all reasonable dispatch shall not require the settlement of strikes and lockouts by acceding to the demands of the opposing party or parties when such settlement is unfavorable in the judgment of the party having the difficulty.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT: The successful Respondent, shall indemnify and hold Cameron County harmless from all claims for personal injury, death and/or property damage resulting directly or indirectly from Respondent's performance. Respondent shall procure and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this RFQ, appropriate insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover Respondent's liability as may arise

directly or indirectly from work performed under terms of this RFQ. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the County upon request.

INTERPRETATION PAROLE EVIDENCE: Unless a separate contract or addendum hereof is prepared and entered into following the award of this RFQ to a successful respondent, this writing is intended by the parties as a final expression of the terms of this RFQ and the general terms of any resulting contract with the selected Respondent. No course of prior dealings between the parties and no usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any term. Acceptance or acquiescence in a course of

performance rendered under this RFQ and any resulting contract shall not be relevant to determine meaning even though the accepting or acquiescing party has knowledge of the performance and opportunity for objection.

LATE RESPONSES: RFQ responses must be received by the County before the hour and date specified. Responses received after the time and date specified will be disqualified and may be returned to sender. The County is not responsible for lateness or non-delivery of mail, delivered to wrong office, carrier, etc.

REMEDIES: The successful Respondent and County agree that both parties have all rights, duties, defenses and remedies available under law.

RIGHT TO ASSURANCE: During the RFQ process and any resulting contract, whenever a respondent or the County in good faith has reason to question the other's intent to perform, demand may be made that the other party give written assurance of intent. In the event that a demand is made, and no assurance is given within five (5) days, such failure may be treated as an anticipatory repudiation of the RFQ and any resulting contract.

SEVERABILITY: If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

VENUE: Both parties agree that venue for any litigation arising from this contract shall lie in Cameron County, Texas. These General Terms and Conditions shall be incorporated in the response to the RFQ and any resulting contract. The Respondent shall specifically state acceptance of these terms and conditions as a basis for providing the County with a response. The Respondent shall state any exceptions desired to these terms and conditions and may suggest alternate wording that addresses the intent of the term or condition. The County may accept or reject any suggestions in accordance with law.

EXHIBIT 1

**CAMERON COUNTY PURCHASING MANUAL
SECTION XII
PROCUREMENTS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL FUNDING**

XII PROCUREMENTS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL FUNDING

12.01 Additional Standards. In addition to the procedures specified elsewhere in this Purchasing Manual, which are incorporated herein by reference, the County shall abide by the following purchasing procedures applicable to procurements that are subject to federal funding as referenced in 2 CFR 200: Uniform Administrative Requirements, Costs Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), which is hereby incorporated by reference. These procedures are in addition to all other relevant procedures in this Purchasing Manual, except that in the event of a conflict these procedures will control if a purchase is made using federal funds.

12.2 Background. The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Issued the Uniform Guidance, which reforms rules applicable to entities receiving federal grant funding by streamlining and superseding eight OMB circulars (A-21, A-87, A-122, A-110, A-102, A-133, A-50 and A-89). The new procurement standards are found in Subpart D: Post Federal Award Requirements: 2 CFR §200.317 through §200.327

12.3 Compliance Requirements -Procurement. The following is an overview of the procurement standards and procedures applicable when procuring property and services under a Federal award in accordance with 1 CFR §200.317 through §200.327, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

12.03.1 The County, as a non-Federal entity other than a State, will follow §§ 200.318 General procurement standards through 200.327 Contract provisions. [See §200.317].

12.3.2 Procurement Procedures: The County will use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable State and local laws and regulations, provided that the procurement conform to applicable Federal statutes and the procurement requirements identified in 2 CFR part 200. [See §200.3/8(a)] When preparing a federally funded contract, the County Purchasing Dept., Planning Dept., and County Attorney will review the required federal clauses in Appendix II and make sure that all clauses required for the contract is included.

