**COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL No. 902303

**for**

Conflict Defense Counsel Services

|  |
| --- |
| **For complete information regarding this project, see** **Request for Proposal (RFP) posted at** [**Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/) **[**[**https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/)**] or contact the County representative listed below.**  **Thank you for your interest!**  **Contact Person: Azizullah Ramesh**  **Phone Number: (510) 208-3905**  **Email Address:** [**azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org**](mailto:azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org)  **General Services Agency (GSA) – Procurement** |

**RESPONSE DUE**

by

**2:00 p.m.**

on

**June 13, 2023**

through

**Alameda County, GSA-Procurement**

[**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org/)

<https://ezsourcing.acgov.org/>

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL No. 902303

CONFLICT DEFENSE COUNSEL SERVICES

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EVENT** | **DATE/LOCATION** |
| **Request Issued** | **May 10, 2023** |
| **Networking/Bidders Conference** | **May 18, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. (PST)**  ***TO ATTEND ONLINE*:**  [Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWQ0ODgwNjQtZTdiOC00MjAxLWE1MmEtODMzYTY0MzMxOThm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2232fdff2c-f86e-4ba3-a47d-6a44a7f45a64%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22aaba5ec9-44ce-4b8b-926a-b87e72b0a387%22%7d" \t "_blank)  Meeting ID: 221 950 093 58  Passcode: RE8iTW  [Download Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/download-app) | [Join on the web](https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting)  **Or call in (audio only)**  [+1 415-915-3950,,723443026#](tel:+14159153950,,723443026# )  United States, San Francisco  [(888) 715-8170,,723443026#](tel:8887158170,,723443026# )  United States (Toll-free)  Phone Conference ID: 723 443 026#  [Find a local number](https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/c44e85b4-06d5-44f1-aa66-048146aad930?id=723443026) | [Reset PIN](https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/usp/pstnconferencing) |
| **Written Questions Due via Email:**  [**azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org**](mailto:azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org) | **May 19, 2023, by 5:00 p.m.** |
| **List of Attendees** | **May 22, 2023** |
| **Questions & Answers Issued** | **May 30, 2023** |
| **Addendum Issued** [only if necessary to amend RFP] | **May 30, 2023** |
| **Response Due and Submitted through** [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org/) | **June 13, 2023, by 2:00 p.m.** |
| **Evaluation Period** | **June 13, 2023– June 30, 2023** |
| **Vendor Interviews** | **Week of June 26, 2023** |
| **Notice of Intent to Award Issued** | **June 30, 2023** |
| **Board Consideration Award Date** | **August 8, 2023** |
| **Contract Start Date** | **September 1, 2023** |

***NOTE: All dates are tentative and subject to change.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Alameda County Vendor Outreach*** | |
| Wednesday, May 17, 2022  10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  ***TO ATTEND ONLINE:***  [**Vendor Outreach**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTcwODZiMDctYzdmNi00ZTgxLWJhOTUtMjAyZTRkMWQxMTg4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2232fdff2c-f86e-4ba3-a47d-6a44a7f45a64%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22338906a1-74a0-4066-b6d5-051f1847307a%22%7d)  Call-in: +1 415-915-3950  Conference ID: 504 517 635# | ***COME MEET ALAMEDA COUNTY’S***  ***PROCUREMENT TEAM!***  This public event is not specific to any RFP, where vendors can speak with GSA professionals, get to know them, and learn more about contracting opportunities with the County.  These are usually conducted on Wednesdays. Dates and locations can be confirmed by checking at  [**Upcoming Events**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/upcoming-contracting-events/)  [<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/upcoming-contracting-events/>] |

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL No. 902303

SPECIFICATIONS, TERMS & CONDITIONS

for

CONFLICT DEFENSE COUNSEL SERVICES

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# STATEMENT OF WORK

## INTENT

It is the intent of these specifications, terms, and conditions to describe conflict defense counsel services being requested by the County.

The County intends to award a three-year contract (with the option to renew for two years) to a pool of up to five Bidders selected as the most responsible Bidders whose response conforms to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and meets the County’s requirements.

## SCOPE

The current contractors for Master Contract No. 902071 – Legal Defense Representation services are not allowed to participate in this RFP.

The County of Alameda (“County”) administers its claims (tort/auto liability, civil rights, employment practices, medical malpractice) through a Third-Party Administrator (TPA). These claims are insured by the County by a combination of self-insurance and participation in a risk sharing pool of public agencies and programs through Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management (PRISM). Litigation is handled by outside legal defense firms and by attorneys within the County’s Office of the County Counsel (OCC) in coordination with the County’s Risk Management Unit (RMU) and the TPA.

In certain litigated cases, a material conflict may exist between one or more individually named County employee defendants and one or more other individually named County employee defendants and/or the County or a County department or agency.

In such cases (referred to as “conflict” or “conflict of interest” cases), the County may hire separate legal defense counsel(s) for the individually named County employee or employees(s). The County’s RMU would like to have a panel of such “conflict” defense counsel, available to defend the individually named County employee defendant(s) when a potential or actual conflict may exist.

## BIDDER QUALIFICATIONS

* + 1. BIDDER Minimum Qualifications

1. Bidder and/or all key personnel identified by Bidder shall have been and continue to be regularly and continuously engaged in practicing law in California for at least five years at the time of submission of the bid, which must be clearly stated or demonstrated in the bid response.
2. Bidder’s lawyers shall be licensed by the State Bar of California.
3. Bidder shall possess all permits, licenses, and professional credentials necessary to perform the conflict defense counsel services specified under this RFP. Unless noted otherwise in the RFP, including any Addendum, Bidder is not required to submit copies or verification of the permits, licenses and credentials; however, Bidder must provide such proof if requested by County.

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Contractors retained by the County pursuant to this RFP (herein: Retained Law Firm or RLF) must perform all necessary legal services to defend claims or actions to conclusion, including performing all necessary legal services related to prejudgment and post- judgment proceedings at the trial and appellate court level. Such matters will be referred to RLF by the County, and involve those matters arising from the actual or potential liability of one or more identified County employees under the following terms and conditions:

1. RLF must be familiar with and competent in the area of public liability law and qualified to provide all necessary legal services to defend assigned claims or actions against the County employee.
2. RLF must fulfill all responsibilities associated with the assignment and must adhere to the County’s policies, procedures, and legal defense guidelines.
3. RLF must report to the County any assigned cases which the RLF, in accordance with the State of California (State) Bar guidelines, determines to be a conflict of interest with the County employee or employees to be represented. RLF will not represent any County employee in any such case absent a written waiver from both the County and the County employee or employees to be represented.
4. RLF must not represent a client in the pursuit of a claim or action against the County or against any other public entity that is a member of PRISM without first obtaining, before undertaking that representation, a written waiver and consent from RMU and OCC while on the County’s defense panel. Any request for a conflict waiver must be made in writing to the RMU and OCC, and then the RMU and OCC must make a determination of any potential conflict. The request for a conflict waiver may be approved or denied at the sole discretion of RMU and OCC, and RLF agrees to be bound by that determination.
5. RLF must contact the County and the TPA representative to reject or accept the assignment, upon receipt of a referral and after reviewing the case file, and within three (3) days after assignment,
6. RLP’s assigned attorney must prepare and provide to the County and the TPA a written preliminary case management plan within forty-five (45) days after RLF accepts the matter for handling, unless otherwise directed by the County and the TPA
7. RLF must designate a partner or shareholder who will be available during regular business hours to meet with a county representative on cases or issues pertaining to any retainer arising as a result of the award of a contract through this RFP.
8. RLF must agree that all files and work product including motions, exposure identification, legal research, opinion letters, and other documents prepared in connection with any assigned claims or cases are the property of the County and may be copied and provided by the County to attorneys or other persons either employed or retained by the County and/or the County’s insurance carrier. This provision is not a waiver of the attorney/client privilege.
9. RLF must agree that only those attorneys who (1) meet or exceed the above BIDDER Minimum Requirements, and (2) are acceptable to the County must be responsible for handling the trial of assigned cases unless, ninety (90) days or more prior to commencement of the trial, RLF obtains a written waiver of this provision from RMU and OCC.
10. RLP must promptly assigned to a specific attorney when they receive a claim or action from the County, who must be responsible for handling the defense of the matter as provided in and consistent with these Requirements. RLF must promptly identify that handling attorney to the County following assignment.
11. RLP must promptly communicate to RMU and TPA the names of the attorneys or paralegals that perform legal or other services on an assigned matter. RLF agrees that attorneys who will replace previously assigned attorneys must have equivalent experience as those attorneys initially proposed or who had been handling the matter. Any changes in attorney or paralegal staff who perform services on any assigned matter must be approved by RMU and the TPA. RLF agrees that any time spent by RLF associated with training, education of newly assigned attorneys, paralegals, or other staff shall not be billed to or paid by County. If RLF assigns an attorney or paralegal with less than five years of prior experience to perform services, RLF agrees that the attorney or paralegal shall be regularly supervised by an attorney at RLF whose has been regularly and continuously engaged in practicing law for at least five years.
12. RLF must, at County’s sole discretion, continue to provide legal services as to any other claims or actions referred to RLF prior to the notice of termination and shall be compensated upon the same terms and conditions as herein set forth should the County choose to terminate any retainer/representation resulting from a contract awarded through this RFP, The County retains the right, at its sole discretion, to withdraw or transfer from RLF any claims or actions from further representation by RLF. In the event of such withdrawal or transfer, RLF must promptly return all files and work product related to matters withdrawn or transferred.
13. RLF must not undertake or direct others to undertake any action(s), without RMU and OCC concurrence, which could result in Court-imposed sanctions. The County will not pay sanctions unless the County caused the imposition of the sanctions.
14. RLF must disclose any legal malpractice claims made against any member of the RLF within the last ten years in its proposal. Thereafter, RLF must disclose any malpractice claims made against any member of RLF to RMU and OCC within 30 days of the date RLF becomes aware of such claims.
15. RLF must not schedule depositions without first giving due consideration to the value of sworn or other recorded testimony in lieu of a deposition. Every appropriate discovery procedure must be undertaken to accomplish a calculated purpose. The method of discovery utilized should be that which will obtain the information at the least cost and in the most efficient manner.
16. RLP must retain independent investigators and Expert Witnesses only after receiving written approval from RMU or TPA. Requests by RLF to retain an independent investigator or expert witness in any assigned matter shall identify RLF’s objectives in retaining the person, the person’s qualifications and fees, the anticipated benefits of retaining the person, and include a purposed budget and a determination of the point in time when the proposed retention of the investigator or expert may be most effective.
17. The County has the right to audit RFL’s books and records related to any matter assigned to RFL by the County. The Audit applies to all matters referred from, or handled for, or on behalf of the County.
18. The County reserves the rights to decline payment or to seek reimbursement of payment made for charges for services, expenses or other costs which do not comply with this RFC or other County procedures, requirements, or guidelines.

## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF RLF

1. All communication from RLF, following the initial case reports, shall narrowly address significant or substantial development(s) or significant or substantial new, different or additional information. In general, RLF shall observe the following guidelines for reporting:
2. Reports must be as concise as possible.
3. Timely and pertinent status reports will be submitted addressing only new and significant activity.
4. Contents of documents attached will not be reiterated in detail but instead only point out key information and explain its significance to the case.
5. It is preferred that RLF send all communications via e-mail.
6. Copies of discovery demands and motions to compel need not be forwarded unless requested by RMU, TPA or OCC.
7. Pleadings seeking relief from or against the client and responsive pleadings need not be forwarded unless requested by RMU, TPA or OCC.
8. Copies of any legal research memoranda shall be forwarded if requested by RMU, TPA or OCC.
9. Voluminous records need only be summarized as deemed necessary by RMU, TPA or OCC.
10. If a case goes to trial, the RLF is required to regularly update RMU, TPA and OCC with the progress of the trial.  If any award is rendered against the client, the RLF must immediately convey that information to RMU, TPA and OCC so that the award can be paid as expeditiously as possible or other appropriate action taken which may include, but not be limited to, an appeal of the verdict or judgment.
11. Copies of the operative Complaint, the filed Answer, judicial Orders on injunctions, dispositive motions (demurrer/motion for summary judgement) and appeals shall be provided to RMU, TPA and OCC within one business day whenever possible.
12. Monthly activity reports showing cases completed, cases in progress with their status, and charges billed.

## BIDDERS CONFERENCE(S)/VENDOR OUTREACH

* + 1. The Bidders Conference(s) held on the date(s) specified in the Calendar of Events will have online conference capabilities for remote participation. Bidders can opt to participate via a computer with a stable internet connection (the recommended Bandwidth is 512Kbps) at:

[Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWQ0ODgwNjQtZTdiOC00MjAxLWE1MmEtODMzYTY0MzMxOThm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2232fdff2c-f86e-4ba3-a47d-6a44a7f45a64%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22aaba5ec9-44ce-4b8b-926a-b87e72b0a387%22%7d" \t "_blank)

Meeting ID: 221 950 093 58   
Passcode: RE8iTW

[Download Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/download-app) | [Join on the web](https://www.microsoft.com/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting)

**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 415-915-3950,,723443026#](tel:+14159153950,,723443026# )

United States, San Francisco

[(888) 715-8170,,723443026#](tel:8887158170,,723443026# )

United States (Toll-free)

Phone Conference ID: 723 443 026#

[Find a local number](https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/c44e85b4-06d5-44f1-aa66-048146aad930?id=723443026) | [Reset PIN](https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/usp/pstnconferencing)

* + 1. Vendor Outreach is usually conducted on Wednesdays at [**Vendor Outreach Link**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZTcwODZiMDctYzdmNi00ZTgxLWJhOTUtMjAyZTRkMWQxMTg4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2232fdff2c-f86e-4ba3-a47d-6a44a7f45a64%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22338906a1-74a0-4066-b6d5-051f1847307a%22%7d) (Call-in: +1 415-915-3950; Conference ID: 504 517 635#). Dates and locations can be confirmed by checking at: [**Upcoming Events**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/upcoming-contracting-events/) [<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/upcoming-contracting-events/>].
    2. Information regarding the RFP will be presented during the conference(s). To get the best experience, the County recommends that Bidders who participate remotely use equipment with audio output such as speakers, headsets, or a telephone.
    3. Bidders Conference(s) will be held to:
       1. Provide an opportunity for Small Local Emerging Businesses (SLEBs) and large firms to network and develop subcontracting relationships to participate in the contract(s) that may result from this RFP.
       2. Provide an opportunity for Bidders to request clarification on this RFP and ask specific questions about the project, goods, and services.
       3. Provide the County with an opportunity to receive feedback related to this RFP.
    4. The Bidders Conference(s) Attendees List will be released in a separate document.
    5. Written questions submitted via email by the stated deadline will be addressed in a posted RFP Questions and Answers (Q&A) following the Bidders Conference(s). Should there be a need to amend or revise the RFP, an Addendum will be issued. Any verbal statements, including at any Bidders Conference(s) are not binding. Only the written documents will be binding.
    6. Questions regarding these specifications, terms, and conditions are to be submitted in writing via email by 5:00 p.m. on the date specified in the Calendar of Events to:

Azizullah Ramesh, Procurement & Contracts Specialist

Alameda County, GSA-Procurement

Email: [azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org](mailto:azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org)

* + 1. Attendance at the Bidders Conference(s) and Vendor Outreach are highly recommended but are not mandatory to further facilitate subcontracting relationships. Vendors who attend the Bidders Conference(s) will be added to the Vendor Bid List.

