



CAMERON COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
INVITATION TO RFQ

RFQ NUMBER: 260302

RFQ TITLE: ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE LAGUNA MADRE NATURE CENTER
LOCATED AT BEJARANO McFARLAND PARK

DATE DUE: APRIL 22ND, 2026

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 -Basement Floor - Room # B17 at 3:01 p.m. (per Purchasing Dept. time clock) on deadline due date. All participants are welcome to attend RFQ acknowledgment opening.

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

Please return RFQ ORIGINAL (marked "ORIGINAL") AND ONE (1) COPY (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 RFP 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, Basement Floor, Room #B17, Brownsville, Texas 78520.

Questions/clarifications must be submitted by: Friday, April 10th, 2026, before 3:00 p.m. C.S.T.

(e-mail to purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us or fax to 956-550-7219, attention to Roberto C. Luna, Purchasing Agent)

Addendum to answer all questions/clarifications will be released on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

For additional information, clarifications and/or questions or to request addendum please contact: Dalia Loera or Roberto Luna at (956) 544-0871, E-mail: purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us

YOU MUST SIGN BELOW IN INK; FAILURE TO SIGN WILL DISQUALIFY THE OFFER.
All prices must be typewritten or written in ink.

Company Name:
Company Address:
City, State, Zip Code:

Historically Underutilized Business (State of Texas) Certification VID Number:
Telephone No. Fax No. e-mail

SIGNATURE: Print Name:

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

Is Proposer'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 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 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.

Responders must sign each page to ensure you have read each page's information, terms, conditions and/or required forms. Failure to sign or initial each page will disqualify the RFO offer

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE LAGUNA MADRE NATURE CENTER LOCATED AT BEJARANO McFARLAND PARK

RFQ # 260302

Please submit this page upon receipt

For any clarifications, please contact Mr. Roberto C. Luna, Purchasing Agent and/or Anthony Velazquez, Bids & Proposals Coordinator at the Cameron County Purchasing Department office at: (956) 544-0871 or e-mail at: purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us

Please fax or e-mail this page upon receipt of RFQ package no later than **Friday, April 17th, 2026 before 3:00 p.m. CST.** All questions regarding this RFQ should also be submitted no later than the stated date and time on RFQ cover page.

Fax: (956) 550-7219 or E-mail: purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us

If you are unable to respond on this RFQ solicitation, kindly indicate your reason for **“Not Responding/No-Participation”** below and fax or e-mail back to Cameron County Purchasing Department. This will insure you remain active on our vendor list.

Date: _____

Yes, I will be able to submit a Statement of Qualifications submittal.

No, I will not be able to submit a Bid submittal for the following reason: *(Please check one or more reasons below)*

- Could not meet specifications.
- Items or materials requested not manufactured by us or not available to our company.
- Insurance requirements are too restricting.
- Bond requirements are too restricting.
- The scope of services is not clearly understood or applicable (too vague, too rigid, etc.)
- The project is/was not suited to our organization.
- Quantities are too small.
- Insufficient time allowed for preparation of bid/proposal.
- Other (please specify).

_____.

Company Name: _____

Company Representative Name: _____

Company Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Fax #” _____

E-mail Address: _____

CHECK LIST

Respondents 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 Respondent'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 Responders.
- 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

- Addendum Acknowledgment Form –)**
Be sure to complete this form and return with packet.
- Attachments A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I & J**
Be sure to complete these forms and return them with packet.
- Minimum Insurance (Professional) Requirements**
Included when applicable.
- Financial Statement**
When this information is required, you must use this form.

Other - Final reminders to double check before submitting RFQ

- Is your RFQ sealed with RFQ #, title, Responder's Name, & return address, on outside?
- Did you complete, sign and submit page 1?
- 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 please let us know why e-mail to: Purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us

Thank you,

**Purchasing Department
Cameron County**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING RFQ'S

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE LAGUNA MADRE NATURE CENTER LOCATED AT BEJARANO McFARLAND PARK RFQ # 260302

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, & J** and return all with your RFQ.

The County of Cameron, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

MINORITY/WOMAN OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (M/WBE), DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE), AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB):

Cameron County encourages and strives towards an ever-increasing expansion in opportunities for M/WBE's & HUB's in assisting the County for its Purchasing needs. Cameron County's policy is to increasingly involve qualified M/WBE & HUBs to the greatest extent feasible in the County's procurement process.

Objectives of County HUB Program

- Ongoing increase in procurement opportunities for M/WBE's & HUB's
- Assisting M/WBE's & HUB's with registration to Bidders List and Bid opportunities that may be of interest
- Directing M/WBE's & HUB's to various beneficial web links giving them additional opportunities

Certification Process: Federal, state, and local regulations determine the type of certification(s) available. Attached below are links to various Certification agencies which are available to assist you in obtaining your M/WBE's & HUB's Certification.

HUB Certification Sources:

- [State of Texas HUB Certification Process](#)

- [Register with State as a HUB Vendor](#)
- [HUB Certification Agreements](#)
- [HUB Minority & Women Organizations](#)

M/WBE's & HUB's Questions Cameron County contact:
Purchasing Department
P: 956-544-0871 | Email: purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us

The County, its contractors, their suppliers and subcontractors, and vendors of goods, equipment services, and professional services shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or sex in the award and/or performance of contracts. All vendors, suppliers, professionals, and contractors doing business or anticipating doing business with Cameron County shall support, encourage, and implement affirmative steps toward our common goal of establishing equal opportunity for all citizens of Cameron County.

REQUIREMENT OF ALL BIDDERS/PROPOSERS: Each firm responding to this solicitation shall be required to submit with their proposal information regarding minority/women business and HUB business participation in this project.

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 – Basement Floor – Room #B17 (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 ONE (1) COPY (marked "COPY") sets and an electronic (PDF format file 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 time/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.
5. If RESPONDENT takes no exception to specifications or reference data, RESPONDENT will be required to provide details etc. as specified.
6. Written and verbal inquires pertaining to RFQ's must give RFQ Number and Company.
7. NO substitutions or cancellations permitted without written approval of Purchasing Agent.
8. 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.
9. This is a RFQ inquiry only and implies no obligation on the part of Cameron County.

10. 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.
11. 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.
1. Partial RFQ's will not be accepted unless awarded by category or line item. **To be awarded by total RFQ.**
2. 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.
3. **This RFQ procurement is subject to federal funding requirements and regulations. All participants must comply with "Exhibit XII PROCUREMENT SUBJECT TO FEDERAL FUNDING" PROCEDURES AS PER LANGUAGE IN CAMERON COUNTY PURCHASING MANUAL. (See Exhibit 1). In addition, Procurement procedures will adhere to FEDERAL PROCUREMENT STANDARDS as per 2 CFR 200.318 – 200.326 (See Exhibit 2)**

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.

Criminal Background Checks are Mandatory:

Checks are mandatory for all personnel performing work on Cameron County sites. Contractors, consultants, and subcontractors are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that their employees do not represent a threat to the County or Facilities. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in immediate termination of any award or contract. The selected contractor shall provide a complete list of names (including supervisors) that may be working on campus. The contractor(s) shall remove from the Cameron County workplace any of its employees who are found to be unacceptable by Cameron County. Such requests shall not be unreasonable, are the sole decision of Cameron County, and are not subject to negotiation. Contractor shall provide proper identification for all contractor employees. While on Cameron County premises, all contractor employees must wear attire that identifies them as contractor's employee with identification visible from both the front and the back. Vehicles shall be clearly identified as company vehicles and be maintained in a neat clean and sanitary condition. At least one person in each vehicle, preferably the driver, must be able to speak, read and write. It shall be the contractor's responsibility to see that employees render quiet and courteous service.

Trade Secrets, Confidential Information and the Texas Public Information Act.

If you consider any portion of your Bid/Proposal/Qualification Statement to be privileged or **confidential** by statute or judicial decision, including trade secrets and commercial or financial information, clearly identify those portions.

Bid/Proposal/Qualification Statement will be opened in a manner that avoids disclosure of the contents to competing offers and to keep the proposals secret during negotiations. All proposals are open for public inspection after the contract is awarded, but trade secrets and confidential information in the proposals are not open for inspection.

Cameron County will honor your negotiations of the trade secrets and confidential information and decline to release such information initially, but please note that the final determination of whether a particular portion of your proposal is in fact a trade secret or commercial or financial information that may be withheld from public inspection will be made by the Texas Attorney General or a court of competent jurisdiction. In the event a public information request is received for a portion of your proposal that you have marked as being confidential information, you will be notified of such request, and you will be required to justify your legal position in writing to the Texas Attorney General pursuant to Section §552.305 of the Government Code. In the event that it is determined by opinion or order of the Texas Attorney General or a court of competent jurisdiction that the information is in fact not privileged and confidential under Section §552.110 of the Government Code and Section §252.049 of the Local Government code, then such information will be made available to the requested.

Bid/Proposal/Qualification Statement are to be signed by an officer of the company authorized to bind the submitter to its provisions. Bid/Proposal/Qualification Statement are to contain a statement indicating the period during which the proposal will remain valid. A period of not less than ninety (90) days required. The Bid/Proposal/Qualification Statement submitted by the bidders/proposer/responders shall become an integral part of the contract between the County and the bidder/proposer/responder and the representations, covenants, and conditions therein contained shall be binding upon the person, firm or corporation executing the same.

THE RESPONDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR READING AND UNDERSTANDING ALL DOCUMENTS, FORMS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT. Follow all RFP package instructions; **you are responsible for obtaining any information needed in order to respond to this solicitation.** Further, the Respondent is responsible for providing any and all relevant information necessary to submit a response. Failure to do so will be at the Respondent's risk and may result in rejection of the response as non-conforming.