12.3.3 Conflicts of Interest/Standards of Conduct: The County will maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, awarded and administration of contracts. In addition to the following the County incorporates standards referenced above and Standards of Conduct in applicable County Personnel Manuals. [See §200.318(c)].

a No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of contracts supported by Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. Addressed in County's Bids, RFP's, RFQ's (Attachment B-No*Collusion Affidavit), (Attachment G-Conflict of Interest Questionnaire) Purchasing Manual (Ethics Policy) [See §200.318(c)(J)].

b Officers, employees, and agents of the County may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, the County may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. If this is done these standards will be promulgated like other County policies and procedures. Addressed in County's Bids, RFP's, RFQ's (Attachment B -Non-Collusion Affidavit), (Attachment G-Conflict of Interest Questionnaire, Attachment H-Disclosure of Interest Questionnaire) Purchasing Manual (Ethics Policy) {See §200.318(c)(I)}.

c If the County has an affiliate or subsidiary organization that is not a government entity, the County will also maintain written standards of conduct concerning organizational conflicts of interest arising from its relationship with the affiliate or subsidiary.

d The County will disclose any potential conflicts of interest in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with applicable Federal awarding agency policy. [See 2 CFR §200.112]. Additionally, the County will disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Further, if applicable, the County will make post-award reports as provided by Appendix XII to Part 200.

e. Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action consistent with County disciplinary policy, including but not limited to dismissal. Further, violations may be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation and possible prosecution.

12.3.2 **Oversight:** Once the Contract is awarded, oversight must be maintained to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. County Contract monitor will be utilized to track and perform quantity and quality control responsibilities in monitoring role towards compliance verification. [See §200.318(b)].

12.3.3 All proposed procurement actions shall be reviewed to avoid the purchase of unnecessary or duplicative items as stated in Independent Procedure IP "Prevention of Unnecessary and Duplicative Purchases".

Where applicable, consideration will be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Review of all potentially related consolidation or sourcing of items towards economy of scale.

Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach. County will consider leasing of items whenever determined to be more cost effective versus purchase of items which are not necessarily required beyond the immediate or project related intended use. [See §200.318MJ]

12.3.6 The County may enter into state and local intergovernmental agreement, or inter-entity agreements where appropriate for procurement or use of common or shared goods and services. County will explore interlocal agreement option with other entities towards sharing of goods and services in an effort to reduce overall cost. The County also approved Resolution 20/9R2007 on February 5, 2019. [See §200.318(e)]

12.3.7 Federal excess and surplus property may be used in lieu of purchasing new equipment and property whenever such use is feasible and reduces project costs. State and Federal Surplus sites will be reviewed for potential adaptations to meet project needs. [See §200.318(f)]

12.3.8 Deliberately omitted.

12.3.9 Contracts should be awarded only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources, as well as whether the contractor is suspended or debarred from receiving federal funds. (See Bids, RFP's, RFQ's Attachment F- Certificate Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility, Attachment F-2- Sworn Statement of Debarment, Attachment F-3- Architects, Engineers, Construction Performance, Attachment I-House Bill 89 Verification, Texas Ethics Commission Form 1295) [See §200.318(h)].

12.3.10 The County will maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. The County's Records Retention Policy as adopted by Commissioners Court and presented by the County Clerks Dept. (Official Records Manager for the County) - Purchasing Bids, RFP's, RFQ's, and contracts is five (5) years in accordance with §200.318(i).

12.3.11 The County may not enter a contract with time and materials based pricing unless there is a not-to-exceed clause and the Purchaser determines that other fee structures are not suitable.

12.3.12 The County alone shall be responsible for all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment. County Civil legal Division will coordinate these matters as they arise. County protest procedures apply to Bid, RFP's, RFQ's and written quotations. Once a contract has been executed, any disputes are dealt with at the time they arise. County Civil legal Department addresses contract disputes on behalf of the County.

12.3.13 Discounts, transportation costs, or lifecycle costs will only be considered when they are specified in the bidding documents. These will only be considered when specified in the bidding documents. These are not considered if not specified in the Bid / RFP documents.

12.04 Competition. All procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of 2 CFR §200.319. Note 1206 below identifies sources towards maximizing competitive solicitations. Purchasers will review all Bid specifications and requirements towards eliminating unduly restrictive requirements.

12.4.1.1 In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals will be excluded from competing for such procurements.