# COUNTY PROCEDURES, TERMS, AND CONDITIONS

## EVALUATION CRITERIA / SELECTION COMMITTEE

1. **Initial Evaluation (Completeness of Response and Debarment and Suspension).** All proposals will first be reviewed to determine if they pass the initial Evaluation Criteria (Section A), which are determined on a pass/fail basis.
2. **Evaluation by County Selection Committee.** All proposals that have passed the initial Evaluation Criteria will be evaluated by a County Selection Committee (CSC).  The CSC may be composed of County staff and other parties that may have expertise or experience related to the goods or services that are being procured. The CSC will score the proposals according to the Evaluation Criteria set forth in this RFP.  Other than the initial pass/fail Evaluation Criteria, the evaluation of the proposals will be within the sole judgment and discretion of the CSC.
3. **Unrealistic Bids.** Bidders should bear in mind that any proposal that is unrealistic in terms of the technical or schedule commitments or unrealistically high or low in cost may be deemed reflective of an inherent lack of technical knowledge or indicative of a failure to comprehend the complexity and risk of the County’s requirements as set forth in this RFP.
4. **Price Discrepancy.** In the case of a discrepancy between the unit price and an extension, the unit price will be used for evaluation purposes.
5. **Evaluation Criteria Descriptions.** The items listed in the Evaluation Criteria should be considered as minimum requirements. All information contained in a proposal and presented in vendor interviews (if there are interviews) will be considered during the evaluation process and included in scoring within the appropriate Evaluation Criteria.
6. **Evaluation Scores.**  Proposals will be evaluated and scored on the zero to five-point scale within each Evaluation Criteria below. Scores for all Evaluation Criteria (see the section below) will then be added, according to their assigned weight (below), to arrive at a weighted score for each proposal. A proposal with a higher-weighted total will be deemed of higher quality than a proposal with a lesser-weighted total.
7. **Shortlist Process:** The evaluation process may include a two-stage approach including a preliminary evaluation of the written proposal and preliminary scoring to develop a shortlist of Bidders that will continue to the final stage of optional vendor interview, and reference checks. The preliminary scoring will be based on the total points, excluding any points allocated to references, and optional vendor interview. The 10 Bidders receiving the highest preliminary scores and with at least 200 points may advance to the next evaluation phase. All other Bidders will be deemed eliminated from the process. All Bidders will be notified of the shortlist participants; however, the preliminary scores at that time will not be communicated to Bidders.
8. **Reference Checks.** The County reserves the right to conduct reference check(s) on all Bidders who submitted a bid proposal. The CSC will then score the reference check(s), as identified in the Evaluation Criteria below, which will then be included in the final score.
9. **Optional Vendor Interviews.** The County may in its sole discretion, conduct vendor interviews. Should the County opt to conduct a vendor interview, the interview may include responding to standard and specific questions from the CSC regarding the Bidders’ proposal. Whether or not a shortlist process is used, the score of any evaluation criterion below may be revised or informed based on the vendor interview.
10. **Final Score**. The final maximum score for any procurement is 550 points, including the possible 50 points for local and small, local and emerging, or local preference points (maximum 10% of the final score; derived from 5% for *local* preference and 5% for either *Small and Local* or *Emerging and Local* preference). Proposals will be ranked by their final scores.
    1. *Without Vendor Interview*. In procurements where there are no vendor interviews, the score received by the evaluation of the written proposal with the reference score added will be the final score.
    2. *With Vendor Interview.* In procurements where there are vendor interviews, the CSC will consider the interview and may adjust the scores received by the evaluation of the written proposal which, with the reference scores added, will be the final score.
11. **Contact During Evaluation Process.** All contact during the evaluation phase must be through the GSA-Procurement department only. Bidders must neither contact nor lobby CSC during the evaluation process. Attempts by Bidders to contact and/or influence members of the CSC may result in disqualification of Bidders.
12. **Determining Award.** As a result of this RFP, the County intends to award a contract to the highest-ranked responsible Bidder(s) as determined by the combined weight of the Evaluation Criteria, whose response conforms to the RFP and whose bid presents the greatest value to the County considering all Evaluation Criteria. The combined weight of the Evaluation Criteria is greater in importance than the cost in determining the best value to the County. The County may award a contract of higher qualitative competence over the lowest priced response.
13. The zero to five-point scale range is defined as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 0 | Not Acceptable | Non-responsive, fails to meet RFP specification. The approach has no probability of success. If the unmet specification is a mandatory requirement, this score may result in the disqualification of the proposal. |
| 1 | Poor | Below average, falls short of expectations, is substandard to that which is the average or expected norm, has a low probability of success in achieving objectives per RFP. |
| 2 | Fair | Has a reasonable probability of success; however, some objectives may not be met. |
| 3 | Average | Acceptable and likely to achieves all objectives in a reasonable fashion per RFP specification. This will be the baseline score for each item with adjustments based on the interpretation of the proposal by CSC members. |
| 4 | Above Average / Good | Better than that which is average or expected as the norm. Excellent probability of success in achieving all objectives of the RFP requirements and expectations. |
| 5 | Excellent / Exceptional | Exceeds expectations, is very innovative, clearly superior to that which is average or expected as the norm. Excellent probability of success in achieving all objectives and meeting RFP specifications. |

1. The Evaluation Criteria and their respective weights are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Evaluation Criteria** | **Weight** |
|  | **Completeness of Response:**  Responses to this RFP must be complete. Responses must address all the requirements identified within this RFP and all related documents, including any Addenda. Failure to meet the Bidder Minimum Qualifications may also be considered an incomplete response and may result in the disqualification of the Bidder. | Pass/Fail |
|  | **Debarment and Suspension:**  Bidders, its principal, and named subcontractors are not identified on the list of Federally debarred, suspended, or other excluded parties located at [www.sam.gov/SAM](http://www.sam.gov/SAM). | Pass/Fail |
|  | **Cost:**  The points for Cost will be computed by dividing the amount of the lowest responsive and responsible bid received by each Bidder’s total proposed cost.  Cost evaluation points may be adjusted by considering:   1. Reasonableness (i.e., how well does the proposed pricing accurately reflect the Bidder’s effort to meet requirements and objectives?). 2. Realism (i.e., is the proposed cost appropriate to the nature of the products and/or services to be provided?). | 15 Points |
|  | **Description of Proposed Services:**  Proposals will be evaluated considering the RFP specifications and the questions below:   1. Does the description of proposed services depict a logical approach to fulfilling the requirements of the RFP? 2. Does the description of proposed services match and contribute to achieving the objectives set out in the RFP? 3. Does the description of proposed services interface with the County’s schedule?   Has the bidder addressed culturally appropriate services; including accommodations for language and/or cultural differences? | 30 Points |
|  | **Understanding of the Project:**  Proposals will be evaluated against the RFP specifications and the questions below:   1. Has the Bidder demonstrated a thorough understanding of the purpose and scope of the project? 2. How well has the Bidder identified pertinent issues and potential problems related to the project? 3. Has the Bidder demonstrated that it understands the deliverables the County expects it to provide? 4. Has the Bidder demonstrated that it understands the County’s time schedule and can meet it? . | 25 Points |
|  | **Relevant Experience:**  Proposals will be evaluated in this category in regard to qualifications to perform the work, as opposed to the hourly rate charged, and the Bidder’s responses to the questions below:   1. Are Bidder’s attorneys’ resumes complete, and do they demonstrate backgrounds that would be desirable for the successful handling of cases similar to those that the County will be assigning in the category for which it is being considered? 2. How much experience does the Bidder have with similar work? 3. What is the Bidder’s overall approach to defense of public entity litigation and motion/settlement approaches to save on litigation and defense costs? 4. Do the individuals assigned to the defense of the individual defendants have experience with similar situations. 5. How extensive is the applicable education and experience of the personnel designated to work on the case? | 25 Points |
|  | **References (See Exhibit A – Bid Response Packet)** | 5 Points |
|  | **Vendor Interview:**  Should the County opt to conduct a vendor interview, the interview may include responding to standard and specific questions from the CSC regarding the Bidder’s proposal. Whether or not a shortlist process is used, the scores of any evaluation criterion above may be revised or informed based on the vendor interview. | Vendor Interview may be used to revise / inform scores of criteria above |
| **SMALL LOCAL EMERGING BUSINESS PREFERENCE** | | |
|  | ***Local* Preference:** Points equaling 5% of Bidder’s total score for the above Evaluation Criteria will be added. This will be the Bidder’s final score for purposes of award evaluation. | 5% |
|  | ***Small and Local or Emerging* and *Local* Preference**: Points equaling 5% of Bidder’s total score for the above Evaluation Criteria will be added. This will be the Bidder’s final score for purposes of award evaluation. | 5% |

## CONTRACT EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

* + 1. During the initial 120-day period of any contract awarded, the County may review the proposal, the contract, any goods or services provided, and/or meet with the Contractor to identify any issues or potential problems.
    2. The County reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, whether:
       1. The Contractor has complied with all terms of this RFP and the contract; and
       2. Any problems or potential problems with the proposed goods and/or services were evidenced, which makes it unlikely (even with possible modifications) that such goods and/or services have met or will meet the County requirements.
    3. If, as a result of such determination, the County concludes that it is not satisfied with the Contractor’s performance under any awarded contract and/or Contractor’s goods and services as contracted for therein, the Contractor may be notified that the contract is being terminated.  The Contractor must be responsible for returning County facilities to their original state at no charge to the County.  The County will have the right to invite the next qualified Bidder(s) to enter into a contract.  The County also reserves the right to rebid this project if it is determined to be in its best interest to do so. The County’s right to go to the next qualified Bidder(s) and/or rebid is not limited by the award of a contract or the 120-day period.

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

* + 1. At the conclusion of the RFP response evaluation period, all Bidders will be notified in writing by email or US Postal Service mail of the contract award recommendation, if any, by GSA-Procurement. The document providing this notification is the Notice of Intent to Award/Non-Award.

The Notice of Intent to Award/Non-Award will provide the following information:

* + - 1. The name(s) of the Bidder(s) being recommended for contract award; and
      2. The names of all other parties that submitted proposals.
    1. The submitted proposals will be made available upon request no later than five calendar days before approval of the award and contract is scheduled to be considered by the Board of Supervisors.

## Bid Protest / Appeals Process

The County of Alameda prides itself on the establishment of fair and competitive contracting procedures and the commitment made to follow those procedures. The following is provided in the event that Bidders wish to protest the bid process or appeal the recommendation to award a contract once the Notices of Intent to Award/Non-Award have been issued. Bid protests submitted prior to issuance of the Notices of Intent to Award/Non-Award will not be accepted by the County.

* + 1. Any bid protest must be submitted in writing by 5:00 p.m. on the SEVENTH (7th) calendar day following the date of issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award/Non-Award, not the date received by the Bidder. The bid protest must be submitted to the office that has been designated for review of protests for this procurement (the Protest Evaluator). For this procurement, the Protest Evaluator is:

GSA–Office of Acquisition Policy

ATTN: Contract Compliance Officer

1401 Lakeside Drive, 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612

Email: [GSA-BidProtests@acgov.org](mailto:GSA-BidProtests@acgov.org)

A bid protest received after 5:00 p.m. is considered received as of the next calendar day. A protest received after 5:00 p.m. on the SEVENTH (7th) calendar day following the date of issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award/Non-Award will not be considered under any circumstances by the Protest Evaluator or their designee.

Generally, the County will promptly send an email acknowledging receipt of the protest; it is the responsibility of the protestor to confirm that the protest was timely received.