General Requirements apply to all advertised solicitations; however, these may be superseded, whole or in part, by OTHER DATA CONTAINED HEREIN. Be sure your proposal package is complete.

RFQ is subject to:

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 10. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

SUBTITLE F. STATE AND LOCAL CONTRACTS AND FUND MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 2254. PROFESSIONAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES

SUBCHAPTER A. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Sec. 2254.002. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Governmental entity" means:

(B) a district, authority, county, municipality, or

(2) "Professional services" means services:

(A) within the scope of the practice, as defined by

state law, of:

(ii) architecture;

(vii) professional engineering;

(B) provided in connection with the professional employment or practice of a person who is licensed or registered as:

(ii) an architect;

(vii) a professional engineer;

[GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 2254. PROFESSIONAL AND CONSULTING SERVICES](#)

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE LAGUNA MADRE NATURE CENTER LOCATED
AT BEJARANO McFARLAND PARK
RFQ # 260302**

SECTION 1. GENERAL

Cameron County Parks and Recreations Department is requesting statement of qualifications for Architecture services to prepare plans and specifications for construction of The Laguna Madre Nature Center to be built at The Bejarano McFarland Park located in the Laguna Heights area in Cameron County Texas.

SECTION 2. SELECTION CRITERIA SUMMARY

WEIGHTED QUANTITATIVE SCORING:

Each Vendor will be assigned a score of 0 - 4 by each evaluator for each criteria

- 4 = Very good / Exceeds expectations
- 3 = Above expectations
- 2 = Meets expectations
- 1 = Does not meet expectations
- 0 = non-responsive

Evaluators score by category will be multiplied by the assigned weight for each criteria by vendor then totaled.

Once RFQ's Qualification Statements are reviewed and scored, a short list may be compiled. Interviews may be conducted with Vendors determined by total score rankings. Additional information may be required at that time. Negotiations will begin with the Vendors selected for the project. Commissioner's Court will make the final selection and possible approval of the contract.

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

- **EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL – 35 POINTS**
To assess the experience and qualifications of the personnel in working with federal, state, local government entities, and other political subdivisions.
- **TEAM MEMBERS – 25 POINTS**
To identify the personnel the firm proposes to commit on a day-to-day basis and evaluate the specific qualifications of these individuals and their capacity to perform.
- **MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PROJECT – 20 POINTS**
To demonstrate client satisfaction & candidate's familiarity with the required experience and expertise
- **REFERENCES – 20 POINTS**
To demonstrate client satisfaction & candidate's familiarity with the required experience and expertise

For costs of architectural professional services, negotiations must occur after the initial selection of the 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 Purchasing Agent, Roberto C. Luna via email at: Roberto.luna@co.cameron.tx.us

SECTION 3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The Project Architect will conduct technical activities to complete design documents for the final selected alternative, such as geotechnical studies and preparation of plans, specifications and estimates for the Laguna Madre Nature Center Project. In addition, architect will assist Cameron County in preparation of the environmental report required by USDA.

The Laguna Madre Center will be located at the Bejarano-McFarland Memorial Park in the Laguna Heights area. The building will include classrooms and exhibit space, as well as restrooms and storage. A north-facing wall of windowed doors will open onto a patio for additional educational space, overflow for larger audiences, and spectacular views of the Lower Laguna Madre, along with access to the recreational activities at The Bejarano-McFarland Memorial County Park and the bay. As part of our commitment to Low Impact Development, the building's parking area will be permeable to protect the bay from pollutants and runoff. The Nature Center will be developed using universal design standards and conservation technologies and techniques because Cameron County is dedicated to setting the example for the rest of the region. The existing nature trail will be expanded to connect the park to the nature center. The nature trail will also provide access to the Laguna Madre Bay for kayaking and wade fishing.

Building:

- The first nature center dedicated to highlighting the Lower Laguna Madre, its importance, and conservation concerns.
- Universal Design for access and participation by visitors of all ages and abilities
- Environmental education
- Exhibit hall and exhibits
- Windowed sliding doors to open to the patio and view of the Laguna Madre
- Classrooms
- Restrooms
- Storage
- Energy and water efficient fixtures and water will be metered and monitored

Associated Elements:

- Permeable-surface parking
- Bike rack and bike repair station
- Rain catchment and irrigation system for native landscaping
- Butterfly selfie stations along walkways
- Covered walkways
- Permeable, crushed granite and concrete curb connecting walkways
- Overlook patio to view Laguna Madre
- Safety railing/fence at sea wall
- Native coastal habitat for landscaping, including butterfly and pollinator gardens
- A bike rack to facilitate visitation from the Caracara Trail located a half block away ,
- Recycled composite trailside benches placed alongside wheelchair spaces
- Natural and cultural resources interpretive signage
- Low-impact, solar, energy, efficient, LED, downward, wildlife-friendly amber lighting,
- Removal of AEP pole that is no longer needed

And other associate improvements.

All drawings and specifications will be signed and sealed by a License Texas Architect.

SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Architectural 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 the Proposal
 - d) Information pertaining to the firm's compliance with licensing and other requirements
- 2) References: list of three (3) references to those listed in # 1 above.
- 3) Identify personnel to be assigned responsibility for administering the account (provide resume for the individual representative that the firm will assign to the account).

When preparing the RFQ please include the following:

1. Provision of certification documents to comply with Windstorm, FEMA, Building Code requirements, ADA guidelines, and all applicable Rules or Regulations.
2. Provide 30% PS&E, 60% PS&E, 90% PS&E and Final PS&E
3. Development of a Conceptual Plan to fit within construction budget and for approval by Cameron County Commissioners' Court.
4. Development of preliminary construction schematics including Survey, Topographic data, utility location and easements, and support amenities.
5. Preparation of the environmental report required by USDA.
6. Development of final design plans for site improvements as listed on the scope of work
7. Development of Specifications and Contract Documents for Construction via Invitation for Bids IFB's.
8. Review of IFB's, award recommendation to Cameron County or value engineering if BIDs are over budget.
9. Project coordination and contract administration and project manager during construction.
10. Assist in the preparation and submittal of all local, state, federal and program specific permit and/or authorizations.

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

In order for qualification statement(s) to be considered and evaluated a Responder must be eligible to work on Federal Government Aid Projects and State projects, and must be registered, or capable to be registered, to do business in the State of Texas. The Responder (including Sub Consultants) must certify they are currently not suspended, debarred, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal or State department or agency, including TxDOT as the State agency.

The Responder (first tier) and any Sub Consultants (lower tier) must complete the certification attached as **Attachment F** to the RFQ in order for their qualification statement to be considered for evaluation. In addition to the certification the County will further confirm through the Federal Government system of award management (SAM), and the Texas Comptroller, the representations made on certifications are accurate.

OPEN, PENDING, ONGOING, OR CLOSED LITIGATION

The County reserves the right to consider ineligible any Proposal that includes as a Prime or Sub Consultant, in which there is open, pending, ongoing, or closed litigation with said Consultant resulting in an unfavorable judgement against the County.

SECTION 5. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF THE SOQ's

Architectural Responder(s)/teams interested in performing the professional architectural services are required to submit ORIGINAL and one (1) copy of the response to the RFQ in the following format, utilizing numbered tabs for each of the sections.

Letter of Transmittal from Authorized Consultant Representative

Table of Contents

Section 1: Executive Summary

Section 2: Statement of Qualifications

Section 4: Team Experience and Qualifications (Narrative)

Section 5: Similar Past Projects and Performance

Section 6: Project Approach (Narrative. Six (6) page limit)

Section 7: Quality Management/ Quality Control Plan (Narrative. Two (2) page limit.)

Section 8: Required Forms (Ref. Check List on page 3)

The submittal is limited to 8½ x 11inch pages, single sided, using 12 pitch font size.

The qualification statement must be submitted with a single staple in the upper left-hand corner. No other binding will be accepted.

The RFQ's response must include the following:

A. **RFQ Number: 260302** (First page/RFQ cover page must be signed to avoid disqualification, also every page must include initials at the bottom of each page as well as to all required forms)

B. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Format and Content: Please included in your RFQ's as part of your cover.

Executive Summary (2 pages max.)

Summary of RFQ as submitted

Introduction (2 pages max.)

Proposals must include confirm that the firm will comply with all of the provisions in this RFQ. If exceptions will be taken it should be so noted. Proposals must be signed by a company officer empowered to bind the company. A proposer's failure to include these items in their proposals may cause their proposal to be determined to be non-responsive and the proposal may be rejected. Include the following: *Firms Name, Address, Phone #, Contact Name, Phone #, Email address.*

Understanding of the Project (1-page max.)

Proposers must provide a comprehensive narrative statement that illustrates their understanding of the requirements of the schedule.

Management Plan for the Project (1-page max.)

Proposers must provide a comprehensive narrative statement that sets out the management plan they intend to follow and illustrates how their plan will serve to accomplish the work and meet Cameron County's project schedule.

Experience and Qualifications (2 pages max.)

Provide list specific to the personnel assigned to accomplish the work called for in this RFQ; illustrate the lines of authority; designate the individual responsible and accountable for the completion of each component and deliverable of the RFQ.

Provide a narrative description of the organization of the project team.

Provide a personnel roster that identifies each person who will actually work on the contract and provide the following information about each person listed and Title;

Evaluation Criteria (2 pages total max. for all criteria)

Explain your firms' strengths/advantages as they pertain to each of the Evaluation Scoring criteria. Note each criteria separately with explanation for each.

