



BAY AREA
AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

November 21, 2022

Request for Proposals 2022-021

Mailing Services

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SECTION I – SUMMARY

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (“Air District”) seeks proposals from interested companies that would, under contract with the Air District, provide direct mailing services for distribution of notices and other mailouts for its permit programs. The Air District requires help for mailouts; including but not limited to, public noticing for proposed projects near a school site with an increase of toxic air contaminants or hazardous air emissions, public workshop noticing when the Air District proposes to amend a regulation impacting permits, surveys for information and public noticing for proposed significant new or modified projects.

To respond to this Request for Proposals (“RFP”), an interested firm should submit one (1) electronic copy (in Adobe Acrobat PDF file format) of its proposal to the Air District’s Procurement Portal (“Portal”):

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

**Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. on December 19, 2022 (“deadline”).
Late proposals will not be considered.**

Proposals must address all information requested in this RFP. A proposal may add information not requested in this RFP, 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, local businesses, and certified green businesses are encouraged to submit proposals. **Any questions regarding this RFP 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 (24) member Board of Directors, consisting of elected officials, including county supervisors, mayors, and city council members. The Interim Executive Officer / Air Pollution Control Officer for the Air District is Sharon Landers.

B. Mailing Services for the Permit Program

As part of the Air District's permit program, Federal, State and local law requires preparation and distribution of notices for certain projects. In addition, periodic mailouts are needed to communicate and administer the permit program.

The most common type of noticing applies to some permit applications for proposed projects where there is an increase of toxic or hazardous air contaminants. Noticing is required for:

- All projects or proposed projects located within 1,000 feet of the boundary of a K-12 school site (Waters Bill notifications).
- Projects or proposed projects which will increase of toxic or hazardous air contaminants above Air District-defined minimum levels and which are located in Air District-designated Overburdened Communities (OBC) notifications.

The Air District prepares a public notice fully describing the project or source for distribution at least thirty (30) days prior to issuing an Authority to Construct or Permit to Operate. For Waters Bill notifications, the notice is distributed to all parents and/or guardians of all schools within ¼ mile and to all addresses within 1,000 feet of the source or project. For OBC notifications, the notice is distributed to all addresses within 1,000 feet of the source or project. The Air District needs services from a vendor to assist with the reproduction and distribution of these notices. About 75 permit applications per year require a Waters Bill notification and about 50 to 75 permit applications require an OBC notification. A public notice averages about 1,500 mailings, but the range can be from a dozen to several thousand (e.g., 5,000).

In addition, the Air District periodically requires distribution of other notices. Examples are:

- About once a year, a notice is sent to all permitted facilities, open burners, asbestos-handling contractors, and interested parties (about 13,000) about the Air District's proposed Regulation 3 (Fees) changes.
- When the Air District proposes to amend a permit rule (about once every 3 to 5 years), a notice is sent to all permitted facilities and interested parties (about 11,000).
- A public notice is required for projects for new facilities with significant emissions or existing facilities proposing a significant modification. The typical range of notices is about 200 to 500. For high profile projects, the distribution could be a couple of thousand. These projects are difficult to predict but have historically occurred 0 to 5 times a year.
- Special mailouts, such as advisories, surveys, or informational packets, may need distribution to all permitted facilities (around 11,000) or a targeted group of permitted facilities.

SECTION III – SCOPE OF WORK

The Air District requires the assistance of a direct mail vendor in distributing documents from the Air District Permit Programs. The selected vendor will have to:

A. School Public Notice, (“Waters Bill”) and OBC Public Notice

- Electronically receive the public notice documents from Air District staff, including the notice, distribution letter (if applicable), translations and a map with source radius;
- Receive documents from Air District staff in various formats (Adobe Acrobat PDF, Microsoft Word, and jpeg);
- (Waters Bill Notices Only) Electronically receive address list from schools which could be in multiple formats (excel spreadsheet, word document, text file) or as printed labels;
- Create a mailing list of all addresses within a 1,000-foot radius of the address of the applicant's facility from the map provided;
- (Waters Bill Notices Only) Merge school address list with list within 1,000 feet and eliminate duplicates and incomplete addresses (these should be fixed when possible);
- Create a report of the address list and send to the Air District electronically for our records and for audit purposes in a timely manner;
- Using #10 envelopes provided by the Air District, print addresses or apply labels,
- Reproduce (in black and white), fold and insert the public notice documents into the envelopes;
- Apply postage and when appropriate use discounted postage rate for large mailings;
- Deliver to U.S. Postal Service for mailing on the date required (date of the notice);
- (Waters Bill Notices Only) Ship or deliver to schools or school districts enough copies of the notice or notices inserted into envelopes with postage applied for the schools or school districts to handle distribution on the required date (date of the notice);
- Receive and store large shipments of #10 envelopes with the Air District logo from printing company;

- Accomplish the mailing within one calendar week from the date of receipt of documents (but always mailed out on the date specified by the Air District); and
- Invoice the Air District within 1 week of finishing the mailing with detailed costs for each service or step.