* + - 1. The bid protest must contain a complete statement of the reasons and facts for the protest.
      2. The protest must refer to the specific portions of all documents that form the basis for the protest.
      3. The protest must include the name, address, email address, and telephone number of the person submitting the protest on behalf of the protesting party.
      4. The Contract Specialist will send a notification to Bidders if a protest is received.
    1. The Protest Evaluator, or their designee, will review and evaluate the protest and issue a written decision. The Protest Evaluator may, at its discretion, do any of the following: investigate the protest, obtain additional information, provide an opportunity to settle the protest by mutual agreement, and/or schedule a meeting(s) with the protesting Bidder and others (as appropriate) to discuss the protest. The decision on the bid protest must be final prior to the Board hearing.  
         
       A notification of the decision will be communicated by email and/or US Postal Service mail to the protestor. Notification will be provided to Bidders when a decision has been made on the protest and whether or not the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in the Notice of Intent to Award/Non-Award will stand.
    2. The decision on the bid protest by the Protest Evaluator may be appealed to the Auditor-Controller's Office of Contract Compliance & Reporting (OCCR) located at 1221 Oak St., Room 249, Oakland, CA 94612, Email: [OCCR@acgov.org](mailto:OCCR@acgov.org), unless the OCCR determines that it has a conflict of interest in which case an alternate will be identified to hear the appeal and all steps to be taken by OCCR will be performed by the alternate. The Bidder whose bid is the subject of the protest, all Bidders affected by the Protest Evaluator's decision on the protest, and the protestor have the right to appeal if they feel the Protest Evaluator's decision is incorrect. All appeals to the Auditor-Controller's OCCR must be in writing and submitted within SEVEN (7) calendar days following the issuance of the decision, not the date the decision is received by the Bidder. An appeal received after 5:00 p.m. is considered received as of the next calendar day. An appeal received after 5:00 p.m. on the SEVENTH (7th) calendar day following the date of issuance of the decision by the Protest Evaluator will not be considered under any circumstances by the Auditor-Controller OCCR or their designee.
       1. The appeal must specify the decision being appealed and all the facts and circumstances relied upon in support of the appeal.
       2. In reviewing protest appeals, the OCCR will not re-judge the proposal(s). The appeal to the OCCR must be limited to a review of the procurement process to determine if the contracting department materially erred in following the bid or, if applicable, County contracting policies or other laws and regulations.
       3. The appeal to the OCCR must be limited to the grounds raised in the original protest and the written decision by the Protest Evaluator. As such, a Bidder is prohibited from stating new grounds for a Bid protest in its appeal.
       4. The Auditor’s Office may overturn the results of a bid process for ethical violations by Procurement staff, County Selection Committee members, subject matter experts, or any other County staff managing or participating in the competitive bid process, regardless of timing or the contents of a bid protest.
       5. The finding of the Auditor-Controller’s OCCR is the final step of the appeal process. A copy of the finding of the Auditor-Controller’s OCCR will be furnished to the protestor.
       6. The finding on the appeal must be issued before a recommendation to award the contract is considered and contract awarded by the Board of Supervisors.
    3. The procedures and time limits set forth in this section are mandatory and are each Bidder's sole and exclusive remedy in the event of a bid protest. A Bidder’s failure to timely complete both the bid protest and appeal procedures will be deemed a failure to exhaust administrative remedies. Failure to exhaust administrative remedies, or failure to comply otherwise with these procedures, will constitute a waiver of any right to further pursue the bid protest, including filing a Government Code Claim or legal proceedings.

## TERM / TERMINATION / RENEWAL

* + 1. The contract term, which may be awarded pursuant to this RFP, will be three years.
    2. By mutual agreement, any contract, which may be awarded pursuant to this RFP, may be extended for an additional two-year.
    3. The County has and reserves the right to suspend, terminate or abandon the execution of any work, services and/or providing of goods by the Contractor without cause at any time upon giving the Contractor prior written notice. In the event that the County should abandon, terminate or suspend the Contractor’s work, services and/or providing of goods, the Contractor will be entitled to payment for services provided hereunder prior to the effective date of said suspension, termination, or abandonment. The County may terminate the contract at any time for cause without written notice upon a material breach of contract or substandard or unsatisfactory performance by the Contractor. In the event of termination with cause, the County reserves the right to seek any and all damages from the Contractor.  In the event of such termination, with or without cause, the County reserves the right to invite the next highest-ranked Bidder to enter into a contract or rebid the project if it is determined to be in its best interest to do so.

## QUANTITIES

Quantities listed herein are not to be construed as a commitment. No minimum or maximum is guaranteed or implied.

## PRICING

* + 1. All pricing as quoted will not increase, but except as noted below, remain fixed and firm for the term of any contract that may be awarded as a result of this RFP.
    2. Reasonable price increases or decreases for subsequent contract terms may be negotiated between Contractor and County after completion of the initial term.
    3. All prices quoted must be in United States dollars.
    4. Price quotes must include any and all payment incentives available to the County.
    5. In the evaluation of cost, if applicable, it will be assumed that the unit price quoted is correct in the case of a discrepancy between the unit price and an extension, and the Bidder must honor the unit price quoted.
    6. Federal and State minimum wage laws apply. The County has no requirements for living wages. The County is not imposing any additional requirements regarding wages.

## AWARD

* + 1. Most Responsive and Responsible Bidder(s)
       1. The award will be made to the highest-ranked Bidder(s) who meet the requirements of these specifications, terms, and conditions.
       2. Awards may also be made to the subsequent highest ranked Bidder(s) who will be called in order should the County need to contract with another Bidder(s).
       3. An award will be recommended for the Bidder(s) that submitted the proposal(s) that best serves the overall interests of the County by attaining the highest overall point score. The award may not necessarily be made to the Bidder(s) with the lowest price.
    2. Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) Program

1. Small and Emerging Locally Owned Business: The County is vitally interested in promoting the growth of small and emerging local businesses by means of increasing the participation of these businesses in the County’s purchase of goods and services.
2. As a result of the County’s commitment to advancing the economic opportunities of these businesses, **Bidders must meet the County’s Small and Emerging Locally Owned Business requirements in order to be considered for the contract award.** These requirements can be found online at:
3. [**Alameda County SLEB Program Overview**](http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/overview.htm) [<http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/overview.htm>]; and
4. [**Alameda County SLEB Program Additional Information**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/vendor-support/small-local-and-emerging-businesses/) [<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/vendor-support/small-local-and-emerging-businesses/>]
5. For purposes of this procurement, applicable industries include, but are not limited to, the following North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Code(s): 541110.
6. A small business is defined by the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) as having no more than the number of employees or average annual gross receipts over the last three years required per SBA standards based on the small business's appropriate NAICS code.
7. An emerging business is defined by the County as having either annual gross receipts of less than one-half that of a small business OR having less than one-half the number of employees AND that has been in business less than five years.
8. If a Bidder is certified by the County as either a small and local or an emerging and local business (SLEB), the County will provide up to 5% bid preference for procurements over $25,000.
9. If a Bidder is located within Alameda County, the County may provide a 5% local bid preference.
   * 1. County Rights
        1. The County reserves the right to reject any or all responses that materially differ from any terms contained in this RFP, including Exhibits and any Addendums, to waive informalities and minor irregularities in responses received, and to provide an opportunity for Bidders to correct minor and immaterial errors contained in their submissions. The decision as to what constitutes a minor irregularity shall be made solely at the discretion of the County.
        2. Any bid proposals that contain false or misleading information may be disqualified by the County.
        3. The County reserves the right to award to a single or multiple Contractors.
        4. The County reserves the right to conduct additional procurements for the same or similar goods and/or services or to award to additional contract(s), including to other Bidder(s), during the term of the contract if it determines that additional Contractors are needed to supplement goods and/or services being provided.
        5. The County has the right to decline to award this contract or any part thereof for any reason.
     2. Procedures
        1. Board approval to award a contract is required.
        2. A contract must be fully executed by the recommended awardee and the County prior to any services and goods being provided or work being performed.
        3. The County uses its Standard Services Agreement terms and conditions for purchases and services. Any terms that are not acceptable to a Bidder must be identified on the Exceptions and Clarifications form in Exhibit A - Bid Response Packet. Bidder may access a copy of the Standard Services Agreement template at:

[**Alameda County Standard Services Agreement Template**](https://acgovt.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/GSADigitalLibrary/EeGBnUyJSMFBoXqtvbj7ly0BqycT5J83NKyIV19tLO6-yA?e=YwGjFP)[<https://acgovt.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/GSADigitalLibrary/EeGBnUyJSMFBoXqtvbj7ly0BqycT5J83NKyIV19tLO6-yA?e=YwGjFP>]

The template contains minimal standard language and specific contract terms, including the scope of services that may be drafted and negotiated based on this RFP and the bid proposal(s).

1. The RFP specifications, terms, conditions, Exhibits, RFP Addenda, and Bidder’s proposal may be incorporated into and made a part of any contract that may be awarded as a result of this RFP.