12.4.1.2 The County will avoid the following actions in procurement of goods and services:

- (1) Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business;
- (2) Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding;
- (3) Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies;

- (4) Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts;
- (5) Organizational conflicts of interest;
- (6) Except where required and justified as a sole source purchase, Specifying only a "brand name" product instead of allowing "an equal" product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement; and
- (7) Any arbitrary action in the procurement process . §200.319(a)

12.04.02 Geographical Limitation: Unless specifically excepted as provided in 2 CFR §200.319(b), the County will not impose state or local geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals for federally funded contracts.

12.4.3.1 Contract solicitations: Purchaser shall incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Detailed specifications and materials / product description must be clearly identified.

12.4.3.2 Contract solicitations shall specify all requirements which the potential vendors must fulfill to submit bids or proposals, and identify all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals. Scoring criteria shall be utilized in evaluation and analysis of Proposals.

12.04.04 All prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products which are used in acquiring goods and services shall be kept current and include enough qualified sources to ensure minimum open and free competition, and potential bidders will not be precluded from qualifying during the solicitation period [See §200.319(d)]. County Purchasing Department will maintain and update Bidders / list See 12.06 below.

12.5 Methods of Procurement with Federal Funds. The County will use one of the following five procurement methods as discussed in 2 CFR §200.320 when making purchases with federal funds. Should State or local procurement requirements applicable to a purchase being made with federal funds be more restrictive than Federal requirements, the more restrictive requirements or methods will be followed. The type of procurement process to use will depend on the cost and type of services or item(s) being purchased.

Micro-purchase = County under \$500 - No quotations / competitive process required – Vendors for purchases under \$500 shall be rotated - requisition and Purchase Order required. (Travel regulations and Gas purchases included..)

Small purchase procedures - informal Bids = County \$500 to \$14,999 and Commissioners Court approval \$15,000 to \$24,999 - Three written quotations required, requisition, Purchase Order. Sealed

Formal Bids = \$25,000 and more unless exception applies

Competitive proposals = County proposal process for Professional Services, IT & High Tech and Commissioners Court approved instances of projects not suitable for detailed specifications.

Request for Qualifications = Qualifications based on price proposals (Engineering & Architecture, Land Surveying, Professional services. Cameron County follows the Professional Services Procurement Act Govt. Code ch 2254 Subch A

Non-competitive proposals - Sole Source - under \$15,000 Sole Source letter Department Head, Vendor, Purchasing Agent. Commissioners Court approval required \$15,000 to include Sole Source letter Department Head, Vendor, Purchasing Agent.

Emergency Purchases over \$15,000 requires Commissioners Court approval / ratification whenever time is crucial in preventing an escalating health and safety concern or preventing a crucial incident as per Texas State Statute 262.024

Special & Discretionary Purchases as per Texas State Statute 262.024. For procurement of Federally funded land surveying Cameron County will contact the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity (TCEQ), for RESTORE projects to request authorization for noncompetitive procurement under 2 CFR 200.320(c)(4).

Personal service - as per

Under the Micro-Purchase dollar threshold rotation of available vendors will be utilized

Over the Micro-Purchase dollar threshold will comply with State of Texas, Local Government Code Ch 262.024 (a) (4).

12.6 Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms. The County takes all necessary affirmative steps (and will include in all related contracts language towards Contractor Certification of Small, Minority, or Women Business ownership- when possible) as described in §200.321 to assure minority businesses, Women's Business Enterprises, and labor surplus are used when possible. The County utilizes the following sites towards outreach for County Bidding opportunities for Small, Minority, Women Businesses: U.S. Small Business Administration, ESBD State of Texas Bid Posting Site, Associated General Contractors, Dodge Reports, Reed Construction Data, Texas Smart Buy Electronic State Business Daily Search (ESBD), Bk/Net, MWBE@texas.agriculture.gov, Coop Vendors list, County Current Bidders list. (County will require Prime Contractors to follow all of the affirmative steps when Prime Contractor will be letting subcontracts. The requirements for Prime Contractors as laid out by the County will be targeted towards creating maximum participation for small, minority, and women's business enterprises as follows: will be on the solicitation list and will be notified when they are potential sources, will divide total requirements when economically feasible into smaller tasks or quantities, establish delivery schedules as requirements permit, contact the agencies as listed above as an outreach network towards attracting these types of businesses. This information will also be included in all contracts.) County utilization of/Section 3/ HUD (see Purchasing Website) addresses Davis-Bacon, Equal Employment, Vicinity Hiring Preference, Economic Opportunities, HUB, SBA, Local Vendor, and MWBE requirements.