PROPOSAL ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

In determining the total system that is in the best interest of Cameron County, the following elements among possible others including financial considerations, will be considered.

1. Respondent's record of past experience.
2. Completeness and thoroughness of proposal. Include any additional information that your company can provide to enhance this service.
3. Respondent's ability to provide the services required by this project.
4. Respondent's completed proposal based on evaluation that are in the best interest of the County, and that provide the best business decision for the County and help the needs of the County.

THE COUNTY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO:

1. Reject any and/or all RFQ's.
2. Accept any RFQ's or portion thereof most advantageous.
3. Revise the RFQ and/or issue addenda to the RFQ, in event it becomes necessary to revise any or part of the RFQ. Addenda will be provided to all those that receive the RFQ.
4. Cancel or re-issue the RFQ, in whole or in part, prior to execution of a contract.
5. Request reference when deemed necessary by Cameron County.
6. Conduct a post-award meeting with successful respondent when deemed necessary.
7. Negotiate with the respondent.
8. County will award RFQ by total **award.**

RFQ's MUST COMPLY with all federal, state, county and local laws.

ANY QUESTIONS concerning this Request for Qualifications should be directed to:

Roberto C. Luna Jr. CPM, CTCD, CTCM
Cameron County Purchasing Agent
purchasing@co.cameron.tx.us
Fax (956) 544-0871



**ADDENDUM
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM
ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE LAGUNA MADRE NATURE CENTER
LOCATED AT BEJARANO McFARLAND PARK**

Title of Project

RFQ # 260302

Receipt of the following Addendum is acknowledged:
Failure to acknowledge an addendum may result in a Respondent being deemed non-responsive.

Addendum no. _____ Date: _____

Addendum no. _____ Date: _____

Addendum no. _____ Date: _____

Addendum no. _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title _____

Name of Firm

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) DECLARATION

The primary objective of the Cameron County HUB Program is to ensure Historically Underutilized Businesses receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County’s procurement process. This fact holds true for Services (Professional & Non-Professional), Commodities, and Construction contracts and any subcontracts thereto. The program strongly encourages Prime Contractors to provide subcontracting opportunities to Certified Hub Contractors/Vendors. Our goal for HUB contractor/vendor participation, as well as HUB subcontractor participation is 30%. To be considered as a “Certified HUB Contractor/Vendor” the contractor/vendor must have been certified by, and hold a current and valid certification with any of the three agencies listed below.

Have you been Certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source?: Yes No

If yes, by whom?: Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other _____

Indicate Certification No(s): _____ or Are Certificate(s) Attached?: Yes No

LIST OF CERTIFIED HUB SUBCONTRACTORS

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

What percentage of the Bid, RFP, or RFQ is to be subcontracted with Certified HUB sources?: _____ %
(List HUB Subcontractor information below).

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status:
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status:
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status:
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ



SIGNATURE FORM

The undersigned, on behalf of and as the authorized representative of Respondent, agrees this RFQ submittal becomes the property of Cameron County after the official opening.

The undersigned affirms the Respondent has familiarized itself with the local conditions under which the work is to be performed; satisfied itself of the conditions of delivery, handling and storage of equipment and all other matters that may be incidental to the work, before submitting a Statement of Qualifications.

The undersigned agrees, on behalf of Respondent, that if this RFQ is accepted, to furnish all materials and services upon which negotiated price(s) will be offered, at the price(s) and upon the terms and conditions contained in the Specifications/Scope of work-services. The period for acceptance of this RFQ will be sixty (60) calendar days.

The undersigned affirms that they are duly authorized to execute this contract, that this RFQ has not been prepared in collusion with any other Respondent, nor any employee of Cameron County, and that the contents of this RFQ have not been communicated to any other Respondent or to any employee of Cameron County prior to the official opening of this RFQ.

Respondent hereby assigns to Cameron County all claims for overcharges associated with this contract which arise under the antitrust laws of the United States, 15 USCA Section 1 et seq., and which arise under the antitrust laws of the State of Texas, Tex. Bus. & Com. Code, Section 15.01, et seq.

The undersigned affirms that they have read and do understand the specifications and any attachments contained in this solicitation.

Signature X: _____

Legal Name of Company

Date

Street Address

Printed Name of Authorized Representative

County, State and Zip

Title of Authorized Representative

Telephone Number

Fax Number

E-Mail Address

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT:

Name: _____

TeI. No.

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED & MUST BE RETURNED WITH BID.

RESPONDER'S STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION

1. Full Name of Business Concern (Proposer):

Principal Business Address:

2. Principal Contact Person(s):

Please provide all State of Texas Licenses which will apply to this services: _____

3. Form of Business Concern (Corporation, Partnership, Joint Venture, Other):

If a corporation, in what state incorporated: _____

Date Incorporated: _____

Month Day Year

If a Joint Venture or Partnership, date of Agreement(s): _____

If a subsidiary, name of guarantor: _____

4. Provide names of partners or offices as appropriate and indicate if the individual has the authority to sign in name of Responder. Provide proof of the ability of the individuals so named to legally bind the Responder.

Name	Address	Title
_____	_____	_____

5. List all firms participating in this project (including prime contractors, subcontractors, etc.):

Name	Address
<u>1.</u>	_____
<u>2.</u>	_____
<u>3.</u>	_____
<u>4.</u>	_____

6. Outline specific areas of responsibility for each firm listed in Question 5.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

7. Identify the provisions of any agreement between parties which assigns legal or financial liabilities or responsibilities:

_____ If responding firm(s) are a partially or fully owned subsidiary of another firm, or share common ownership with another firm, please identify the firms and relationships.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR BID

COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

By submitting an RFQ in response to this solicitation, the Responder certifies that at the time of submission, they are not on the Federal Government's list of suspended, ineligible, or debarred entities.

In the event of placement on the list between the time of RFQ submission and time of award, the RFQ will notify the Cameron County Purchasing Agent. Failure to do so may result in terminating this contract for default.

RELATING TO STATE CONTRACTS WITH AND INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES THAT BOYCOTT ISRAEL AND INVESTMENTS IN COMPANIES THAT DO BUSINESS WITH IRAN, SUDAN, OR ANY KNOWN FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

Responder verifies that they do not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel in accordance with Texas Government Code Section 2270.001(2) during the term of this contract. Responder further verifies pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 2252.152 that they are not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or any foreign terrorist organization. The term "foreign terrorist organization" means an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States Secretary of State as authorized by 8 U.S.C. Section 1189.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

The law states that a governmental entity may not enter into certain contracts with a nonexempt business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties to the governmental entity. By submitting Qualification Statement in response to this solicitation, the Responder agrees to comply with HB 1295, Government Code 2252.908. Responder agrees to provide Cameron County Purchasing Agent, and/or requesting department, the "Certificate of Interested Parties," Form 1295 as required, within ten (10) business days from notification of pending award, renewal, amended or extended contract.

RESPONDER IS EXEMPT FROM CERTIFICATION REGARDING ENERGY COMPANIES AND FIREARM ENTITIES OR FIREARM TRADE ASSOCIATIONS:

Responder is a sole proprietorship OR is a non-profit entity OR Vendor is a company that does NOT have 10 or more full-time employees AND/OR this contract does NOT have a value of \$100,000.00 or more that is to be paid wholly or partly paid from public funds of the governmental entity.

If the Responder Cannot Certify that it is EXEMPT as Above, Vendor Must Certify as

Follows: Responder is NOT EXEMPT and Certifies as follows:

Boycott of Energy Companies Prohibited. In compliance with Section 2274.002 of the Texas Government Code (added by 87th Legislature S. B. 13), Vendor verifies that it does not boycott energy companies and will not boycott energy companies during the term of the above-described contract. "Boycott energy company" is defined in Section 809.001(1) (added by 87th Legislature, S. B. 13) and means, without an ordinary business purpose, refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company because the company: (A) engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or (B) does business with a company described by subsection (A).

COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS

Discrimination against Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations Prohibited. In compliance with Section 2274.002 of the Texas Governmental Code (added by 87th Legislature, S. B. 19), Responder verifies that it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association; and will not discriminate during the term of the above-described contract] against a firearm entity or firearm trade association. "Discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association" is defined in Section 2274.001(3) {added by 87th Legislature, S. B. 19} and means, with respect to the entity or association, to (i) refuse to engage in the trade of any goods or services with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; (ii) refrain from continuing an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; or (iii) terminate an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; the term *does not include*: (i) the established policies of a merchant, retail seller, or platform that restrict or prohibit the listing or selling of ammunition, firearms, or firearm accessories; and (ii) a company's refusal to engage in the trade of any goods or services, decision to refrain from continuing an existing business relationship, or decision to terminate an existing business relationship: (aa) to comply with federal, state, or local law, policy, or regulations or a directive by a regulatory agency; or (bb) for any traditional business reason that is specific to the customer or potential customer and not based solely on an entity's or association's status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association.

Responder Hereby Certifies (Mark Applicable Certification):

_____ Responder is EXEMPT from Certification as set out above.

_____ Responder is NOT EXEMPT from Certification as set out above, and Responder Certifies that it does not and will not Boycott Energy Companies and that it does not and will not engage in prohibited Discrimination against Firearm Entities or Firearm Trade Associations.

