



May 10, 2021

BAY AREA  
AIR QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT  
DISTRICT

Request for Qualifications# 2021-007

**Regional Appliance Recycling Program**

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**SECTION I – SUMMARY**

In carrying out its mission to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) seeks to obtain the services of Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) certified recycling companies experienced in properly disposing of fluorinated gas refrigerants and insulating foams containing fluorinated gases found in residential refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioning units. Through this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process, the Air District expects to enter into a contract with a RAD certified recycling company that will establish a regional bulk collection/pick-up program for residential refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioning units at centralized collection sites, such as transfer stations, and recycle the appliances collected in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) RAD program.

To respond to this RFQ, an interested company should submit its statement of qualifications electronically (in Adobe Acrobat PDF file format) to the Air District’s Procurement Portal (Portal):

Cynthia Zhang, Staff Specialist  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600; San Francisco, CA 94105  
Portal link: <https://baaqmd.bonfirehub.com>

**Statements of qualifications must be submitted and received by  
4:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021.  
Late submissions will not be considered.**

Statements of qualifications must address all information requested in this RFQ. A statement may add information not requested in this RFQ, but the information should be in addition to, not instead of, the requested information and format. Minority business enterprises, women's business enterprises, veteran's business enterprises, and Certified Green Businesses are encouraged to submit statements of qualifications. **Any questions regarding this RFQ should be submitted through the Portal.**

## **SECTION II – BACKGROUND**

### **A. Air District Overview**

The Air District was created by the California Legislature in 1955 as the first regional agency to deal with air pollution in California. The Air District jurisdiction includes Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, Santa Clara, San Francisco, San Mateo, southwestern Solano, and southern Sonoma counties.

The State Legislature originally gave the Air District the authority to regulate stationary sources of air pollution, such as factories, oil refineries, chemical plants, gasoline stations, and agricultural burning. With more recent legislation, the Air District was granted authority to enact certain transportation and mobile source measures.

The Air District is governed by a twenty-four member Board of Directors, consisting of elected officials, including county supervisors, mayors, and city council members. The Executive Officer / Air Pollution Control Officer for the Air District is Jack P. Broadbent.

### **B. Regional Appliance Recycling Program**

In carrying out its mission to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) in the Bay Area, the Air District develops programs to spur GHG reductions beyond what is already required through other State and local efforts.

Fluorinated gases (F-gases), synthetic gases containing fluorine, are used in a range of applications, including as refrigerants, and have global warming potentials (GWP) that are hundreds to thousands of times greater than carbon dioxide on a per ton basis. Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), specifically, are used as refrigerants and as blowing agents for insulating foams in refrigeration systems and air conditioners and accounted for 99 percent of all F-gas emissions in California in 2017.

Although the Federal Clean Air Act prohibits the intentional venting of refrigerants while maintaining, servicing, repairing, or disposing of air conditioning or refrigeration equipment, these refrigerants are often not captured or disposed of properly, with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) estimating that as much as 77 percent of these refrigerants are illegally vented and discharged upon disposal. There are currently no regulations mandating proper disposal of insulating foams found in refrigerators and freezers that contain F-gases.

Through this RFQ, the Air District seeks to select a contractor for a regional residential refrigerator, freezer, and air conditioner recycling program that will establish a bulk collection/pick-up program at centralized collection sites, such as transfer stations, and recycle the appliances collected in accordance with the U.S. EPA RAD program. The

RAD program includes protocols that go beyond any Federal or State requirements for disposal of appliances and, specifically, ensures that both the cooling refrigerants and insulating foams contained in these appliances are captured and disposed of properly.

### **SECTION III – GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES**

#### **A. Services Needed**

The selected RAD certified recycler will establish a regional bulk collection/pick-up program for residential refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioning units at transfer stations and recycle the appliances collected in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's RAD program. The Air District has allocated a budget of \$50,000 for these services.