12.5 Procurement of Recovered Materials. The County and (where applicable) its contractors will comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. {See §200.322}.

County will (as per EPA 40CFR part 247) procure only items containing highest percentage of recovered materials practicable and allow for satisfactory competition based on the \$10,000 year threshold. County will establish affirmative procurement program for recovered materials.

12.6 Contract Cost and Price. The County will abide by the provisions of §200.324 (as required under County Resolution #20/90R2009), including, but not limited to performing a cost or price analysis and negotiating profit as discussed therein

12.8.1 Negotiation Based on Cost Estimates; Negotiation of Profit. In negotiating a contract price based on a cost analysis, the County will require that all estimated costs used to develop the negotiated price must be allowable costs under 2 CFR Part 200. Subpart E. A comparison between estimated costs and current customary market pricing will be analyzed in an effort to establish allowable cost and ultimately establish negotiated pricing. The County will also require that the profit element be negotiated separately, whether it is included as a separate price element or whether it is rolled into a lump sum price (or similar fixed price). Profit margin will also be compared relative to comparable current market rates to assess potential variances. This cost analysis will be achieved through verification of previous similar purchases, comparison with other public entities, recommendations from professional consultants or project Engineer, or data research (ie: Smart Procure) similar to the specific type of procurement. In addition and in order to establish a fair and reasonable profit, the County will also consider the contractor's risk and investment, complexity of work to be performed at a level of subcontracting, quality and track record of previous performance, and industry profit rates in the approximate SMSA /geographic area/or similar work. At the outset independent estimates will be obtained by the County before receiving Bids or Proposal this also applies to all sole source purchases. All estimates must be allowable subject to analysis as per conditions noted above.

12.8.2 Cost Plus Percentage of Cost Prohibited. The County will not enter into a cost plus percentage of cost contract, or a cost plus percentage of construction cost contract. (as per 200.324 d) Engineer and County will examine all Change order pricing as submitted. Profit margin will not be determined based on a percentage of cost and percentage of construction cost methods of contracting must not be used. Costs based on estimated costs of contracts under Federal award are allowable only to the extent that costs incurred or cost estimates included in negotiated prices would be allowable for the non-Federal entity under Subpart E Cost Principles of this part. County will reimburse Contractor's Direct and indirect Costs plus a Fixed fee for the project.

12.9 Contract Provisions. Pursuant to §200.327 the County will include in all federally-funded contracts, the applicable provisions described in Appendix 11 to 2 CFR Part 200-Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts under Federal Awards. When preparing a federally funded contract the County Purchasing Dept., Planning Dept., and County Attorney will review the required federal clauses in Appendix 11 and make sure that all clauses required/or the contract is included.

12.10 Personnel Cost Calculation Pursuant to 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Subpart E the County adopted Resolution # 2019R02008 on February 5, 2019 -Policy and Procedure to Ensure Accurate Completion of Personnel Cost Calculation.

12.11 Cost Price Analysis Pursuant to 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, the County adopted Resolution # 2019R02009 on February 5, 2019 -Policy and Procedure to Ensure Cost Price Analysis requirement.

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12.12 Debarment Check Pursuant to 2 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200.318, the County adopted Resolution # 2019R02010 on February 5, 2019 -Policy and Procedure to Ensure Debarment Check is adequately performed.