## METHOD OF ORDERING

* + 1. A written Purchase Order (PO) will be issued after an executed contract and Board approval. If there is any conflict in terms of any PO and the executed contract, the contract will control, even if a PO is issued later. Payment cannot be made to any Contractor until a PO is issued.
    2. POs and payments for services will be issued only in the name of the Contractor, as identified on the contract.
    3. The Contractor must adapt to changes to the method of ordering procedures as required by the County during the term of the contract.
    4. Any change orders must be agreed upon in writing by Contractor and County and issued as needed by County.

## INVOICING

* + 1. All Invoices for services, expenses or other costs provided or incurred in connection with any assigned matter shall be directed to George Hills Company, Attention: Ginger Goltze, PO Box 278, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741. The Invoices should be provided on approximately a monthly basis detailing each person preforming services and a brief description of the work performed and otherwise complying with the Billing Guidelines outlined in the attached Exhibit B.

## ACCOUNT MANAGER / SUPPORT STAFF

* + 1. The Contractor must provide dedicated support staff to be the primary contact for all issues regarding the response to this RFP and any contract which may arise pursuant to this RFP.
    2. Contractor must also provide adequate, competent support staff that shall be able to service the County during normal working hours, Monday through Friday, or as otherwise identified in this RFP. Such representative(s) must be knowledgeable about the contract, products, and/or services offered and able to identify and resolve quickly any issues, including but not limited to order and invoicing problems.
    3. Contractor must provide a dedicated, competent account manager who shall be responsible for the County account/contract and receive all orders. Contractor account manager shall be familiar with County requirements and standards and work with the RMU to ensure that established standards are adhered to. This includes keeping the County Contract Administrator informed of department requests as needed.

# INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

## COUNTY CONTACTS

* + 1. GSA-Procurement is managing the competitive process for this project on behalf of the County. All contact during the competitive process is to be through the GSA-Procurement department only. Any communication regarding this RFP with other County personnel may result in disqualification.
    2. The evaluation phase of the competitive process shall begin upon receipt of sealed bid proposals and continue until a contract has been awarded.
    3. Contact Information for this RFP:

Azizullah Ramesh, Procurement & Contracts Specialist

Alameda County, GSA-Procurement

1401 Lakeside Drive, Suite 907

Oakland, CA 94612

Email: [azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org](mailto:azizullah.ramesh@acgov.org)

Phone: (510) 561-5917

* + 1. The GSA Contracting Opportunities website will be the official notification posting place of all bid documents related to this RFP. Each Bidder is responsible for checking the website for any Addendums and other notices related to this RFP. Go to [**Alameda County Current Contracting Opportunities**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/) [<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/>] to view the posting for this RFP and other current contracting opportunities.

## SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSALS

* + 1. Document Submittal
       1. All proposal documents must be completed, successfully uploaded, and submitted online through Alameda County [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org) BY 2:00 p.m. on the due date specified in the Calendar of Events. The County strongly recommends uploading early; technical difficulties in downloading/submitting documents through the Alameda County [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org) shall not extend the due date and time. No hardcopy, email (electronic), or facsimile proposals will be considered.
       2. Bidders **must** submit an electronic version of their proposal in a PDF file, preferably a single file if 20MB or less.
       3. The submitted proposal must conform to and include Exhibit A – Bid Response Packet, as amended or revised by Addendum, including additional required documentation. **A Bidder may be disqualified if the most current version of Exhibit A, as revised and published through Addenda, is not used.**
       4. In whole or in part, proposal responses are NOT to be marked confidential or proprietary. The County may refuse to consider any proposal or part thereof so marked. Bid proposals submitted in response to this RFP may be subject to public disclosure, even if marked confidential or proprietary.  The County shall not be liable in any way for disclosure of any such records. Please refer to the County’s website at [**Alameda County Proprietary and Confidential Information Policies**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/proprietary-confidential-information/) [<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/proprietary-confidential-information/>].
       5. For the proposals to be considered complete, the Bidder **must** provide responses to all information requested in Exhibit A – Bid Response Packet, as revised by any Addenda.
       6. Bidders **must** submit pricing on the County provided Excel Spreadsheet – Bid Form(s) in [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org).
    2. Submissions Processes
       1. All costs required for the preparation and submission of a proposal shall be borne by the Bidder.
       2. Only one bid proposal will be accepted from any one person, partnership, corporation, or other entity; however, several alternatives may be included in one response. For purposes of this requirement, “partnership” shall mean, and is limited to, a legal partnership formed under one or more of the provisions of California or other state’s Corporations Code or an equivalent statute.
       3. The final award information will be posted on the County’s “Contracting Opportunities” website.
       4. The County reserves the right to reject any proposal.
       5. All bid proposals shall remain open to acceptance and irrevocable for a period of not less than 180 days unless otherwise specified in the bid documents.
    3. Legal Requirements
       1. “In submitting a bid to a public purchasing body, the Bidder offers and agrees that if the bid is accepted, it will assign to the purchasing body all rights, title, and interest in and to all causes of action it may have under Section 4 of the Clayton Act (15 U.S.C. Sec. or under the Cartwright Act (Chapter 2, commencing with Section 16700, of Part 2 of Division 7 of the Business and Professions Code), arising from purchases of goods, materials, or services by the Bidder for sale to the purchasing body pursuant to the bid. Such assignment shall be made and become effective at the time the purchasing body tenders final payment to the Bidder”. (California Government Code Section 4552).
       2. By submitting a bid proposal, the Bidder expressly acknowledges that it is aware that if a false claim is knowingly submitted (as the terms “claim” and “knowingly” are defined in the California False Claims Act, Cal. Gov. Code, §12650 et seq.), County will be entitled to civil remedies set forth in the California False Claim Act. Such actions may also be considered fraud and subject to criminal prosecution.
       3. The Bidder, by submitting a proposal, certifies that it is, at the time of bidding, and shall be, throughout the period of the contract, licensed by the State of California to do the type of work required under the terms of the RFP and contract documents. Bidder further certifies that it is regularly engaged in the general class and type of work called for in the RFP and contract documents.
       4. The Bidder, by submitting a proposal, certifies that it is not, at the time of bidding, on the California Department of General Services (DGS) list of persons determined to be engaged in investment activities in Iran or otherwise in violation of the Iran Contracting Act of 2010 (Public Contract Code Section 2200-2208).

### EXHIBIT A

**BID RESPONSE PACKET**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

* + 1. Please read **EXHIBIT A – Bid Response Packet** carefully; **INCOMPLETE BID PROPOSALS MAY BE REJECTED.** Alameda County will not accept submissions or documentation after the bid response due date. Successful uploading of a document does not equal acceptance of the document by Alameda County.
    2. The bid proposal must comply with all requirements contained in the RFP. **It is strongly recommended that Bidders verify and review all Addenda to confirm the use of the most current forms and provide all information requested.**
    3. The bid proposal submission must conform to and include Exhibit A – Bid Response Packet, as amended or revised by Addendum, including additional required documentation. **A Bidder may be disqualified if the most current version of Exhibit A, as revised and published through Addenda, is not used.**
    4. The following pages require confirmation, declaration, and /or a signature (?). There must be either: (1) be printed and have an original signature(s); or (2) be digitally signed via a DocuSign, CongaSign, or other verifiable independent electronic signature services. All signatures must be by an individual authorized to bind the Bidder. These pages must then be uploaded through the Alameda County [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org)as part of the Bidder’s proposal.

1. Exhibit A – Bid Response Packet, [Bidder Acceptance](#_BIDDER_INFORMATION)
2. Exhibit A – Bid Response Packet, [Debarment and Suspension Certification](#Debarment)
3. Exhibit A – Bid Response Packet, [Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) Information Sheet](#SLEB)
4. [Must be signed by Bidder](#Prime_Bidder_Signature)
5. [Must be signed by SLEB Partner](#SLEB_Sub_Signature) if subcontracting to a SLEB
   * 1. Each page of the Bid Response Packet must be submitted through the [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org) as PDF attachment(s) with all required information included and documents attached; any pages of the Bid Response Packet not applicable to the Bidders are to be submitted with such pages or items clearly marked “N/A” or the bid proposal may be disqualified as incomplete.
     2. Bidders must not modify the Bid Response Packet or any other County-provided document unless instructed to do so, or the bid proposal may be disqualified.
     3. Excel Bid Form(s) must be submitted online through Alameda County [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org/)**.**
     4. Bidders must quote price(s) as specified in the RFP, using the form(s) as amended or revised by any Addenda.
     5. Any clarifications or exceptions to policies or specifications of this RFP, including all Addenda and other documents must be submitted in the ***Exceptions and Clarifications***form of the Bid Response Packet.
     6. Bidders must read all information and follow directions in the [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org) event.
     7. File names are restricted to 64 characters for all files uploaded as part of any bid proposal. The file extension (e.g., ".pdf" or ".xls") is counted as part of the file name character limit. Attempting to upload a file with a file name longer than 64 characters may result in an error message or failure to load.
     8. **Bidders who do not comply with the requirements and/or submit incomplete bid proposal packages are subject to disqualification and their bid proposals rejected.**

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### COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