Signature X: _____ Date: _____

Responder Name: _____ Firms Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED & MUST BE RETURNED WITH BID

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

NON-COLLUSION STATEMENT

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

SWORN STATEMENT ON DEBARMENT

This SWORN statement is submitted with project number _____

By: _____
(PRINT INDIVIDUALS NAME AND TITLE)

For: _____
(PRINT NAME OF ENTITY SUBMITTING SWORN STATEMENT)

whose business address is:

CITY STATE ZIP VOICE PHONE

and if applicable its Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) is: _____

(INDICATE WHICH STATEMENTS APPLY)

_____ Neither the entity submitting this SWORN statement, nor any of its officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members or agents who are active in the management of the entity, nor any affiliate of the entity has been charged with and convicted of a public entity crime.

_____ The entity submitting this SWORN statement, or one or more of its officers, directors, executives, partners, shareholders, employees, members, or agents who are active in the management of the entity, or an affiliate of the entity **HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH AND CONVICTED OF A PUBLIC ENTITY CRIME.**

_____ The entity submitting this SWORN statement is not present on any Federal list of debarred contractors, nor been debarred from any other type of contracting.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

(Printed Name) (Title)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____, _____.

Personally known _____ OR Produced identification _____
SHOW TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION

Notary Public State of _____, County of _____ My commission expires _____

(PRINTED/TYPED/ OR STAMPED COMMISSIONED NAME OF NOTARY PUBLIC)

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

Architects & Engineers

The applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that the information noted below for it and its principals are accurate:

- a. List all previous law suits with Public entities and the results of such suits over the past 7 years.

- b. List all projects that have exceeded Budget, what % over budget and why – over the past 5 years.

- c. List all projects that have exceeded the project completion due date, how many days over and why – over the past 5 years.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

If the Respondent is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such Respondent should attach an explanation to this RFQ.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

(attach pages if necessary due to space limitations)

Company Name: _____

Please answer each individual question. If it does not pertain to your company, please write "N/A" and sign at the bottom of page

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE For vendor doing business with local governmental entity		FORM CIQ
<p>This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.</p>	OFFICE USE ONLY Date Received _____	
<p>1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.</p> <p>_____</p>		
<p>2 <input type="checkbox"/> 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.)</p>		
<p>3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Name of Officer</p>		
<p>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.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">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?</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">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?</p> <p style="margin-left: 80px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </p>		
<p>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.</p>		
<p>6 <input type="checkbox"/> 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).</p>		
<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity Date</p>		

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

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at [http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/ Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm). For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

- (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity.
- (B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or
- (C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

- (A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that
 - (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
 - (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;
- (B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:
 - (i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or
 - (ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

- (1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);
- (2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or
- (3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

- (1) the date that the vendor:
 - (A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or
 - (B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or
- (2) the date the vendor becomes aware:
 - (A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);
 - (B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or
 - (C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

Form provided by Texas Ethics Commission

www.ethics.state.tx.us

Revised 1/1/2021

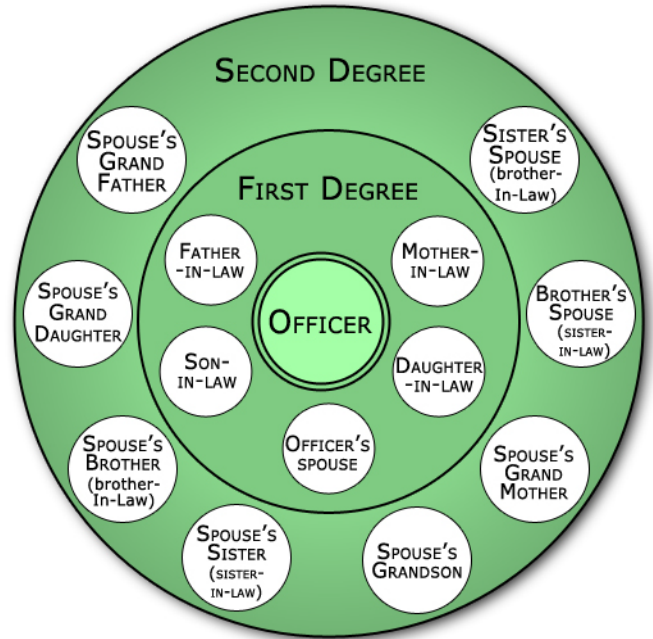
THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

NEPOTISM CHART

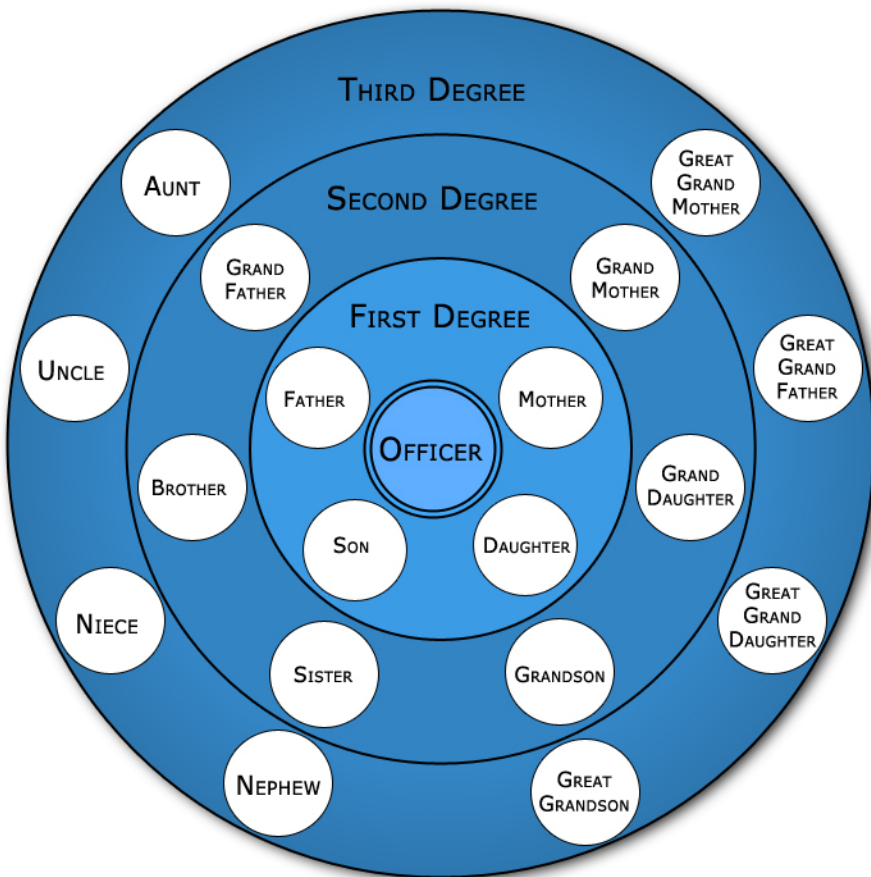
The chart below shows

- **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 (use box below)
 - 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. ***Please write “N/A” in the boxes if non-applicable***

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



HOUSE BILL 89 VERIFICATION (REVISED)

I, _____,
[Person Name]

the undersigned representative of _____
[Company or Business Name]

(hereafter referred to as Company) being an adult over the age of eighteen (18) years of age, does hereby depose and verify that the Company named above, under the provisions of Subtitle F, Title 10, Texas Government Code Chapter 2270:

1. Does not currently boycott the country of Israel; and
2. Will not boycott the country of Israel during the term of the contract with Cameron County, Texas.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Pursuant to Section 2270.001, Texas Government Code:

1. *“Boycott Israel” means refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations specifically with Israel, or with a person or entity doing business in Israel or in an Israeli-controlled territory, but does not include an action made for ordinary business purposes; and*
2. *“Company” means a for-profit sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or any limited liability company, including a wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of those entities or business associations that exist to make a profit.*

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

Please attach the 1295 Form

**See link below to login to
Texas Ethics Commission website**

[1295 Filing Info](#)

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH YOUR RFQ

TEXAS OPEN RECORDS ACT AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All materials submitted to Cameron County, Purchasing Department pursuant to this Invitation for Bid/Request for Proposals/Statement of Qualifications become subject to the mandates of the Texas Open Records Act, Government Code, Chapter 552, Subchapter A, §§552.009; Subchapter D, §§552.205; and Subchapter F, §§552.261 through 552.274. The purpose of this Act is to ensure and facilitate the public's right of access to and review of government records so they may efficiently and intelligently exercise their inherent political power. Almost all "records," as that term is defined in the Act, may be disclosed to the public upon request. Except where specific state or federal statutes create a confidential privilege, persons who submit information to public bodies have no right to keep this information from public access or reasonable expectation that this information will be kept from public access.

If you believe that any of the information you have submitted to the County pursuant to this Request for Proposals is **confidential** under a specific state or federal statute and therefore not subject to the public access, *you must comply with the following:*

- A. Place said documents/records in a separate envelope marked "**Confidential**" **DO NOT** label your entire response to the Bid/Request for Proposals/Statement of Qualifications as "Confidential" – label only those portions of the response that you feel are made confidential by state or federal law as "Confidential." If only a portion of a document is confidential, please identify specifically the portions of the document you are claiming are confidential. Under the State of Texas Open Records Act, the County is obligated to produce documents for public inspection even if the documents contain a portion which is confidential but can redact the confidential parts.
- B. For each such document for which you are claiming a confidential privilege, identify the federal and/or state law that creates said privilege, e.g., for trade secrets.

Should an Open Records request be presented to the County requesting information you have identified as "Confidential," you will be responsible for defending your position in the Court where the proceeding is filed, if needed.

If you fail to identify any records submitted as part of your Bid/Request for Proposals/Statement of Qualifications as "Confidential" by placing them in the "Confidential" envelope AND you fail to identify the specific state or federal law creating said privilege, you are irrefutably agreeing that said records are not confidential and are subject to public access.