12.13 Single Proposal requirements Proposal is reviewed for compliance. Determination is made by County as to benefit of resolution or RFP towards a more competitive solicitation. Pricing is reviewed relative to current market costs for comparison. If all is determined to be cost effective and advantageous to County, recommendation is made by Evaluation Committee to Commissioners Court for award. Commissioners Court must make a determination that price is fair and reasonable prior to awarding RFP. Prior to Court award of sole Bid, RFP, or RFQ County Purchasing Dept. will contact the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity (TCEQ for RESTORE projects) to request authorization for noncompetitive procurement under 2 CFR 200.320(c)(2) to proceed towards Commissioners Court approval. Informal Bids not exceeding \$14,999 will require at least 3 informal Bids for comparative competitive purposes. If the County is unable to obtain at least 3 competitive Bids or Proposals, if unable to obtain more than one (1) Bid or Proposal the County Purchasing Dept. will review pricing relative to current market costs for comparison purposes (utilizing comparable bid results, engineer recent historic data, Smart Procure comparable data) will contact the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity (TCEQ, for RESTORE projects) to request authorization for noncompetitive procurement under 2 CFR 200.320(c)(2) prior to proceeding with Agenda towards Commissioners Court approval.

12.13 Domestic Preferences for Procurement County will (in awards of iron, aluminum, steel, cement and other goods / manufactured products produced in the United States) utilize and purchase from these suppliers and subawards with a preference towards purchases from these Companies. (see 200.322)

12.14 Bid Bonds Will always be required for construction contracts:

County Purchasing Act: Required

Payment Bond - \$25,000 + (2253.21)

Performance Bond - \$100,000 + (2253.21)

Bid Bond-a) If the contract is for the construction of public works or is under a contract exceeding \$100,000, the bid specifications or request for proposals may require the bidder to furnish a good and sufficient bid bond in **the amount of five percent of the total contract (262.032)**

Federal funded projects: exceeding \$150,000 (on exception sought from the federal awarding agency. For all Federal funded projects \$150,000 and over Bid Bonds will be mandatory equivalent to five percent of the bid price. A performance bond and payment bond will also be required - both at 100 percent of contract price.

12.15 Telecommunications and Surveillance Services or Equipment Proposal is reviewed for compliance with 2
CFR Appendix II (K) 200-216 prior to proceeding with Agenda towards Commissioners Court approval. Determination is made by County as to ensure that neither loan or grant funds will be utilized for the purchase or obtaining Telecommunications and Surveillance Services or Equipment from one of the following Vendors or any of their subsidiaries or affiliates :

Huawei Technologies Co.

ZTE Corp.

Hytera Communications Corp.

Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Co.

Dahua Technology Co.

as well as related services (Telecomm. or Video Surveillance provided by entities or using these Companies equipment. Additional Companies determined as by the Secretary of Defense, FBI, National Intelligence are to also be added to the restricted list of firms.

In addition, the vendors listed above will be identified to verify that these firms will not be utilized for contract extension/ renewal, essential components, critical technology, or components of a system.

Proposals will be reviewed for compliance with 2 CFR 200-471 prior to proceeding with Agenda towards Commissioners Court approval prior to obligating or expending funds. County will review all proposals related to Telecommunication and/or video surveillance equipment or service related costs in order to verify that costs associated with procuring, obtaining, extending, entering into, or renewing a contract for equipment, services, or systems are not utilized.

EXHIBIT 2

2 CFR 200.318 – 200.327 FEDERAL PROCUREMENT STANDARDS

Procurement Standards

§ 200.317 Procurements by states.

When procuring property and services under a Federal award, a State must follow the same policies and procedures it uses for procurements from its non-Federal funds. The State will comply with §§ 200.321, 200.322, and 200.323 and ensure that every purchase order or other contract includes any clauses required by § 200.327. All other non-Federal entities, including subrecipients of a State, must follow the procurement standards in §§ 200.318 through 200.327.

§ 200.318 General procurement standards.

- (a) The Non-Federal entity must have and use documented procurement procedures, consistent with State, local, and tribal laws and regulations and the standards of this section, for the acquisition of property or services required under a Federal award or subaward. The non-Federal entity's documented procurement procedures must conform to the procurement standards identified in §§ 200.317 through 200.327.
- (b) Non-Federal entities must maintain oversight to ensure that contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.
- (c)
 - (1) The non-Federal entity must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a Federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. The officers, employees, and agents of the non-Federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-Federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not substantial or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-Federal entity.
 - (2) If the non-Federal entity has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a State, local government, or Indian tribe, the non-Federal entity must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest means that because of relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the non-Federal entity is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization.
- (d) The non-Federal entity's procedures must avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration should be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. Where appropriate, an analysis will be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach.