### Exhibit A

### BID RESPONSE PACKET

RFP No. 902303

Conflict Defense Counsel Services

|  |
| --- |
| BIDDER INFORMATION |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Official Name of Bidder: | | |  | | | | |
| Street Address Line 1: | | |  | | | | |
| Street Address Line 2: | | |  | | | | |
| City: |  | | | State: |  | Zip Code: |  |
| Webpage: | |  | | | | | |

**Type of Entity / Organizational Structure (check one):**

Corporation  Joint Venture  Partnership

Limited Liability Partnership  Limited Liability Corporation  Sole Proprietor

Non-Profit / Church  Other:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jurisdiction of Organizational Structure: |  |
| Date of Organizational Structure: |  |
| Federal Tax Identification Number: |  |
| Alameda County Supplier Identification Number (if applicable): |  |
| DIR Contractor Registration Number (if applicable): |  |

**Primary Contact Information:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name / Title: |  | | |
| Telephone Number: |  | Alternate Number: |  |
| Email Address: |  | | |

|  |
| --- |
| BIDDER ACCEPTANCE |

1. The undersigned declares that the procurement bid documents, including, without limitation, the RFQ, Q&A, Addenda, and Exhibits (the Bid Documents), have been read and accepted.
2. The undersigned has reviewed the Bid Documents and fully understands the requirements for this RFQ, including, but not limited to, general County requirements, and that each Bidder who is awarded a contract must be, in fact, a prime Contractor, not a subcontractor, to County, and agrees that its bid response, if accepted by County, will be the basis for the Bidder to enter into a contract with County in accordance with the intent of the Bid Documents.
3. The undersigned agrees to the following terms, conditions, certifications, and requirements found on the County's website:

## [**General Requirements**](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/general-requirements/)

## [<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/general-requirements/>]

# [Debarment & Suspension Policy](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/debarment-suspension-policy/)

[<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/debarment-suspension-policy/>]

# [Iran Contracting Act (ICA) of 2010](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/iran-contracting-act-of-2010-ica/)

[<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/iran-contracting-act-of-2010-ica/>]

# [General Environmental Requirements](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/general-environmental-requirements/)

[<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/contracting-opportunities/policies-procedures/general-environmental-requirements/>]

# [Alameda County SLEB Program Overview](http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/overview.htm)

[<http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/overview.htm>]

# [Alameda County SLEB Program Additional Information](https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/vendor-support/small-local-and-emerging-businesses/)

[<https://gsa.acgov.org/do-business-with-us/vendor-support/small-local-and-emerging-businesses/>]

# [First Source](http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/sourceprogram.htm)

[<http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/sourceprogram.htm>]

# [Online Contract Compliance System](http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/elation.htm)

[<http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/elation.htm>]

1. The undersigned acknowledges that Bidder is and will remain in good standing in the State of California, with all the necessary licenses, permits, certifications, approvals, and authorizations necessary to perform all obligations in connection with this RFQ and any contract that is awarded.
2. The undersigned acknowledges that it is the responsibility of each Bidder to be familiar with all of the specifications, terms, and conditions of the RFQ and, if applicable, the site condition. By the submission of a bid response, the Bidder certifies that if awarded a contract, they will make no claim against the County based upon ignorance of conditions or misunderstanding of the specifications.
3. Bidder agrees to hold the County of Alameda, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from liability of any nature or kind, including cost and expenses, for infringement or use of any patent, copyright, or other proprietary rights, secret process, patented or unpatented invention, article or appliance furnished or used in connection with bid response and any resulted contract or purchase order.
4. The undersigned acknowledges that Bidders has accurately completed the SLEB Information Sheet.
5. The undersigned acknowledges ***ONE*** of the following (please check only one box):

    Bidder is not local to Alameda County and is ineligible for any bid preference; **or**

    Bidder is a certified SLEB and is requesting 10% bid preference; (Bidder must check the first box and provide its SLEB Certification Number in the [SLEB PARTNERING INFORMATION SHEET](#SLEB)); **or**

    Bidder is LOCAL to Alameda County and is requesting 5% bid preference, and has attached the following documentation to this Exhibit:

* Copy of a verifiable business license issued by the County of Alameda or a City within the County; and
* If requested by the County, proof of six months of business residency, identifying the name of the bidder and the local address. Example of proof includes but are not limited to utility bills, deeds of trusts or lease agreements, etc., which are acceptable verification documents to prove residency.

1. By signing below, the signatory warrants and represents that the signer has completed, acknowledged, and agreed to this Bidder Acceptance in their authorized capacity and that by their signature on this Bidder Acceptance, they and the entity upon behalf of which they acted, acknowledged and agreed to this Bidder Acceptance and that all are true and correct and are made under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of California.

|  |
| --- |
| **SIGNATURE:** ?  Name/Title of Authorized Signer:  Dated this  day of  20 |

|  |
| --- |
| DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION CERTIFICATION (PROCUREMENTS $25,000 AND OVER) |

The Bidder, under penalty of perjury, certifies that, except as noted below, Bidder, its principal, and any named and unnamed subcontractor:

* Is not currently under suspension, debarment, voluntary exclusion, or determination of ineligibility by any federal agency;
* Has not been suspended, debarred, voluntarily excluded or determined ineligible by any federal agency within the past three years;
* Does not have a proposed debarment pending; and
* Has not been indicted, convicted, or had a civil judgment rendered against it by a court of competent jurisdiction in any matter involving fraud or official misconduct within the past three years.

If there are any exceptions to this certification, insert the exceptions in the following space. For any exception noted, indicate to whom it applies, initiating agency, and dates of action. Exceptions will not necessarily result in denial of the award but will be considered in determining Contractor responsibility.

Notes: Providing false information may result in criminal prosecution or administrative sanctions. The above certification is part of the Proposal. Signing this Proposal on the signature portion thereof shall also constitute the signature of this Certification.

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| **BIDDER:**  **PRINCIPAL: TITLE:**  **SIGNATURE:** ? **DATE:** |

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| SMALL LOCAL EMERGING BUSINESS (SLEB) INFORMATION SHEET |

**Instructions**: On the following page is the **SLEB Information Sheet**. Every Bidder must complete and submit a signed SLEB Information Sheet indicating their SLEB certification status. If the Bidder is not certified, the information sheet must be completed with the name, identification information, and goods/services to be provided by the CERTIFIED SLEB partner(s) with whom the Bidder will subcontract to meet the County SLEB participation requirement.  The Exhibit must be signed by EACH of the named CERTIFIED SLEB(s) that will be subcontractors.

If a Bidder is located within Alameda County but not a certified SLEB, the following documentation must be uploaded as part of the bid documents:

* + - Copy of a verifiable business license, issued by the County of Alameda or a City within the County; and
    - If requested by the County, proof of six months of business residency, identifying the name of the bidder and the local address. Example of proof includes but are not limited to utility bills, deeds of trusts or lease agreements, etc., which are acceptable verification documents to prove residency.

SLEB certification must be **valid** at the time of bid proposal submittal for SLEB primes and SLEB subcontractor(s).

* For SLEB Subcontracting Questions: Please contact the General Services Agency - Office of Acquisition Policy, [GSA.OAP@acgov.org](mailto:GSA.OAP@acgov.org).
* For questions/information regarding SLEB certification, including requirements, please contact the Auditor-Controller Agency, Office of Contract Compliance & Reporting – SLEB Certification Unit, [OCCR@acgov.org](mailto:OCCR@acgov.org), (510) 891-5500.

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| SLEB INFORMATION SHEET |

In order to meet the Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) requirements of this RFP, all Bidders must complete this form.

Bidders that are not certified SLEBS (for the definition of a SLEB, see[**Alameda County SLEB Program Overview**](http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/overview.htm)**; [**[**http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/overview.htm**](http://acgov.org/auditor/sleb/overview.htm)**])** are required to subcontract with a SLEB for at least 20% of the total estimated bid amount in order to be eligible for contract award. SLEB subcontractors must be independently owned and operated from the prime Contractor with no employees of either entity working for the other. A copy of this form must be submitted for each SLEB that the Bidder will subcontract with as evidence of a firm contractual commitment to meeting the SLEB participation requirement.

Bidders are encouraged to form a partnership with a SLEB that can participate directly with this contract. One of thebenefits of the partnership will be economical, but this partnership will also assist the SLEB to grow and build the capacity to eventually bid as a prime on their own.

Once a contract has been awarded, substitutions of the named subcontractor(s) are not allowed without prior written approval from the Auditor-Controller, Office of Contract Compliance & Reporting (OCCR).

County departments, prime, and subcontractors are required to use the web-based Elation Systems to monitor SLEB subcontractor compliance with[**Elation Systems**](http://www.elationsys.com/elationsys/)**; [**[**http://www.elationsys.com/elationsys/**](http://www.elationsys.com/elationsys/)**].**

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| **BIDDER IS A CERTIFIED SLEB (sign at bottom of page)**  **SLEB BIDDER Business Name:**  **SLEB Certification #:       SLEB Certification Expiration Date:**  **NAICS Codes Included in Certification:** |

**OR**

|  |
| --- |
| **BIDDER IS NOT A CERTIFIED SLEB and will subcontract      % with the SLEB named below for the following goods/services:**  **SLEB Subcontractor Business Name:**  **SLEB Certification #:       SLEB Certification Expiration Date:**  **SLEB Certification Status:  Small /  Emerging**  **NAICS Codes Included in Certification:**  **SLEB Subcontractor Principal Name:**  **SLEB Subcontractor Principal Signature:** ? |

**Upon award, Bidder (the Prime Contractor) and** **all SLEB subcontractors** agree to register and use the secure web-based ELATION SYSTEMS. ELATION SYSTEMS will be used to submit SLEB subcontractor participation, including, but not limited to, subcontractor contract amounts, payments made, and confirmation of payments received.