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 §200.318(a)] When preparing a federally funded contract, the County Purchasing Dept, Planning Dept., and County Attorney will review the required federal clauses in Appendix I 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 in 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 §200.318M]

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 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 12.06 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.

12.04.03.01 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).

12.04.03.02 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.

12.05 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 \$3,000. -No quotations (competitive process required) – Vendors for purchases under \$3,000 shall be rotated – requisition and Purchase Order required. (Travel regulations and Gas purchases included..)

Small purchase procedures - informal Bids = County \$3,000 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 no 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 I 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 ff 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.

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, it is 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

REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR CONTRACTS UNDER FEDERAL AWARD

2 C.F.R. § 200.327 & 2 C.F.R. PART 200, APPENDIX II, REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR NON-FEDERAL ENTITY CONTRACTS UNDER FEDERAL AWARDS

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued in 2 C.F.R. 200: *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Subpart D: Post Federal Award Requirements: **2 CFR §§200.317-200.327** of the Uniform Guidance contain provisions applicable to procurements made with federal grant funding. [Except as otherwise provided, updated Post Federal Award Requirements (i.e.: 2 CFR §§200.317-200.327) apply to declarations and awards issued on or after November 12, 2020]. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200#subject-group-ECFR45ddd4419ad436d> See Appendix “B”

As a non-Federal entity, the County of Cameron’s (“County”) contracts must contain the applicable contract clauses described in Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance (Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards), which are set forth below. (2 C.F.R. §200.327). If applicable, the following clauses shall supersede any existing, similar clauses stated within the bid document, contract, and/or Terms and Conditions. *The term “Contractor” used herein refers to the proposer, bidder or other entity/individual responding to the applicable procurement packet.*

If applicable, the regulations in 2 CFR, Part 200 and Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance, as it may be amended from time to time, and the contract clauses below, are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

To procure goods and services using funds under a federal grant or contract, specific federal laws, regulations, and requirements may apply in addition to those under state law. The following provisions are required and apply when federal funds are expended by the County of Cameron for any contract resulting from this procurement process.

1. **Remedies.**

- a. **Applicability.** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at \$150,000, which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 U.S.C. 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, A.
- c. **Statement.** Pursuant to Federal Rule (A) above, when federal funds are expended by the County, the County reserves all rights and privileges under the applicable laws and regulations with respect to this procurement in the event of breach of contract by either party. Contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State of Texas, and local laws, rules, and regulations and shall obtain all applicable licenses and permits for the conduct of its business and the performance of the services, and any provision of equipment and material (“Applicable Law”). All transactions related to any of the Contract Documents shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, and trial of any action brought in connection with the bid or the Contract Documents shall be held exclusively in a state court in the County of Cameron, Texas.

2. **Termination for Cause and Convenience.**

- a. **Applicability.** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** All contracts in excess of \$10,000 shall address termination for cause and for convenience by the non-Federal entity including the manner by which it will be affected and the basis for settlement as follows. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, B.
- c. **Statement. Termination.** County may terminate this Agreement for any reason upon ten (10) days written notice to the other party. County may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice if Contractor breaches this Agreement. In the event of any termination, Contractor shall promptly deliver to the County any and all Work Materials prepared for the County prior to the effective date of such termination, all of which shall become County's sole property. After receipt of the Work Materials, County will pay Contractor for the services which the County determines were satisfactorily performed as of the effective date of the termination.

Excuses for Non-Performance. Either party shall be absolved from its obligations under this contract when and to the extent that performance is delayed or prevented (and in the County of Cameron's case when and to the extent that its need for the articles, materials or work to be supplied hereunder is reduced or eliminated) by reason of acts of God, fire explosion, war riots, strikes, labor disputes, or governmental laws, orders or regulations.

Default. If Contractor or Subcontractor shall breach any provision hereof or shall become insolvent, enter voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy or receivership proceedings or make an assignment to the benefit of creditors, County of Cameron shall have the right (without limiting any other rights or remedies which it may have hereunder or by operation of law) to terminate this contract by written notice to Contractor whereupon County shall be relieved of all further obligation hereunder except the obligation to pay the reasonable value of Contractor's prior performance (at not exceeding the contract rate), and Contractor shall be liable to County for all costs incurred by County in completing or procuring the completion of performance in excess of the contract price herein specified. The County's right to require strict performance of any obligation hereunder shall not be affected by any previous waiver, forbearance of course of dealing. Time is of the essence thereof.

3. **Equal Employment Opportunity.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Except as otherwise provided under 41 C.F.R. Part 60, all contracts that meet the definition of "federally assisted construction contract" in 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 must include the equal opportunity clause provided under 41 C.F.R. § 60- 1.4(b), in accordance with Executive Order 11246, *Equal Employment Opportunity* (30 Fed. Reg. 12319, 12935, 3 C.F.R. Part, 1964-1965 Comp., p. 339), as amended by Executive Order 11375, *Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity*, and implementing regulations at 41 C.F.R. Part 60 (Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, C.
- c. **Key Definitions:**
 - (1) *Federally Assisted Construction Contract.* The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines a "federally assisted construction contract" as any agreement or modification thereof between any applicant and a person for construction work which is paid for in whole or in part with funds obtained from the Government or borrowed on the credit of the Government pursuant to any Federal program involving a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or undertaken pursuant to any Federal program involving such grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or any application or modification thereof approved by the Government for a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee under which the applicant itself participates in the construction work.

(2) *Construction Work*. The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines “construction work” as the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of buildings, highways, or other changes or improvements to real property, including facilities providing utility services. The term also includes the supervision, inspection, and other onsite functions incidental to the actual construction

d. Statement: Contractor will comply with the Nondiscrimination Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and all Federal regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs. The regulation at 41 C.F.R. Part 60-1.4(b) requires the insertion of the following contract clause:

“During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

- (1) The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
- (2) The contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive considerations for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- (3) The contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the contractor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- (4) The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- (5) The contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.
- (6) In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions as may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
- (7) The contractor will include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (1) and the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, That in the event a contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such

direction by the administering agency the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.”

4. **Davis Bacon Act and Copeland Anti-Kickback Act.**

- a. **Applicability of Davis-Bacon Act.** The Davis-Bacon Act only applies to the emergency Management Preparedness Grant Program, Homeland Security Grant Program, Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program, Port Security Grant Program, and Transit Security Grant Program. **It does not apply to other Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs, including the Public Assistance Program.**
- b. **Standard.** All prime construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by non-Federal entities must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141-3144 and 3146-3148) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5 (Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction).

In accordance with the statute, contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, contractors must be required to pay wages not less than once a week.

The non-Federal entity must place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation. The decision to award a contract or subcontract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding agency.

In contracts subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, the contracts must also include a provision for compliance with the Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act (40 U.S.C. § 3145), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 3 (Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States). The Copeland Anti-Kickback Act provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to FEMA or applicable Federal entity. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ D.

- c. **Statement.** The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) does provide the required contract clause that applies to compliance with both the Davis-Bacon and Copeland Acts. **However, as discussed in the previous subsection, the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply to Public Assistance recipients and subrecipients.** In situations where the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply, neither does the Copeland “Anti-Kickback Act.” However, for purposes of grant programs where both clauses do apply, FEMA or applicable Federal entity requires the following contract clause:

“Compliance with the Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act.

- (1) *Contractor.* The contractor shall comply with 18 U.S.C. § 874, 40 U.S.C. § 3145, and the requirements of 29 C.F.R. pt. 3 as may be applicable, which are incorporated by reference into this contract.
- (2) *Subcontracts.* The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clause above and such other clauses as Federal requirements may by appropriate instructions require, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all of these contract clauses.
- (3) *Breach.* A breach of the contract clauses above may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and subcontractor as provided in 29 C.F.R. § 5.12.”

5. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. Where applicable (see 40 U.S.C. § 3701), all contracts awarded by the non-Federal entity in excess of \$100,000 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with 40 U.S.C. §§ 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5.

Under 40 U.S.C. § 3702, each contractor must be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and a half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the work week.

The requirements of 40 U.S.C. § 3704 are applicable to construction work and provide that no laborer or mechanic must be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, E.

The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(b) provides the required contract clause concerning compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act:

c. Statement.

“Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

- (1) *Overtime requirements.* No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.
- (2) *Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages.* In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section, in the sum of \$10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section.
- (3) *Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.* The County of Cameron shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (2) of this section.
- (4) *Subcontracts.* The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (1) through (4) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor

shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section.”

6. Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement.

- a. Applicability: Stafford Act Disaster Grants. This requirement **does not apply to the Public Assistance**, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Grant Program, Disaster Case Management Grant Program, and Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households – Other Needs Assistance Grant Program, as FEMA or Federal awards under these programs do not meet the definition of “funding agreement.”
- b. Standard. If the FEMA or Federal award meets the definition of “funding agreement” under 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) and the non-Federal entity wishes to enter into a contract with a small business firm or nonprofit organization regarding the substitution of parties, assignment or performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under that “funding agreement,” the non-Federal entity must comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. Part 401 (Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements), and any implementing regulations issued by FEMA or applicable awarding agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, F.
- c. Key Definition: The regulation at 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) currently defines “funding agreement” as any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into between any Federal agency, other than the County of Cameron, and any contractor for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work funded in whole or in part by the Federal government. This term also includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or subcontract of any type entered into for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under a funding agreement as defined in the first sentence of this paragraph.

7. Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

- a. Applicability and Standard: Contracts of amounts in excess of \$150,000 must contain a provision that requires the contractor to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, G.
- b. Statement: Included in contracts as provided in section “7a” above.
 - (1) The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
 - (2) The contractor agrees to report each violation to the Federal awarding agency (e.g. Federal Emergency Management Agency-FEMA) and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. Contractor understands and agrees that each violation reported to the County of Cameron will, in turn, be reported as required to assure notification to the Federal awarding agency and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
 - (3) The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by the applicable Federal awarding agency (e.g. FEMA).

8. Debarment and Suspension.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.

- b. Standard. Non-Federal entities and contractors are subject to the debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, *Debarment and Suspension* (1986) and Executive Order 12689, *Debarment and Suspension* (1989) at 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and the Department of Homeland Security's regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 3000 (Non-procurement Debarment and Suspension).

These regulations restrict awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, H; and Chapter IV, 6.d and Appendix C, 2. A contract award must not be made to parties listed in the SAM Exclusions. SAM Exclusions is the list maintained by the General.

Services Administration that contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549. SAM exclusions can be accessed at www.sam.gov See 2 C.F.R. § 180.530; Chapter IV, 6.d and Appendix C, 2.

In general, an "excluded" party cannot receive a Federal grant award or a contract within the meaning of a "covered transaction," to include subawards and subcontracts. This includes parties that receive Federal funding indirectly, such as contractors to recipients and subrecipients. The key to the exclusion is whether there is a "covered transaction," which is any non-procurement transaction (unless excepted) at either a "primary" or "secondary" tier. Although "covered transactions" do not include contracts awarded by the Federal Government for purposes of the non-procurement common rule and DHS's implementing regulations, it does include some contracts awarded by recipients and subrecipient.

Specifically, a covered transaction includes the following contracts for goods or services:

- (1) The contract is awarded by a recipient or subrecipient in the amount of at least \$25,000.
- (2) The contract requires the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity, regardless of amount.
- (3) The contract is for Federally-required audit services.
- (4) A subcontract is also a covered transaction if it is awarded by the contractor of a recipient or subrecipient and requires either the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity or is in excess of \$25,000.

- c. Statement. The following provides a debarment and suspension clause. It incorporates a method of verifying that contractors are not excluded or disqualified:

For maximum protection, provide a print or electronic document for every prime and subcontractor, from www.sam.gov in order to ensure that they are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities.

This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000. As such the contractor is required to verify that none of the contractor, its principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. §180.995), or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

The contractor must comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by (insert name of subrecipient). If it is later determined that the contractor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to (name of state City serving as recipient and name of subrecipient), the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

The bidder or proposer agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The bidder or proposer further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.”

9. **Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment.**

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. Contractors that apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more must file the required certification. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, I; 44 C.F.R. Part 18; Chapter IV, 6.c; Appendix C, 4. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any City, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the non-Federal award. See Chapter IV, 6.c and Appendix C, 4.
- c. Statement. The following statement in bold provides a Byrd Anti-Lobbying contract clause:

(IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE FILL IN BLANKS AND SIGN)

“Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended)

Contractors who apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more shall file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient.”

APPENDIX A, 44 C.F.R. PART 18 – CERTIFICATION

REGARDING LOBBYING Certification for Contracts, Grants,

Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

(To be submitted with each bid or offer exceeding \$100,000)

**The undersigned Contractor, _____
certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge, that:**

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form- LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” in accordance with its instructions.

3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31, U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended by the Lobbying

Disclosure Act of 1995). Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

The Contractor, _____, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the Contractor understands and agrees that the

provisions of 31 U.S.C. § 3801 *et seq.*, apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.

Signature of Contractor's Authorized Official

Name and Title of Contractor's Authorized Official

Date

10. **Procurement of Recovered Materials.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** 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, Pub. L. No. 89-272 (1965) (codified as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act at 42 U.S.C. § 6962). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ J; 2 C.F.R. § 200.323; *PDAT Supplement*, Chapter V, 7.

The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the EPA at 40 C.F.R. 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 by 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.

- c. **Statement.** The following provides the clause that a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors can include in contracts meeting the above contract thresholds:

- (1) In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA- designated items unless the product cannot be acquired—
 - (i) Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
 - (ii) Meeting contract performance requirements; or
 - (iii) At a reasonable price.
- (2) Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designate items, is available at EPA's Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.
- (3) The Contractor also agrees to comply with all other applicable requirements of Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act.”

11. **Prohibition on Contracting for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services – 2 CFR § 200.216 (FEMA Interim Policy #405-143-1 effective August 13, 2020).**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs and/or as provided below, and is effective August 13, 2020.
- b. **Standard.** A non-Federal entity is prohibited against using federal funds to purchase telecommunications and video surveillance equipment and services (such as but not limited to mobile phones, land lines, internet, video surveillance, and cloud servers) from certain companies/entities in covered foreign countries for national security reasons. This regulation is being incorporated into federal grants and contracts received by the County through 2 CFR 200.216 and/or Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) clause 52.204-25; as well as guidance provided through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Policy #405-143-1. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ K

Currently, applicable federal provisions provide that Covered Foreign country means the People's Republic of China and covered telecommunications equipment or services means –

- i. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation, (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- ii. For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications

Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);

- iii. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- iv. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

The definition of “Affiliate” can be found in FAR 2.101. Listing of subsidiaries and affiliates can be found in Supplement Number 4 to 15 CFR Part 744.

- c. Statement. Federal awards recipients and subrecipients, as well as their contractors and subcontractors, include the following required contract clause in applicable new, extended, or renewed contracts and subcontracts as per the provisions discussed above.

PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING FOR COVERED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES

(a) Definitions. As used in this clause, the terms backhaul; covered foreign country; covered telecommunications equipment or services; interconnection arrangements; roaming; substantial or essential component; and telecommunications equipment or services have the meaning as defined in FEMA Policy, #405-143-1 Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services As used in this clause

(b) Prohibitions.

(1) Section 889(b) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-232, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.216 prohibit the head of an executive agency on or after Aug.13, 2020, from obligating or expending grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan guarantee funds on certain telecommunications products or from certain entities for national security reasons.

(2) Unless an exception in paragraph (c) of this clause applies, the contractor and its subcontractors may not use grant, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan guarantee funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to:

(i) Procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;

(ii) Enter into, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;

(iii) Enter into, extend, or renew contracts with entities that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system; or

(iv) Provide, as part of its performance of this contract, subcontract, or other contractual instrument, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

(c) Exceptions.

(1) This clause does not prohibit contractors from providing—

- a. A service that connects to the facilities of a third-party, such as backhaul, roaming, or interconnection arrangements; or
- b. Telecommunications equipment that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handles.

(2) By necessary implication and regulation, the prohibitions also do not apply to:

- a. Covered telecommunications equipment or services that:
 - i. Are not used as a substantial or essential component of any system; and
 - ii. Are not used as critical technology of any system.

b. Other telecommunications equipment or services that are not considered covered telecommunications equipment or services.

(d) Reporting requirement.

(1) In the event the contractor identifies covered telecommunications equipment or services used as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system, during contract performance, or the contractor is notified of such by a subcontractor at any tier or by any other source, the contractor shall report the information in paragraph (d)(2) of this clause to the recipient or subrecipient, unless elsewhere in this contract are established procedures for reporting the information.

(2) The Contractor shall report the following information pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this clause:

(i) Within one business day from the date of such identification or notification:

The contract number; the order number(s), if applicable; supplier name; supplier unique entity identifier (if known); supplier Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) code (if known); brand; model number (original equipment manufacturer number, manufacturer part number, or wholesaler number); item description; and any readily available information about mitigation actions undertaken or recommended.

(ii) Within 10 business days of submitting the information in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this clause: Any further available information about mitigation actions undertaken or recommended. In addition, the contractor shall describe the efforts it undertook to prevent use or submission of covered telecommunications equipment or services, and any additional efforts that will be incorporated to prevent future use or submission of covered telecommunications equipment or services.

(e) Subcontracts. The Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (e), in all subcontracts and other contractual instruments.

12. Domestic Preferences for Procurements

- a. Applicability: This requirement of this section must be included in all subawards including all contracts and purchase orders for work or products under Federal award applies to all contracts and purchase orders for work or products using federal funds.
- b. Standard. As appropriate, and to the extent consistent with law, Non-Federal Entities 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. This includes, but is not limited to, iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200.322 and 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, L
- c. Statement. The following provides the required Domestic Preferences for Procurements contracts clause that is incorporated herein by reference.

“Domestic Preference for Procurements

As appropriate, and to the extent consistent with law, the contractor should, to the greatest extent practicable, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States. This includes, but is not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products.

For purposes of this clause:

- *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.
- *Manufactured products* mean 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.”

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES FOR NON-FEDERAL ENTITY CONTRACTS UNDER FEDERAL AWARDS WITH THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Additional FEMA or applicable Federal Requirements. In addition to the requirements above, non-Federal entity contracts under Federal award subject to financial assistance from FEMA are required to contain the following additional contract clauses. The Uniform Guidance authorizes FEMA to require additional provisions for non-Federal entity contracts. FEMA, pursuant to this authority, requires or recommends the following:

These clauses are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

1. Changes.

- a. Standard. To be eligible for FEMA assistance under the non-Federal entity’s Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the cost of the change, modification, change order, or constructive change must be allowable, allocable, within the scope of its grant or cooperative agreement, and reasonable for the completion of project scope. FEMA or applicable Federal entity recommends, therefore, that a non-Federal entity include a changes clause in its contract that describes how, if at all, changes can be made by either party to alter the method, price, or schedule of the work without breaching the contract. The language of the clause may differ depending on the nature of the contract and the end-item procured.
- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

“The contractor shall secure written authorization before proceeding with any additional work, whether requested by the County or required to complete the contract. The cost for any changes to the contract price, whether requested by the County or the Contractor will be approved only after submitting the contractor’s true costs for the work and related equipment costs and site expenses.”