(e) To foster greater economy and efficiency, and in accordance with efforts to promote cost-effective use of shared services across the Federal Government, the non-Federal entity is encouraged to enter into state and local intergovernmental agreements or inter-entity agreements where appropriate for procurement or use of common or shared goods and services. Competition requirements will be met with documented procurement actions using strategic sourcing, shared services, and other similar procurement arrangements.

(f) The non-Federal entity is encouraged to use Federal excess and surplus property in lieu of purchasing new equipment and property whenever such use is feasible and reduces project costs.

(g) The non-Federal entity is encouraged to use value engineering clauses in contracts for construction projects of sufficient size to offer reasonable opportunities for cost reductions. Value engineering is a systematic and creative analysis of each contract item or task to ensure that its essential function is provided at the overall lower cost.

(h) The non-Federal entity must award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources. See also [§ 200.214](#).

(i) The non-Federal entity must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: Rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price.

(j)

(1) The non-Federal entity may use a time-and-materials type contract only after a determination that no other contract is suitable and if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Time-and-materials type contract means a contract whose cost to a non-Federal entity is the sum of:

(i) The actual cost of materials; and

(ii) Direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

(2) Since this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, each contract must set a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the non-Federal entity awarding such a contract must assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

(k) The non-Federal entity alone must be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the non-Federal entity of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. The Federal awarding agency will not substitute its judgment for that of the non-Federal entity unless the matter is primarily a Federal concern. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or Federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

[[85 FR 49543](#), Aug. 13, 2020, as amended at [86 FR 10440](#), Feb. 22, 2021]

§ 200.319 Competition.

(a) All procurement transactions for the acquisition of property or services required under a Federal award must be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with the standards of this section and [§ 200.320](#).

(b) In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements. Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include but are not limited to:

- (1) Placing unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business;
- (2) Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding;
- (3) Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies;
- (4) Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts;
- (5) Organizational conflicts of interest;
- (6) Specifying only a “brand name” product instead of allowing “an equal” product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement; and
- (7) Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

(c) The non-Federal entity must conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed state, local, or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable Federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. Nothing in this section preempts state licensing laws. When contracting for architectural and engineering (A/E) services, geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

(d) The non-Federal entity must have written procedures for procurement transactions. These procedures must ensure that all solicitations:

- (1) Incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description must not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured and, when necessary, must set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it must conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible. When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a “brand name or equivalent” description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which must be met by offers must be clearly stated; and

- (2) Identify all requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

(e) The non-Federal entity must ensure that all prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products which are used in acquiring goods and services are current and include enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition. Also, the non-Federal entity must not preclude potential bidders from qualifying during the solicitation period.

(f) Noncompetitive procurements can only be awarded in accordance with [§ 200.320\(c\)](#).

§ 200.320 Methods of procurement to be followed.

The non-Federal entity must have and use documented procurement procedures, consistent with the standards of this section and [§§ 200.317](#), [200.318](#), and [200.319](#) for any of the following methods of procurement used for the acquisition of property or services required under a Federal award or sub-award.

(a) ***Informal procurement methods.*** When the value of the procurement for property or services under a Federal award does not exceed the *simplified acquisition threshold (SAT)*, as defined in [§ 200.1](#), or a lower threshold established by a non-Federal entity, formal procurement methods are not required. The non-Federal entity may use informal procurement methods to expedite the completion of its transactions and minimize the associated administrative burden and cost. The informal methods used for procurement of property or services at or below the SAT include:

(1) **Micro-purchases** -

(i) **Distribution.** The acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold (See the definition of *micro-purchase* in [§ 200.1](#)). To the maximum extent practicable, the non-Federal entity should distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers.

(ii) **Micro-purchase awards.** Micro-purchases may be awarded without soliciting competitive price or rate quotations if the non-Federal entity considers the price to be reasonable based on research, experience, purchase history or other information and documents it files accordingly. Purchase cards can be used for micro-purchases if procedures are documented and approved by the non-Federal entity.

