

RFP 202301: Questions and Answers (2/14/23)

Submitted via info@southbaycities.org

Question: Page 5, Task 2 includes outreach and engagement with no more than 10 workshops. Does SBCCOG expect the consultant to lead and deliver all work under Task 2 or will SBCCOG lead some or all of this task?

Answer: Task 2 is to assess the broadband needs of small and microbusiness wherever they are located in the South Bay. The SBCCOG is looking for the best method of accomplishing that. If “workshops” are included as one of the techniques, there should be no more than 10 of them. The SBCCOG will not lead but sign-off and observe the workshops.

Question: Page 5, Task 3 asks for technical assistance for DACs and a representative sampling within the identified communities supported by the consultant. For the purposes of cost-estimating, can SBCCOG provide additional detail on the level of effort envisioned for this task? Does SBCCOG expect to rely on consultant support for only material preparation but not in-person support at meetings or should we assume both production and in-person staffing to support this task?

Answer: The SBCCOG expects consultant support to produce materials and PowerPoint slides for SBCCOG stakeholder meetings. Consultant is not tasked to participate in these meetings.

Question: Page 6, Task 5 states that a deliverable will include a memo on what legal and operational structures should be considered. Please confirm that the use of the term “legal” in this context does not mean that SBCCOG is looking for legal advice per se, but rather that they are looking for procurement strategies and possible contract terms advantageous to cities in the region.

Answer: The SBCCOG is not seeking “legal advice” and we confirm your description.

Question: Page 6, Task 6 states that the consultant will provide “conceptual design [that] will include a map illustrating all components of the outside plan network infrastructure, with alignments, sites, laterals, and connections.” What level of detail is expected with this conceptual design? Will it need to include design of service to individual properties? Overhead vs. in ground installation? Identify utility conflicts?

Answer: For the “Conceptual Design” the SBCCOG is looking for pre-construction documents as close to shovel ready as the budget will allow.

Question: Page 6, Task 6 asks for a list of “shovel-ready” projects that include: high level engineering design, permitting packages, field construction drawings, preconstruction prep, and as builds with budget estimates provided on a per foot basis...” The budget and timeline do not allow for the consultant to prepare these design packages for individual projects. Please confirm that SBCCOG does not expect the consultant to prepare design packages for these projects and please clarify where the consultant will access such design packages.

Answer: If this level of detail is not possible, given budget constraints, then proposers are directed to describe (with budget) what level of design engineering detail they can provide. Deliverables will be used by local agencies to compete for broadband construction funds therefore the more detail, the better.

Question: Should the SBCCOG require the consultant to prepare detailed plans, does SBCCOG expect stamped plans, specifications and estimates as part of the design package for individual projects?

Answer: The SBCCOG does not expect stamped plans, but, to the extent possible, they should be ready to go to the counter if/when a city is ready to move forward with construction.

Question: Will SBCCOG procure support for future projects to include the construction of broadband infrastructure developed through this project? If so, will the selected consultant be precluded from pursuing future implementation work?

Answer: The SBCCOG, along with our cities, expects to apply for construction funds. Consultants will not be precluded from future implementation work.

Question: Our firm has a number of national resources to support our broadband work that collaborate closely with our strong Southern California team. To be most responsive to SBCCOG, do you have a preference as to whether the proposed project manager should be located in California?

Answer: Having the project manager accessible is most important to the SBCCOG so that factors such as time changes and other distance related issues do not become a problem. Being located in California would be advantageous but is not required.

Question: Will SBCCOG entertain modifications to the standard terms and conditions in their professional services contract offered by proposers?

Answer: Any proposed modifications should be submitted with the proposal for review by the SBCCOG. The SBCCOG reserves the right to determine whether will accept or reject or further modify the proposed modifications.

Question: Is the California Public Utilities Commission Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant that is funding this project coming from any federal funding source?

Answer: Sources for the CPUC's funding of LATA grants can be found in the [CPUC's Guidelines](#). Funding is described as originating through the State: "On February 24, 2022, the Commission approved Decision (D.) 22-02- 0261 which established the LATA grant program and implemented current requirements and guidelines for the program" (pg. 5)

Question: Given the length of the project, is the expectation to have a dedicated team throughout or resources allocated as needed to complete tasks over the project period?

Answer: The SBCCOG expects the management team to be dedicated to this project. Specialists and analysts can be resourced to the project as required but there should be a consistent and committed group of people that are dedicated to this project throughout its duration.

Question: Does SBCCOG staff have an estimate on rough order of magnitude on what percentage of representative sampling is typically considered as statically significant while performing its Disadvantaged Communities (At Large) Needs Assessment?

Answer: The SBCCOG will rely on the expertise of the consultant.

Question: In conducting the Inventory of Public & Private Assets (publicly and privately owned assets including conduit, fiber, antennas, poles, towers, and other types of infrastructure) does the SBCCOG staff expect the consultant to procure data?

Answer: The SBCCOG staff along with the consultant will be responsible for identifying and creating an inventory of public and private broadband assets. The publicly and privately owned assets including conduit, fiber, antennas, poles, towers and other types of infrastructure will be identified by the selected consultant with assistance from the SBCCOG staff to facilitate outreach to cities .

Question: Have the goals and objectives of the 2017 SBCCOG Master Broadband Plan been achieved?

Answer: The SBCCOG's "Master Plan" goal to deliver better, faster, and more affordable internet services to the South Bay municipal (city) agencies and other public agencies that serve the South Bay has been achieved. The SBCCOG has not achieved all of the other goals of the "Master Plan" in terms of bringing competitive prices to small and micro-businesses of the South Bay nor to other stakeholder groups like community-based organizations and those lacking market power in terms of access and/or affordability to broadband services in the South Bay.

Submitted during online “Pre-Proposal” Meeting

Question: What is the source of funding, and what are your thoughts about funding as we move beyond this project.

Answer: The source of funding comes directly from the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission); funding for local agency technical assistance in support of broadband projects that will address the digital divide within those communities. The funds are directed to support planning and produce deliverables that cities and public agencies can use to build out the network (the South Bay Fiber Network) for the purposes of mitigating digital inequities. Future Funds will be used by local agencies for competitive grants at the federal and state levels for the proposed strategies and projects delivered through the SBCCOG’s Digital Equity project.

Question: Task #6, can you please explain in further detail about the: Conceptual Design with Technical Engineering details. It says that the COG will review and approve the conceptual design and then the selected consultants will then provide a list of projects that include high level engineering, permitting. What do you mean and what is a deliverable in this case? Is it just a list of shovel ready projects or do you need a detailed analysis of design permitting packages and the cost that could be associated with that?

Answer: Based on the market/needs assessments as well as broadband assets inventory a “gap analysis” will be completed. From this, the conceptual (network) design will be developed to address the identified “gaps”. The conceptual design will describe the most appropriate broadband network paths, including where SFBN network extensions should be built, as well as where last mile fiber or wireless service will be needed. Per the RFP, proposers are advised to respond to the requested work products described therein.

Regarding deliverables for the task of creating shovel ready projects, the RFP describes the products that the SBCCOG desires to procure from its consultant. If this level of detail is not possible, given budget constraints, then proposers are directed to describe (with budget) what level of design engineering detail they can provide. Deliverables will be used by local agencies to compete for broadband construction funds therefore more detail, the better.

Question: The Master plan was originally developed in 2017, have all the goals laid out in that plan been accomplished?

Answer: See Submitted Questions and Answers (above).

Question: Should any questions that were asked today, still be submitted in writing?

Answer: Yes. Questions should still be submitted in writing.