2. **Access to Records.**

- a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts a provision that all contractors and their successors, transferees, assignees, and subcontractors acknowledge and agree to comply with applicable provisions governing Department and FEMA or applicable Federal entity access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v 3.0, XXVI (2013).
- b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

“Access to Records. The following access to records requirements applies to this contract:

- (1) The contractor agrees to provide the City of Concord, the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.
- (2) The Contractor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.
- (3) The contractor agrees to provide the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator or his authorized representatives access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the contract.”

3. **DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags.**

- a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place in their contracts a provision that a contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre-approval. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v3.0, XXV (2013).
- b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags:

“The contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre- approval.”

4. **Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations, and Executive Orders.**

- a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts an acknowledgement that FEMA or applicable Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract along with the requirement that the contractor will comply with all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, and FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.
- b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations and Executive Orders:

“This is an acknowledgement that Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract only. The contractor will comply will all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.”

5. **No Obligation by Federal Government.**

- a. **Standard.** The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that states that the Federal Government is not a party to the contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.

- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding no obligation by the Federal Government:

“The Federal Government is not a party to this contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.”

6. Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements or Related Acts.

- a. Standard. The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that the contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to its actions pertaining to the contract.
- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding Fraud and False or Fraudulent Related Acts:

“The contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to the contractor’s actions pertaining to this contract.”

7. FEMA Contract requirement regarding Prohibition on Contracting for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services – 2 CFR § 200.216 (FEMA Interim Policy #405-143-1 effective August 13, 2020).

FEMA recipients and subrecipients and their contractors and subcontractors are required per 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II K to include a contract provision in all FEMA-funded contracts and subcontracts, including any purchase orders. To satisfy this requirement, the contract provision found in Number 11 above is incorporated by reference by the County of Cameron in all new, extended, or renewed contracts and subcontracts. Applicable County contractors and subcontractors shall also comply with the applicable law and requirements. (See Number 11 above).

8. FEMA Contract requirement regarding Domestic Preferences for Procurements

For purchases in support of FEMA declarations and awards issued on or after November 12, 2020, all FEMA recipients and subrecipients are required per 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II ¶ L to include in all contracts and purchase orders for work or products the contract provision included in number 12 above encouraging domestic preference for procurements.

Contractor agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, as applicable. It is further acknowledged that the Contractor read and understands all provisions, laws, acts, regulations, etc. as specifically noted above and certifies compliance with the same.

Vendor’s Name/Company Name:

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative:

Signature of Authorized Representative:

Date: _____

Appendix A

FHWA 1273

I. General

II. Nondiscrimination III. No segregated Facilities
FHWA-1273 -- Revised May 1, 2012

REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS FEDERAL-AID CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

A breach of any of the stipulations contained in these Required Contract Provisions may be sufficient grounds for withholding of progress payments, withholding of final

- IV. Davis-Bacon and Related Act Provisions
- V. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act Provisions
- VI. Subletting or Assigning the Contract
- VII. Safety: Accident Prevention
- VIII. False Statements Concerning Highway Projects IX. Implementation of Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- X. Compliance with Governmentwide Suspension and Debarment Requirements
- XI. Certification Regarding Use of Contract Funds for Lobbying

ATTACHMENTS

A. Employment and Materials Preference for Appalachian Development Highway System or Appalachian Local Access Road Contracts (included in Appalachian contracts only)

I. GENERAL

1. Form FHWA-1273 must be physically incorporated in each construction contract funded under Title 23 (excluding emergency contracts solely intended for debris removal). The contractor (or subcontractor) must insert this form in each subcontract and further require its inclusion in all lower tier subcontracts (excluding purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services).

The applicable requirements of Form FHWA-1273 are incorporated by reference for work done under any purchase order, rental agreement or agreement for other services. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or service provider.

Form FHWA-1273 must be included in all Federal-aid design build contracts, in all subcontracts and in lower tier subcontracts (excluding subcontracts for design services, purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services). The design-builder shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or service provider.

Contracting agencies may reference Form FHWA-1273 in bid proposal or request for proposal documents, however, the Form FHWA-1273 must be physically incorporated (not referenced) in all contracts, subcontracts and lower-tier subcontracts (excluding purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services related to a construction contract).

2. Subject to the applicability criteria noted in the following sections, these contract provisions shall apply to all work performed on the contract by the contractor's own organization and with the assistance of workers under the contractor's immediate superintendence and to all work performed on the contract by piecework, station work, or by subcontract.

payment, termination of the contract, suspension / debarment or any other action determined to be appropriate by the contracting agency and FHWA.

4. Selection of Labor: During the performance of this contract, the contractor shall not use convict labor for any purpose within the limits of a construction project on a Federal-aid highway unless it is labor performed by convicts who are on parole, supervised release, or probation. The term Federal-aid highway does not include roadways functionally classified as local roads or rural minor collectors.

II. NONDISCRIMINATION

The provisions of this section related to 23 CFR Part 230 are applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related construction subcontracts of \$10,000 or more. The provisions of 23 CFR Part 230 are not applicable to material supply, engineering, or architectural service contracts.

In addition, the contractor and all subcontractors must comply with the following policies: Executive Order 11246, 41 CFR 60, 29 CFR 1625-1627, Title 23 USC Section 140, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC 794), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and related regulations including 49 CFR Parts 21, 26 and 27; and 23 CFR Parts 200, 230, and 633.

The contractor and all subcontractors must comply with: the requirements of the Equal Opportunity Clause in 41 CFR 60- 1.4(b) and, for all construction contracts exceeding \$10,000, the Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications in 41 CFR 60-4.3.

Note: The U.S. Department of Labor has exclusive authority to determine compliance with Executive Order 11246 and the policies of the Secretary of Labor including 41 CFR 60, and 29 CFR 1625-1627. The contracting agency and the FHWA have the authority and the responsibility to ensure compliance with Title 23 USC Section 140, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC 794), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and related regulations including 49 CFR Parts 21, 26 and 27; and 23 CFR Parts 200, 230, and 633.

The following provision is adopted from 23 CFR 230, Appendix A, with appropriate revisions to conform to the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) and FHWA requirements.

- 1. Equal Employment Opportunity:** Equal employment opportunity (EEO) requirements not to discriminate and to take affirmative action to assure equal opportunity as set forth under laws, executive orders, rules, regulations (28 CFR 35, 29 CFR 1630, 29 CFR 1625-1627, 41 CFR 60 and 49 CFR 27) and orders of the Secretary of Labor as modified by the provisions prescribed herein, and imposed pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 140 shall constitute the EEO and specific affirmative action standards for the contractor's project activities under this contract. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) set forth under 28 CFR 35 and 29 CFR 1630 are incorporated by reference in this contract. In the execution of this contract, the contractor agrees to comply with the following minimum specific requirement activities of EEO:
 - a. The contractor will work with the contracting agency and the Federal Government to ensure that it has made every good faith effort to provide equal opportunity with respect to all of its terms and conditions of employment and in their review of activities under the contract.
 - b. The contractor will accept as its operating policy the following statement:

"It is the policy of this Company to assure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, religion, sex, color, national origin, age or disability. Such action shall include: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and/or on-the job training."
- 2. EEO Officer:** The contractor will designate and make known to the contracting officers an EEO Officer who will have the responsibility for and must be capable of effectively administering and promoting an active EEO program and who must be assigned adequate authority and responsibility to do so.
- 3. Dissemination of Policy:** All members of the contractor's staff who are authorized to hire, supervise, promote, and discharge employees, or who recommend such action, or who are substantially involved in such action, will be made fully cognizant of, and will implement, the contractor's EEO policy and contractual responsibilities to provide EEO in each grade and classification of employment. To ensure that the above agreement will be met, the following actions will be taken as a minimum:
 - a. Periodic meetings of supervisory and personnel office employees will be conducted before the start of work and then not less often than once every six months, at which time the contractor's EEO policy and its implementation will be reviewed and explained. The meetings will be conducted by the EEO Officer.
 - b. All new supervisory or personnel office employees will be given a thorough indoctrination by the EEO Officer, covering all major aspects of the contractor's EEO obligations within thirty days following their reporting for duty with the contractor.
 - c. All personnel who are engaged in direct recruitment for the project will be instructed by the EEO Officer in the contractor's procedures for locating and hiring minorities and women.
 - d. Notices and posters setting forth the contractor's EEO policy will be placed in areas readily accessible to employees, applicants for employment and potential employees.
 - e. The contractor's EEO policy and the procedures to implement such policy will be brought to the attention of employees by means of meetings, employee handbooks, or other appropriate means.
- 4. Recruitment:** When advertising for employees, the contractor will include in all advertisements for employees the notation: "An Equal Opportunity Employer." All such advertisements will be placed in publications having a large circulation among minorities and women in the area from which the project work force would normally be derived.
 - a. The contractor will, unless precluded by a valid bargaining agreement, conduct systematic and direct recruitment through public and private employee referral sources likely to yield qualified minorities and women. To meet this requirement, the contractor will identify sources of potential minority group employees, and establish with such identified sources procedures whereby minority and women applicants may be referred to the contractor for employment consideration.
 - b. In the event the contractor has a valid bargaining agreement providing for exclusive hiring hall referrals, the contractor is expected to observe the provisions of that agreement to the extent that the system meets the contractor's compliance with EEO contract provisions. Where implementation of such an agreement has the effect of discriminating against minorities or women, or obligates the contractor to do the same, such implementation violates Federal nondiscrimination provisions.
 - c. The contractor will encourage its present employees to refer minorities and women as applicants for employment. Information and procedures with regard to referring such applicants will be discussed with employees.
- 5. Personnel Actions:** Wages, working conditions, and employee benefits shall be established and administered, and personnel actions of every type, including hiring, upgrading, promotion, transfer, demotion, layoff, and termination, shall be taken without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability. The following procedures shall be followed:
 - a. The contractor will conduct periodic inspections of project sites to insure that working conditions and employee facilities do not indicate discriminatory treatment of project site personnel.