**Bidder Printed Name/Title:**      

**Street Address: \_**     **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_City\_\_**     **\_\_\_\_State\_**     **\_ Zip Code**      

**Bidder Signature: ? Date:**      

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| **BIDDER MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS** |

**Instructions:** Bidder must respond and/or provide support documentation that fulfills all the minimum qualifications as identified in the RFP documents.

1. Bidder and/or all key personnel identified by Bidder shall have been and continue to be regularly and continuously engaged in practicing law in California for at least five years at the time of submission of the bid.
2. Bidder’s lawyers shall be licensed by the State Bar of California.
3. Bidder shall possess all permits, licenses, and professional credentials necessary to perform the conflict defense counsel services specified under this RFP. Unless noted otherwise in the RFP, including any Addendum or published Questions and Answers, Bidder is not required to submit copies or verification of the permits, licenses and credentials; however, Bidder must provide such proof if requested by County.

**Maximum Length: None**

|  |
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| BID FORM |

**Instructions**:Bidder must use the separate County provided Excel Bid Form.

**COST MUST BE SUBMITTED AS REQUESTED ON THE COUNTY PROVIDED EXCEL BID FORM. NO ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES OF ANY KIND ARE PERMITTED.**

Bid proposals that do not comply may be rejected.

The cost quoted must include all taxes (excluding sales and use tax) and all other charges, including travel expenses. The price quoted will be the maximum cost the County will pay for the term of any contract resulting from this RFP.

Quantities listed on Alameda County **Excel Bid Form** are for example only; they are not to be construed as a commitment of the County to purchase that quantity. No minimum or maximum is guaranteed or implied. The cost quoted will be the price of the items identified, regardless of the quantity purchased.

Bid pricing on all line items is required. If there are any line items that are not priced, the bid may be considered a partial bid and disqualified.

By submission through the Alameda County [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org)**,** Bidder certifies to County that all representations, certifications, and statements made by Bidder, as set forth in each entry in the Alameda County [**EZSourcing Supplier Portal**](https://ezsourcing.acgov.org) and attachments are true and correct and are made under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of California.

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| TABLE OF KEY PERSONNEL |

**Instructions**: Bidder is to provide a **Table of Key Personnel**. The table is to include all essential personnel associated with providing services to the County.

To appropriately evaluate Bidder's qualifications, the table should include the following information for each key person:

1. The person’s relationship with Bidder, including job title and years of employment with Bidder.
2. Work contact information includes, but is not limited to, the following: work address, office telephone number, mobile work number, and work email address.
3. The person's role in connection with the RFP and any awarded contract.
4. Educational background; and
5. Related experience on similar projects, certifications, and merits.

If a Bidder collaborates with any other partners or subcontractors, the Bidder shall identify all key personnel, subcontractors, subcontractor qualifications, and how they plan to work together

**Maximum Length: There is no limit to the table. There is, however, a 2-page limit per résumé or curriculum vitae. Résumé and curriculum vitae are subject to public disclosure and business addresses should be used not home addresses.**

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| **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SERVICES** |

**Instructions:** Bidder is to provide a **Description of Proposed Services**.

The *Description of Proposed Service* must describe the overall services. The Bidder must address how they will meet or exceed each requirement listed in Section D (Specific Requirements), Section E (Reporting Requirements of the RLF) and Exhibit B (Billing Guidelines).

At a minimum, the Bidder must include the following details:

1. Specify how the services in the bid response will meet or exceed the requirements of the County.
2. Explain any special resources, procedures, or approaches that make the services of Bidder responsive to the RFP requirements and particularly advantageous to the County.
3. Identify any limitations or restrictions of Bidder in providing the services that the County should be aware of in evaluating the minimum qualifications for this RFP. (Please note that any requests for exceptions or clarifications MUST be identified on Exceptions and Clarification form below and the County is under no obligation to accept any exceptions or clarifications and any such exceptions and clarifications may be a basis for bid disqualification.)
4. Bidder shall provide the number of jury cases tried by the firm and disposition of same.
5. Bidder shall provide a work sample of no more than 10 pages.

**Maximum Length: none**

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| **REFERENCES** |

**Instructions**: On the following pages are the templates that Bidders are to use for providing references. Bidders are to provide a list of five references. References must be satisfactory as deemed solely by County.

Services or goods provided by Bidders to the references should have similar scope, volume, and requirements to those outlined in these specifications, terms, and conditions.

Bidders should verify that the contact information for all references provided is current and valid. If a reference cannot be contacted, it may affect the qualification and scoring of the Bidders’ bid proposals.

Bidders are strongly encouraged to notify all references that the County may be contacting them to obtain a reference.

The County may contact some or all the references provided in order to determine items such as Bidders’ years of experience and performance records on work similar to that described in this request.

The County reserves the right to contact individuals/entities for references other than those provided in the Response and to use any information obtained in the evaluation process.

NOTE: Bidders should not list the County department requesting services/goods as part of the references.

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| **REFERENCES** |

RFP No. 902303

Conflict Defense Counsel Services

Bidder Name:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company Name: | Contact Person: |
| Address: | Telephone Number: |
| City, State, Zip: | Email Address: |
| Services Provided / Date(s) of Service: | |

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| --- | --- |
| Company Name: | Contact Person: |
| Address: | Telephone Number: |
| City, State, Zip: | Email Address: |
| Services Provided / Date(s) of Service: | |

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| --- | --- |
| Company Name: | Contact Person: |
| Address: | Telephone Number: |
| City, State, Zip: | Email Address: |
| Services Provided / Date(s) of Service: | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company Name: | Contact Person: |
| Address: | Telephone Number: |
| City, State, Zip: | Email Address: |
| Services Provided / Date(s) of Service: | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Company Name: | Contact Person: |
| Address: | Telephone Number: |
| City, State, Zip: | Email Address: |
| Services Provided / Date(s) of Service: | |

\*Use additional pages as necessary

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| EXCEPTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS |

**Instructions**: Bidders must use the **Exceptions and Clarifications** form to identify and list below any and all exceptions and/or clarifications to the RFP and associated Bid Documents and submit them with the bid proposal.

**THE COUNTY IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT ANY EXCEPTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS; ANY SUCH EXCEPTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS MAY BE A BASIS FOR BID PROPOSAL DISQUALIFICATION.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference to:** | | | **Description** |
| Page No.  EXAMPLE | Section | Item No. |  |
| **p. 23** | **D** | **1.c.** | ***Bidder takes exception to…*** |
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\*Use additional pages as necessary

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| INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS |

**Instructions**: Insurance certificates are not required at the time of submission; however, by signing the Bid Response Packet and submitting a bid proposal, the Bidder agrees to meet the minimum insurance requirements and provide any documentation requested by County upon request.

Insurance documentation must be provided to the County before award and include an insurance certificate and additional insured certificate, naming the County of Alameda, which meets the minimum insurance requirements, as stated in the RFP.

The following page contains the minimum insurance limits required by the County of Alameda to be held by the Contractor performing on a contract issued from this RFP:

see next page for county of alameda

minimum insurance requirements

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA MINIMUM INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Without limiting any other obligation or liability under this Agreement, the Contractor, at its sole cost and expense, shall secure and keep in force during the entire term of the Agreement or longer, as may be specified below, the following minimum insurance coverage, limits and endorsements. The County reserves the right to modify these requirements, including limits, based on the nature of the risk, prior experience, insurer, coverage, or other special circumstances. If the contractor maintains broader coverage and/or higher limits than the minimums shown below, the County requires and shall be entitled to the broader coverage and/or the higher limits maintained by the Contractor. Any available insurance proceeds in excess of the specified minimum limits of insurance and coverage shall be available to the County.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **TYPE OF INSURANCE COVERAGES** | | **MINIMUM LIMITS** |
| **A** | **Commercial General Liability**  Premises Liability; Products and Completed Operations; Contractual Liability; Personal Injury and Advertising Liability | $1,000,000 per occurrence (CSL)  Bodily Injury and Property Damage |
| **B** | **Commercial or Business Automobile Liability**  All owned vehicles, hired or leased vehicles, non-owned, borrowed and permissive uses. Personal Automobile Liability when extended to cover your business is acceptable for individual contractors with no transportation or hauling related activities | $1,000,000 per occurrence (CSL)  Any Auto or Hired and Non-Owned Autos  Bodily Injury and Property Damage |
| **C** | **Workers’ Compensation (WC) and Employers Liability (EL)**  As required by State of California | WC: Statutory Limits  EL: No less than $1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease |
| **D** | **Professional Liability/Errors & Omissions**  Includes endorsements of contractual liability and defense and indemnification of the County | $1,000,000 per occurrence  $2,000,000 project aggregate |
| **E** | **Endorsements and Conditions**:   1. **ADDITIONAL INSURED:** County of Alameda, its Board of Supervisors, the individual members thereof, and all County officers, agents, employees, volunteers, and representatives are to be covered as additional insureds on the CGL policy with respect to liability arising out of work or operations performed by or on behalf of the Contractor including materials, parts, or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations. General liability coverage can be provided in the form of an endorsement to the Contractor’s insurance (at least as broad as ISO Form CG 20 10 11 85 or if not available, through the addition of **both** CG 20 10, CG 20 26, CG 20 33, or CG 20 38; **and** CG 20 37 if a later edition is used). Auto policy shall contain or be endorsed to contain additional insured coverage for the County. 2. **DURATION OF COVERAGE:** All required insurance shall be maintained during the entire term of the Agreement. In addition, Insurance policies and coverage(s) written on a claims-made basis shall be maintained and evidence of insurance must be provided during the entire term of the Agreement and for at least five (5) years following the later of termination of the Agreement and acceptance of all work provided under the Agreement, with the retroactive date of said insurance (as may be applicable) concurrent with the commencement of activities pursuant to this Agreement. If coverage is cancelled or non-renewed, and not replaced with another claims-made policy form with a Retroactive Date prior to the contract effective date, the Contractor must purchase “extended reporting” coverage for a minimum of five (5) years after completion of work. 3. **REDUCTION OR LIMIT OF OBLIGATION:** All insurance policies, including excess and umbrella insurance policies, shall be primary and non-contributory coverage at least as broad as ISO CG 20 10 04 13 as respects the County, its officers, officials, employees, or volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County, its officers, officials, employees, or volunteers shall be excess of the Contractor’ insurance and shall not contribute with it. Pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement insurance effected or procured by the Contractor shall not reduce or limit Contractor’s contractual obligation to indemnify and defend the Indemnified Parties. 4. **INSURER FINANCIAL RATING:** Insurance shall be maintained through an insurer with an A.M. Best Rating of no less than A: VII or equivalent, shall be admitted to the State of California unless otherwise acceptable by Risk Management, and with deductible amounts acceptable to the County. Acceptance of Contractor’s insurance by County shall not relieve or decrease the liability of Contractor hereunder. Self-insured retentions must be declared and approved. Any deductible or self-insured retention amount or other similar obligation under the policies shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor. The policy language shall provide or be endorsed to provide, that the self –insured retention may be satisfied by either the named insured or County. 5. **SUBCONTRACTORS:** Contractor shall include all subcontractors as an insured (covered party) under its policies or shall verify that the subcontractor, under its own policies and endorsements, has complied with the insurance requirements in this Agreement, including this Exhibit. 6. **JOINT VENTURES:** If Contractor is an association, partnership or other joint business venture, required insurance shall be provided by one of the following methods:  * Separate insurance policies issued for each individual entity, with each entity included as a “Named Insured” (covered party), or at minimum named as an “Additional Insured” on the other’s policies. Coverage shall be at least as broad as in the ISO Forms named above. * Joint insurance program with the association, partnership or other joint business venture included as a “Named Insured”.  1. **CANCELLATION OF INSURANCE:** Each insurance policy required above shall provide that coverage shall not be cancelled, except with notice of cancellation provided to the County in accordance with policy terms and conditions. 2. **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**: Before commencing operations under this Agreement, Contractor shall provide Certificate(s) of insurance and applicable insurance endorsements as set forth in the provisions of this Agreement and this Exhibit C, in forms satisfactory to County, evidencing that all required insurance coverage is in effect. However, failure to obtain the required documents prior to the work beginning shall not waive the Contactor’s obligation to provide them. The County reserves the right to require the Contractor to provide complete, certified copies of all required insurance policies, including endorsements required by these specifications, at any time. | |

Certificate C-2 Page 1 of 1 Form 2001-1 (Rev. 03/31/20)

**EXHIBIT B**

**BILLING GUIDELINES**

In order to deliver effective and efficient representation of the County and/or individual County clients, Attorney must share in a commitment to perform requested legal services in a cost- efficient manner. In performing the requested services and in submitting invoices or billing statements for that work, Attorney shall follow these guidelines.

1. **General Guidelines**
   1. General overhead and administrative costs are considered reimbursed by the hourly rate. Therefore, County will not pay costs such as: word processing time, profit on facsimile machines or overtime, premium or so-called “value” billings for attorneys or staff.
   2. As its general policy, County will pay only one attorney per task. For example, only one attorney attends a hearing unless there is prior approval by County Counsel or RMU.
   3. Written approval must be obtained prior to incurring extraordinary expenses such as: investigative services, computer litigation support services, retention of experts, and extraordinary travel.
   4. On all fee bills, actual time in units of one-tenth of an hour should be charged instead of using minimum transaction times.
   5. Each task should be individually itemized showing the date performed, the nature of the activity, the identity of the individual performing the task, and the time spent. Fee bills should be properly itemized, with a specific time allotted to each task performed.
   6. The bill should include a list of individuals performing services on the file along with their capacity (partner, associate, paralegal, etc.) and hourly rates for services rendered.
   7. Charges for activities such as “File Creation”, or training of your personnel are considered overhead items and should not be billed to the file.
   8. Counsel should not bill for tasks that are secretarial in nature, e.g., using word processor, typing, placing scheduling phone calls, etc.
   9. Attorney should not bill for bill preparation tasks, bill explanations, bill disputes, and bill corrections.
   10. Exceptions to the following list of items that County will and will not pay for are permitted only on a specific case basis with written approval from County Counsel or RMU.
2. **Expenses and Costs**

Do not bill for the following expense items at more than the specified rates:

* 1. PHOTOCOPYING. No more than actual cost, without mark-up, per page or the actual charge of a copy service. Send large copying jobs to a capable but economical outside copy service.
  2. TELEPHONE. Actual charges only for long distance calls.
  3. FAX MACHINES. No more than actual cost, without mark-up, only for outgoing facsimile transmission.
  4. POSTAGE. Only extraordinary postage can be charged for singular mailings exceeding a combined cost of $1.00 per mailing per file.
  5. COMPUTERIZED LEGAL RESEARCH. Actual on-line time costs without mark-up for a specific item of research that must be identified on the billing entry.
  6. MESSENGER AND DELIVERY. Do not bill us if the rush is caused by your firm. For an outside messenger, we pay actual costs without mark-up. For your internal messenger service (between your offices in other cities), charge no more than for an outside service.
  7. TRAVEL. Describe in detail on the interim bill any travel expenses incurred by counsel.
  8. YOU NEED NOT ATTACH SUPPORTING RECEIPTS. We retain the right to audit these expenses. Counsel should retain receipts and other documentation for at least one year following the conclusion of the case.

1. **Billing Format**
   1. Professional Services

Itemize each task on the bill, showing the date performed, the specific task, identity of the individual performing the task (this includes name [initials] and position, i.e., partner, associate, or paralegal), the time to the nearest 1/10th of an hour spent on the specific task, and the total dollar amount for the specific task per line item. Please complete a separate sheet for each file.

SAMPLE BILLING FORMAT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

**Professional Services**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Description | Individual | Time | Amount |
| 02/05/17 | Dictated Short Letter to County Counsel re: [specify matter] | JDP | .1 hrs. | $10.00 |
| 02/05/17 | Drafted revisions [specify document] | JDP | 1.1 hrs. | $110.00 |
| 02/26/17 | Telephone Conference to County personnel  for information re: [specify matter] | DDD | .9 hrs. | $45.00 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 02/26/17  TOTAL | Prepare additional Revisions to [specify] | | DDD | | . 6 hrs | $35.00  $195.00 |
| Individual | Identity Position | | Hourly Rate | | Time | Amount |
| JDP | J.D. Peel | Attorney/Partner | | 100.00 | 1.2 hrs. $120.00 | |
| DDD | Dawn Davis | Paralegal | | 50.00 | 1.5 hrs. 75.00 | |

**TOTAL PROFESSIONAL CHARGES: $195.00**

* 1. Expenses.

Itemize each reimbursable expense at Actual Cost without mark-up.

SAMPLE BILLING FORMAT FOR EXPENSES

## Expenses

Date Description Actual Cost Amount 2/26/17 Long Distance 11.20 11.20

Telephone Call by DDD to Mr. Davis Re: [specify matter]

2/26/17 Extraordinary Postage 1.52 1.52

to Mail [specify documents]

**TOTAL $12.72**

**Total Bill**

**Professional Services $195.00**

**Expenses 12.72**

**Total Amount Due $207.72**

* 1. Invoice Cover Sheet

Provide a summary of the total amount due for each project / file invoice included with each monthly invoice submission.

1. **Auditing**
   1. Agency has the right and may request an audit of your firm. The audit applies to all matters referred from or handled for or on behalf of the Agency.
   2. Agency reserves the right to seek reimbursement of inappropriately billed time or expenses.