B. All other mailouts

- Electronically receive the documents (via e-mail) in Adobe Acrobat PDF format;
- Electronically receive distribution list from the Air District, which could be in multiple formats (excel spreadsheet, word document, text file);
- Check the distribution list for duplicates and make any necessary corrections;
- Provide the Air District with a final total job cost estimate with detailed cost breakdown, including the final distribution count;
- Provide the Air District with an electronic copy of the final corrected distribution list;
- Using envelopes (typically regular #10 size) provided by the Air District, print addresses or apply labels;
- Reproduce, fold (as needed) and insert the documents into the envelopes,
 - Default – The reproductions are in black & white on standard 8½ by 11 letter-size paper.
 - Upon request, the reproductions may require colored paper stock or printing on legal-size paper.
- Apply postage and when appropriate use discounted postage rate for large mailings;
- Deliver to U.S. Postal Service for mailing on the date required (date of the notice);
- Accomplish the mailing within one calendar week from the date of receipt of documents (but always mailed out on the date specified by the Air District); and
- Invoice the Air District within 2 weeks of finishing the mailing with detailed costs for each service or step.

SECTION IV – INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

A. General

1. Interested firms must create an account through the Portal described in this RFP to view RFP documents and addenda, and to submit questions and proposal documents.
2. All proposals must be made in accordance with the conditions of this RFP. Failure to address any of the requirements is grounds for rejection of the proposal.
3. All information should be complete, specific, and as concise as possible.
4. Proposals should include any additional information that the bidder deems pertinent to the understanding and evaluation of the proposal.
5. The Air District may modify the RFP or issue supplementary information or guidelines during the proposal preparation period prior to the deadline. Please

check the [Portal](#) for updates prior to the deadline.

6. All proposals shall constitute firm offers. Once submitted, proposals may be withdrawn, modified and resubmitted through the Portal up until the deadline.
7. The Air District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
8. All questions must be in written form and submitted through the Portal no later than **4:00 p.m. on December 5, 2022**. Bidders 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 December 12, 2022**.
9. The cost for developing the proposal is the responsibility of the bidder, and shall not be chargeable to the Air District.

B. Submittal of Proposals

All proposals must be submitted according to the specifications set forth in Section V (A) – Contents of Proposal, and this section. Failure to adhere to these specifications may be cause for the rejection of the proposal.

1. Deadline – All proposals are due no later than **4:00 p.m., December 19, 2022**, and must be submitted via the Portal to:

Michael Chao, 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 deadline to finalize their submissions and complete the uploading process. Bidders will not be able to submit documents after the deadline. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.
3. Signature – All proposals must be signed by an authorized representative of the bidder.
4. Submittal – Submit one (1) electronic copy (in Adobe Acrobat PDF file format) to the Portal. 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 deadline.
5. Grounds for Rejection – A proposal may be rejected at any time if it arrives after the deadline, or is not in the prescribed format, or is not signed by an individual authorized to represent the firm.
6. Disposition of the Proposals – All responses to this RFP 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. Proposals 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 proposal 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 District’s non-disclosure of any such designated portions of a proposal.

7. Modification – Once submitted, proposals, including the composition of the contracting team, may be altered up until the deadline. Proposals may not be modified after the deadline.

C. Interviews

1. The Air District, at its option, may interview bidders. The interviews will be for the purpose of clarifying the proposals.
2. Submittal of new proposal material at an interview will not be permitted.
3. Interviews may involve a presentation and/or a question-and-answer session.
4. Interview teams should be representative of the project team.

SECTION V – PROPOSAL FORMAT, CONTENT, AND SUBMITTAL

A. Contents of Proposal

Submitted proposals should follow the format outlined below and include all requested information. Failure to submit proposals in the required format may result in the proposal being eliminated from evaluation and consideration. Please number your responses exactly as the items are presented here, except work samples, which should be included in a separate appendix.

1. Technical Proposal
 - a. Cover Letter (Section I) – Must include the name, address, and telephone number of the firm, and signed by the person(s) authorized to represent the firm.