- b. The contractor will periodically evaluate the spread of wages paid within each classification to determine any evidence of discriminatory wage practices.
- c. The contractor will periodically review selected personnel actions in depth to determine whether there is evidence of discrimination. Where evidence is found, the contractor will promptly take corrective action. If the review indicates that the discrimination may extend beyond the actions reviewed, such corrective action shall include all affected persons.
- d. The contractor will promptly investigate all complaints of alleged discrimination made to the contractor in connection with its obligations under this contract, will attempt to resolve such complaints, and will take appropriate corrective action within a reasonable time. If the investigation indicates that the discrimination may affect persons other than the complainant, such corrective action shall include such other persons. Upon completion of each investigation, the contractor will inform every complainant of all of their avenues of appeal.

6. Training and Promotion:

- a. The contractor will assist in locating, qualifying, and increasing the skills of minorities and women who are applicants for employment or current employees. Such efforts should be aimed at developing full journey level status employees in the type of trade or job classification involved.
- b. Consistent with the contractor's work force requirements and as permissible under Federal and State regulations, the contractor shall make full use of training programs, i.e., apprenticeship, and on-the-job training programs for the geographical area of contract performance. In the event a special provision for training is provided under this contract, this subparagraph will be superseded as indicated in the special provision. The contracting agency may reserve training positions for persons who receive welfare assistance in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 140(a).
- c. The contractor will advise employees and applicants for employment of available training programs and entrance requirements for each.
- d. The contractor will periodically review the training and promotion potential of employees who are minorities and women and will encourage eligible employees to apply for such training and promotion.

7. Unions:

If the contractor relies in whole or in part upon unions as a source of employees, the contractor will use good faith efforts to obtain the cooperation of such unions to increase opportunities for minorities and women. Actions by the contractor, either directly or through a contractor's association acting as agent, will include the procedures set forth below:

- a. The contractor will use good faith efforts to develop, in cooperation with the unions, joint training programs aimed toward qualifying more minorities and women for membership in the unions and increasing the skills of minorities and women so that they may qualify for higher paying employment.
- b. The contractor will use good faith efforts to incorporate an EEO clause into each union agreement to the end that such union will be contractually bound to refer applicants without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability.
- c. The contractor is to obtain information as to the referral practices and policies of the labor union except that to the extent such information is within the exclusive possession of the labor union and such labor union refuses to furnish such information to the contractor, the contractor shall so certify to the contracting agency and shall set forth what efforts have been made to obtain such information.
- d. In the event the union is unable to provide the contractor with a reasonable flow of referrals within the time limit set forth in the collective bargaining agreement, the contractor will, through independent recruitment efforts, fill the employment vacancies without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability; making full efforts to obtain qualified and/or qualifiable minorities and women. The failure of a union to provide sufficient referrals (even though it is obligated to provide exclusive referrals under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement) does not relieve the contractor from the requirements of this paragraph. In the event the union referral practice prevents the contractor from meeting the obligations pursuant to Executive Order 11246, as amended, and these special provisions, such contractor shall immediately notify the contracting agency.

8. Reasonable Accommodation for Applicants / Employees with Disabilities: The contractor must be familiar with the requirements for and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all rules and regulations established there under. Employers must provide reasonable accommodation in all employment activities unless to do so would cause an undue hardship.

9. Selection of Subcontractors, Procurement of Materials and Leasing of Equipment: The contractor shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure nondiscrimination in the administration of this contract.

- a. The contractor shall notify all potential subcontractors and suppliers and lessors of their EEO obligations under this contract.
- b. The contractor will use good faith efforts to ensure subcontractor compliance with their EEO obligations.

10. Assurance Required by 49 CFR 26.13(b):

- a. The requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 and the State DOT's U.S. DOT-approved DBE program are incorporated by reference.
- b. The contractor or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract.

The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the contracting agency deems appropriate.

11. Records and Reports: The contractor shall keep such records as necessary to document compliance with the EEO requirements. Such records shall be retained for a period of three years following the date of the final payment to the contractor for all contract work and shall be available at reasonable times and places for inspection by authorized representatives of the contracting agency and the FHWA.

a. The records kept by the contractor shall document the following:

- (1) The number and work hours of minority and non-minority group members and women employed in each work classification on the project;
- (2) The progress and efforts being made in cooperation with unions, when applicable, to increase employment opportunities for minorities and women; and
- (3) The progress and efforts being made in locating, hiring, training, qualifying, and upgrading minorities and women;

b. The contractors and subcontractors will submit an annual report to the contracting agency each July for the duration of the project, indicating the number of minority, women, and non-minority group employees currently engaged in each work classification required by the contract work. This information is to be reported on [Form FHWA-1391](#). The staffing data should represent the project work force on board in all or any part of the last payroll period preceding the end of July. If on-the-job training is being required by special provision, the contractor will be required to collect and report training data. The employment data should reflect the work force on board during all or any part of the last payroll period preceding the end of July.

III. NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related construction subcontracts of \$10,000 or more.

The contractor must ensure that facilities provided for employees are provided in such a manner that segregation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin cannot result. The contractor may neither require such segregated use by written or oral policies nor tolerate such use by employee custom. The contractor's obligation extends further to ensure that its employees are not assigned to perform their services at any location, under the contractor's control, where the facilities are segregated. The term "facilities" includes waiting rooms, work areas, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, restrooms, washrooms, locker rooms, and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation, and housing provided for employees. The contractor shall provide separate or single-user restrooms and necessary dressing or sleeping areas to assure privacy between sexes.

IV. DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACT PROVISIONS

This section is applicable to all Federal-aid construction projects exceeding \$2,000 and to all related subcontracts and lower-tier subcontracts (regardless of subcontract size). The requirements apply to all projects located within the right-of way of a roadway that is functionally classified as Federal-aid highway. This excludes roadways functionally classified as local roads or rural minor collectors, which are exempt. Contracting agencies may elect to apply these requirements to other projects.

The following provisions are from the U.S. Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR 5.5 "Contract provisions and related matters" with minor revisions to conform to the FHWA 1273 format and FHWA program requirements.

1. Minimum wages

- a. All laborers and mechanics employed or working upon the site of the work, will be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a week, and without subsequent deduction or rebate on any account (except such payroll deductions as are permitted by regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor under the Copeland Act (29 CFR part 3)), the full amount of wages and bona fide fringe benefits (or cash equivalents thereof) due at time of payment computed at rates not less than those contained in the wage determination of the Secretary of Labor which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, regardless of any contractual relationship which may be alleged to exist between the contractor and such laborers and mechanics.

Contributions made or costs reasonably anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits under section 1(b)(2) of the Davis-Bacon Act on behalf of laborers or mechanics are considered wages paid to such laborers or mechanics, subject to the provisions of paragraph 1.d. of this section; also, regular contributions made or costs incurred for more than a weekly period (but not less often than quarterly) under plans, funds, or programs which cover the particular weekly period, are deemed to be constructively made or incurred during such weekly period. Such laborers and mechanics shall be paid the appropriate wage rate and fringe benefits on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed, without regard to skill, except as provided in 29 CFR 5.5(a)(4). Laborers or mechanics performing work in more than one classification may be compensated at the rate specified for each classification for the time actually worked therein: Provided, That the employer's payroll records accurately set forth the time spent in each classification in which work is performed. The wage determination (including any additional classification and wage rates conformed under paragraph 1.b. of this section) and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) shall be posted at all times by the contractor and its subcontractors at the site of the work in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by the workers.

- b. (1) The contracting officer shall require that any class of laborers or mechanics, including helpers, which is not listed in the wage determination and which is to be employed under the contract shall be classified in conformance with the wage determination. The contracting officer shall approve an additional classification and wage rate and fringe benefits therefore only when the following criteria have been met:
- (i) The work to be performed by the classification requested is not performed by a classification in the wage determination; and
 - (ii) The classification is utilized in the area by the construction industry; and

(iii) The proposed wage rate, including any bona fide fringe benefits, bears a reasonable relationship to the wage rates contained in the wage determination.

(2) If the contractor and the laborers and mechanics to be employed in the classification (if known), or their representatives, and the contracting officer agree on the classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits where appropriate), a report of the action taken shall be sent by the contracting officer to the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will approve, modify, or disapprove every additional classification action within 30 days of receipt and so advise the contracting officer or will notify the contracting officer within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(3) In the event the contractor, the laborers or mechanics to be employed in the classification or their representatives, and the contracting officer do not agree on the proposed classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits, where appropriate), the contracting officer shall refer the questions, including the views of all interested parties and the recommendation of the contracting officer, to the Wage and Hour Administrator for determination. The Wage and Hour Administrator, or an authorized representative, will issue a determination within 30 days of receipt and so advise the contracting officer or

Super Circular – Procurement Standards 2 CFR Parts 200.317 – 200.327

Procurement Standards <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200#subject-group-ECFR45ddd4419ad436d>

§ 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.

PART 200 - UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200>

Code of Federal Regulations

Subpart D – Post Federal Award Requirements

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-D>

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