(iii) **Micro-purchase thresholds.** The non-Federal entity is responsible for determining and documenting an appropriate micro-purchase threshold based on internal controls, an evaluation of risk, and its documented procurement procedures. The micro-purchase threshold used by the non-Federal entity must be authorized or not prohibited under State, local, or tribal laws or regulations. Non-Federal entities may establish a threshold higher than the Federal threshold established in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) in accordance with [paragraphs \(a\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#) and [\(v\)](#) of this section.

(iv) **Non-Federal entity increase to the micro-purchase threshold up to \$50,000.** Non-Federal entities may establish a threshold higher than the micro-purchase threshold identified in the FAR in accordance with the requirements of this section. The non-Federal entity may self-certify a threshold up to \$50,000 on an annual basis and must maintain documentation to be made available to the Federal awarding agency and auditors in accordance with [§ 200.334](#). The self-certification must include a justification, clear identification of the threshold, and supporting documentation of any of the following:

- (A) A qualification as a low-risk auditee, in accordance with the criteria in [§ 200.520](#) for the most recent audit;
- (B) An annual internal institutional risk assessment to identify, mitigate, and manage financial risks; or,
- (C) For public institutions, a higher threshold consistent with State law.

(v) **Non-Federal entity increase to the micro-purchase threshold over \$50,000.** Micro-purchase thresholds higher than \$50,000 must be approved by the cognizant agency for indirect costs. The non-federal entity must submit a request with the requirements included in [paragraph \(a\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#) of this section. The increased threshold is valid until there is a change in status in which the justification was approved.

(2) **Small purchases** -

(i) **Small purchase procedures.** The acquisition of property or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which is higher than the micro-purchase threshold but does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold. If small purchase procedures are used, price or rate quotations must be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources as determined appropriate by the non-Federal entity.

(ii) **Simplified acquisition thresholds.** The non-Federal entity is responsible for determining an appropriate simplified acquisition threshold based on internal controls, an evaluation of risk and its documented procurement procedures which must not exceed the threshold established in the FAR. When applicable, a lower simplified acquisition threshold used by the non-Federal entity must be authorized or not prohibited under State, local, or tribal laws or regulations.

(b) **Formal procurement methods.** When the value of the procurement for property or services under a Federal financial assistance award exceeds the SAT, or a lower threshold established by a non-Federal entity, formal procurement methods are required. Formal procurement methods require following documented procedures. Formal procurement methods also require public advertising unless a non-competitive procurement can be used in accordance with [§ 200.319](#) or [paragraph \(c\)](#) of this section. The following formal methods of procurement are used for procurement of property or services above the simplified acquisition threshold or a value below the simplified acquisition threshold the non-Federal entity determines to be appropriate:

(1) **Sealed bids.** A procurement method in which bids are publicly solicited and a firm fixed-price contract (lump sum or unit price) is awarded to the responsible bidder whose bid, conforming with all the material terms and conditions of the invitation for bids, is the lowest in price. The sealed bids method is the preferred method for procuring construction, if the conditions.

(i) In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions should be present:

(A) A complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;

(B) Two or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and

(C) The procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

(ii) If sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

(A) Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified sources, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;

(B) The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;

(C) All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids, and for local and tribal governments, the bids must be opened publicly;

(D) A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of; and

(E) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.

(2) **Proposals.** A procurement method in which either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement type contract is awarded. Proposals are generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids. They are awarded in accordance with the following requirements:

(i) Requests for proposals must be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Proposals must be solicited from an adequate number of qualified offerors. Any response to publicized requests for proposals must be considered to the maximum extent practical;

(ii) The non-Federal entity must have a written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and making selections;

(iii) Contracts must be awarded to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the non-Federal entity, with price and other factors considered; and

(iv) The non-Federal entity may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby offeror's qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified offeror is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services through A/E firms that are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

(c) **Noncompetitive procurement.** There are specific circumstances in which noncompetitive procurement can be used. Noncompetitive procurement can only be awarded if one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- (1) The acquisition of property or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold (see [paragraph \(a\)\(1\)](#) of this section);
- (2) The item is available only from a single source;
- (3) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from publicizing a competitive solicitation;
- (4) The Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes a noncompetitive procurement in response to a written request from the non-Federal entity; or
- (5) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

§ 200.321 Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms.