- b. 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.
- c. Table of Contents – Clearly identify material contained in the proposal by section.
- d. Summary (Section II) – State overall approach to the mailing services, including the objectives and scope of work.
- e. Experience and Qualifications (Section III) – Provide a statement of your firm’s background and related experience in providing similar services to governmental organizations, if any. Describe the technical capabilities of the firm and, in particular, the firm’s exposure with working with environmental regulations, if any.
- f. References (Section IV) - Provide a minimum of three (3) references of other, similar projects including company name or government entity, contact name, title, phone number and e-mail address for all references listed. For each reference, include a description of services provided and dates the services were provided.
- g. Project Approach and Methodology (Section V) – Provide a detailed description of the approach and methodology to be used to accomplish the scope of work.
- h. Project Schedule (Section VI) – Provide projected milestones or benchmarks for completing the project within the total time allowed.
- i. Project Organization (Section VII) – Describe the proposed management structure, program monitoring procedures, and organization of the proposed team. Provide a statement addressing your firm’s ability and willingness to commit and maintain staffing to successfully conclude the project on the proposed project schedule.
- j. Assigned Personnel (Section VIII) – Provide the following information about the staff to be assigned to the project:
- List all key personnel assigned to the project by level and name. Provide a description of their background, along with a summary of their experience in providing similar services for governmental agencies, and any specialized expertise they may have. Background descriptions can be a resume, curriculum vitae, or summary sheet. Substitution of project manager or staff will not be permitted without prior written approval of the Air District’s assigned program manager.

- Provide a statement of the availability of staff in any local office with requisite qualifications and experience to conduct the requested project.
 - Provide a statement of education and training programs provided to, or required of, the staff identified for participation in the project. Make particular mention of with reference to experience dealing with governmental agencies, procedures, and environmental regulations.
- k. Retention of Working Papers (Section IX) – All working papers are the property of the Air District. Include a statement acknowledging that if your firm is awarded the contract, you will retain project related papers and related reports for a minimum of five (5) years.
- l. Subcontractors (Section X) – List any subcontractors that will be used, the work to be performed by them, and the total number of hours or percentage of time they will spend on the contract.
- m. Conflict of Interest (Section XI) – Address possible conflicts of interest with other clients affected by contractors' actions performed by the firm on behalf of the Air District. The Air District recognizes that prospective bidders may have contracts to perform similar services for other clients. Include a complete list of such clients for the past three (3) years with the type of work performed and the total number of years performing such tasks for each client. The Air District reserves the right to consider the nature and extent of such work in evaluating the proposal.
- n. Additional Data (Section XII) – Provide other essential data that may assist in the evaluation of the proposal.
2. Cost Proposal
- a. Name and Address – The Cost Proposal must have the name and complete address of the bidder in the upper, left hand corner.
- b. List the fully-burdened hourly rates and the total number of hours estimated for each level of professional and administrative staff to be used to perform the tasks required by this RFP. In addition, costs should be estimated for each of the components of the Scope of Work.
- c. Include a list of anticipated reimbursable expenses, such as expenses for travel, presentation materials, supplies, deliveries, black/white and color printouts and copies, faxes, photo scans, copywriting and copyediting services and the rate charged for each.
- d. Any other fees or charges.

SECTION VI – PROPOSAL EVALUATION

A panel of Air District staff will evaluate all proposals. The panel will recommend the selection of the contractor to the Air Pollution Control Officer (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 RFP. A link to a typical contract for professional services used by the Air District is included in Section VIII.

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Points
Expertise	Technical expertise, size and structure of the firm and personnel assigned to RFP tasks; firm’s ability to perform and complete the work in a professional and timely manner.*	30%
Skill	Past experience of the firm and, in particular, experience of the team working on projects of similar scope for other governmental agencies.	25%
Approach	Responsiveness of the proposal, based upon a clear understanding of the work to be performed.	10%
Cost	Cost or cost effectiveness and resource allocation strategy.	30%
References	Quality and applicability of references.	5%
	Total	100

* “Size and structure of firm” refers to the ability of a firm’s size to meet the needs of the District. It does not give absolute preference to larger or smaller firms.

If two or more proposals receive the same number of points, the more cost-effective proposal shall be given a higher rank.

SECTION VII – RFP SCHEDULE

MILESTONE	DATE
RFP RELEASE DATE	November 21, 2022
WRITTEN QUESTIONS DUE	December 5, 2022
ANSWERS POSTED ON PORTAL	December 12, 2022
PROPOSAL DEADLINE	December 19, 2022
SELECTION OF FINALIST(S)*	January 31, 2023
COMMENCEMENT OF CONTRACT*	Quarter 1 2023

*Dates are tentative and subject to change.

SECTION VIII – SAMPLE CONTRACT

A sample contract to carry out the work described in this RFP 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)