### **SECTION IV – SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

#### **A. General**

1. Interested firms must create an account through the Portal described on p.1 of this RFQ to view RFQ documents and addenda, and to submit questions and bid documents.
2. All statements of qualifications must be made in accordance with the conditions of this RFQ. Failure to address any of the requirements is grounds for rejection of this submission.
2. All information should be complete, specific, and as concise as possible.
3. Statements of qualifications should include any additional information that the respondent deems pertinent to the understanding and evaluation of the bid.
4. The Air District may modify the RFQ or issue supplementary information or guidelines during the submission preparation period prior to the due date. Please check our [Portal](#) for updates prior to the due date.
5. The Air District reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.
6. All questions must be in written form and submitted through the Portal no later than **4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 14, 2021**. Firms will not be able to submit questions after this time. All questions will be answered in writing and posted on the [Portal](#) by **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 2021**.
7. The cost for developing the statement of qualifications is the responsibility of the responding firm, and shall not be chargeable to the Air District.
8. A firm's selection and the execution of a contract with the Air District does not guarantee any particular amount of work.

**B. Submittal of Statements of Qualifications**

All statements of qualifications must be submitted according to the specifications set forth in Section V (A) – Contents of Statement of Qualifications, and this section. Failure to adhere to these specifications may be cause for the rejection of the submission.

1. Due Date – All statements of qualifications are due no later than Monday, May 24, 2021, and should be submitted via the Portal to:

Cynthia Zhang, Staff Specialist  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
375 Beale Street, Suite 600; San Francisco, CA 94105  
Portal link: <https://baaqmd.bonfirehub.com>

2. Uploading large documents may take significant time, depending on the size of the file(s) and Internet connection speed. Bidders should plan sufficient time before the due date to finalize their submissions and to complete the uploading process. Bidders will not be able to submit documents after the due date and time. Statements of qualifications received after the date and time previously specified will not be considered.
3. Signature – All statements of qualifications should be signed by an authorized representative of the responding firm. Electronic signatures are acceptable in place of scanned copy of signatures.
4. Submittal – Submit one (1) electronic copy (in Adobe Acrobat PDF file format). Electronic submissions submitted via the Portal will be acknowledged with a confirmation email receipt. Late proposals will not be accepted. Any correction or re-submission of proposals will not extend the submittal due date.
5. Grounds for Rejection – A statement of qualifications may be rejected at any time if it arrives after the deadline, is not in the prescribed format, or is not signed by an individual authorized to represent the firm.
6. Disposition of the Submissions – All responses to this RFQ become property of the Air District and will be kept confidential until a recommendation for award of a contract has been announced. Thereafter, submittals are subject to public inspection and disclosure under the California Public Records Act. If a respondent believes that any portion of its submittal is exempt from public disclosure, it may mark that portion “confidential.” The Air District will use reasonable means to ensure that such confidential information is safeguarded, but will not be held liable for inadvertent disclosure of the information. Statements of Qualifications marked “confidential” in their entirety will not be honored, and the Air District will not deny public disclosure of any portion of submittals so marked.

By submitting a statement of qualifications with portions marked “confidential,” a respondent represents it has a good faith belief that such portions are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act

and agrees to reimburse the Air District for, and to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Air District, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any and all claims, damages, losses, liabilities, suits, judgments, fines, penalties, costs, and expenses, including without limitation, attorneys' fees, expenses, and court costs of any nature whatsoever, arising from or relating to the Air District's non-disclosure of any such designated portions of a statement of qualifications.

**C. Interviews**

1. The Air District, at its option, may interview firms that respond to this RFQ. The interviews will be for the purpose of clarifying the statement of qualifications.
2. Submittal of new materials at an interview will not be permitted.
3. Interviews may involve a presentation and/or a question-and-answer session.

**SECTION V – SUBMISSION CONTENTS**

**A. Contents of Statement of Qualifications**

Submitted statements of qualifications should follow the format outlined below and include all requested information. Please number your responses exactly as the items are presented here, and limit to 10 one-sided pages.