(a) The non-Federal entity must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.

(b) Affirmative steps must include:

- (1) Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- (2) Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- (3) Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- (4) Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- (5) Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce; and
- (6) Requiring the prime contractor, if subcontracts are to be let, to take the affirmative steps listed in [paragraphs \(b\)\(1\)](#) through [\(5\)](#) of this section.

§ 200.322 Domestic preferences for procurements.

(a) As appropriate and to the extent consistent with law, the non-Federal entity should, to the greatest extent practicable under a Federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under this award.

(b) For purposes of this section:

- (1) "Produced in the United States" means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.

(2) “Manufactured products” means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of non-ferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer-based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

§ 200.323 Procurement of recovered materials.

A non-Federal entity that is a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors must comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at [40 CFR part 247](#) that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

§ 200.324 Contract cost and price.

(a) The non-Federal entity must perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications. The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation, but as a starting point, the non-Federal entity must make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals.

(b) The non-Federal entity must negotiate profit as a separate element of the price for each contract in which there is no price competition and in all cases where cost analysis is performed. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration must be given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work.

(c) Costs or prices based on estimated costs for contracts under the Federal award are allowable only to the extent that costs incurred or cost estimates included in negotiated prices would be allowable for the non-Federal entity under [subpart E of this part](#). The non-Federal entity may reference its own cost principles that comply with the Federal cost principles.

(d) The cost plus a percentage of cost and percentage of construction cost methods of contracting must not be used.

§ 200.325 Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity review.

(a) The non-Federal entity must make available, upon request of the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity, technical specifications on proposed procurements where the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity believes such review is needed to ensure that the item or service specified is the one being proposed for acquisition. This review generally will take place prior to the time the specification is incorporated into a solicitation document. However, if the non-Federal entity desires to have the review accomplished after a solicitation has been developed, the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity may still review the specifications, with such review usually limited to the technical aspects of the proposed purchase.

(b) The non-Federal entity must make available upon request, for the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity pre-procurement review, procurement documents, such as requests for proposals or invitations for bids, or independent cost estimates, when:

(1) The non-Federal entity's procurement procedures or operation fails to comply with the procurement standards in this part;

(2) The procurement is expected to exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold and is to be awarded without competition or only one bid or offer is received in response to a solicitation;

(3) The procurement, which is expected to exceed the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, specifies a “brand name” product;

(4) The proposed contract is more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold and is to be awarded to other than the apparent low bidder under a sealed bid procurement; or

(5) A proposed contract modification changes the scope of a contract or increases the contract amount by more than the Simplified Acquisition Threshold.

(c) The non-Federal entity is exempt from the pre-procurement review in [paragraph \(b\)](#) of this section if the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity determines that its procurement systems comply with the standards of this part.

(1) The non-Federal entity may request that its procurement system be reviewed by the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity to determine whether its system meets these standards in order for its system to be certified. Generally, these reviews must occur where there is continuous high-dollar funding, and third-party contracts are awarded on a regular basis;

(2) The non-Federal entity may self-certify its procurement system. Such self-certification must not limit the Federal awarding agency's right to survey the system. Under a self-certification procedure, the Federal awarding agency may rely on written assurances from the non-Federal entity that it is complying with these standards. The non-Federal entity must cite specific policies, procedures, regulations, or standards as being in compliance with these requirements and have its system available for review.

§ 200.326 Bonding requirements.

For construction or facility improvement contracts or subcontracts exceeding the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity may accept the bonding policy and requirements of the non-Federal entity provided that the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity has made a determination that the Federal interest is adequately protected. If such a determination has not been made, the minimum requirements must be as follows:

(a) A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The “bid guarantee” must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.

(b) A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A “performance bond” is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's requirements under such contract.

(c) A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A “payment bond” is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

§ 200.327 Contract provisions.

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions described in appendix II to this part.

END OF RFQ # 230203