1. Experience, Structure, Personnel
  - a. Firm Contact Information – Provide the following information about the firm:
    - Address and telephone number of office nearest to San Francisco, California and the address and phone number of the office that each of the proposed staff members are based out of if different.
    - Name of firm's representative designated as the contact and email address
    - Name of project manager, if different from the individual designated as the contact
  - b. Firm History – Provide a history of your firm's experience in the collection and recycling of residential refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioning units in accordance with the RAD program, similar to those sought through this RFQ, including any services provided to governmental organizations. Provide references for any similar projects listed, including contact name, title, and telephone number. Describe the technical capabilities of the firm in all areas relevant to the services sought through this RFQ.
  - c. Assigned Personnel – List all key personnel who would be assigned to Air District projects by name and role. Provide descriptions of education and

training, along with a summary of experience in providing services similar to those sought through this RFQ. Background descriptions can be a resume, CV, or summary sheet. Note that the standard Air District contract will not permit substitution of project manager or staff without prior written approval of the Air District's assigned program manager.

- d. Estimation of the number of appliances the firm will be able to collect regionally from centralized collection sites to capture and dispose of F-gases and F-gas containing foams, and of the emission reductions from F-gases, F-gas containing foams, energy efficiency improvements from recycling inefficient appliances, and accounting for transportation emissions for collecting units, reported individually.
- e. Centralized collection sites – List the types of centralized collections sites you will be collecting appliances from and any detail on existing partnerships that your firm has with any of these sites.
- f. Subcontractors – List any subcontractors that will be used and the work to be performed by them.
- g. Conflict of Interest – Address possible conflicts of interest or appearance of impropriety regarding other clients of the firm that could be created by providing services to the Air District. Describe procedures to be followed to detect and resolve any conflict of interest or appearance of impropriety. The Air District reserves the right to consider the nature and extent of such work in evaluating the statement of qualifications.
- h. Additional Information – Provide any other information that the firm wishes the Air District to consider in evaluating the submission.

2. Fee Information (Does not count against 10-page limit)

- a. The normal hourly rate of each principal and staff member whose resume is provided or whose job category may be required, and the rate that would be charged to the Air District.
- b. A list of anticipated reimbursable expenses, such as expenses for collection of appliances, capture and disposal of F-gases and F-gas containing foams, reporting requirements to both U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Air District.
- c. Any reduced fees offered to other municipalities, governmental entities, economic development or nonprofit organizations, and civic organizations.
- d. Any other fees or charges.

## **SECTION VI – QUALIFICATIONS EVALUATION**

A panel of Air District staff will evaluate all statements of qualifications. The panel will recommend the selection of one or more firms to the APCO, who will, in turn, make a recommendation to the Air District Board of Directors. The Air District Board of Directors may be required to approve the contract to carry out the work described in this RFQ. An example of a typical contract for professional services used by the Air District is included in Section VII.

In evaluating statements of qualifications submitted pursuant to this request, the Air District places high value on the following factors, not necessarily in order of importance:

- Demonstrated ability to collect and dispose of appliances containing F-gases in accordance with the U.S. EPA RAD program.
- Number of appliances able to be properly recycled
- Demonstrated knowledge of Air District activities, particularly its Climate Protection program.
- Demonstrated understanding and ability to provide services to the Air District.
- Experience of the firm with comparable organizations and types of services.
- Proposed fee structure relating to services the firm(s) would provide.

The Air District reserves the right to reject any and all statements of qualifications submitted and/or request additional information.

## **SECTION VII – SAMPLE CONTRACT**

A sample contract to carry out the work described in this RFQ is available on the Air District's website at <http://www.baaqmd.gov/about-the-air-district/request-for-proposals-rfp-rfq/samples-previous>. (Click the + to the left of Sample Contracts, and then click on the Professional Services Contract link)