



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) RIVER RESTORATION DESIGN SERVICES

River Partners seeks qualified vendors to provide planning and design services for projects that restore rivers and streams. Our primary interest is ecosystem-based restoration of rivers, floodplains, riparian forests, and associated uplands to restore the ecological integrity and dynamic functions of rivers and enhance movement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic life. Successful qualifiers will have a 12-month or 24-month period during which River Partners will be designing no less than fifteen (15) projects in three (3) geographies using state and federal grant monies from programs including but not limited to the Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Water Resources, and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

River restoration services sought under this RFQ may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Project Management
 - Bid Document Preparation
 - Construction Oversight
- Engineering Services
 - Feasibility Studies
 - Engineering Analysis
 - Sediment, Hydraulic and Hydrologic Modeling
 - Engineering Design
 - Project Cost Estimating
- Site Planning
 - Public Education and Outreach
 - Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities
 - Tribal Outreach
 - Land Management and Land Management Planning
 - Public Access and Recreation Design
 - Permitting and Regulatory Coordination
 - Irrigation Design
- Environmental Compliance and Permitting, Science, and Monitoring
 - Baseline Condition Assessment
 - Biological Surveys
 - Sensitive Species Surveys
 - Geomorphic Surveys
 - Wetland Delineation
 - Cultural and Historical Resources Surveys and Documentation

- Pre- and Post-Project Monitoring
- CEQA/NEPA Preparation
- Encroachment and Section 408 Permit Applications
- Other Permits Relevant to Riparian, Floodplain and Riverine Environments
- Real Estate and Land Management Services
 - Appraisals
 - Rural and Agricultural Land Management and Land Management Planning
 - Agricultural Lease Management
 - Environmental Due Diligence
 - Water Rights Determination and Documentation

River Partners will enter into a Master Service Agreement (MSA) with selected vendors based on their response to this RFQ. MSAs shall have a term of three (3) years with the option to extend for an additional three (3) years provided that the vendor continues to meet the qualifications. A designation as a prequalified vendor under an MSA does not establish these firms as the exclusive providers for River Partners' service needs; other vendors may be considered. Additionally, at the end of the three-year term of the MSAs, River Partners will provide the opportunity for additional firms who are not on River Partners' prequalified vendor list to submit proposals to respond to this same RFQ provided they submit a compelling reason for not participating in the initial RFQ or a change in circumstance since the initial RFQ selection.

River Partners' intent is to establish MSAs with single vendors (i.e., the prime vendor indicated in the package), rather than teams of vendors. Therefore, we are most interested in receiving qualifications packages that illustrate the capabilities of individual vendors, with the understanding that a subset of services may necessitate the inclusion of subcontractors.

Entering into an MSA does not guarantee work for a vendor, only that it may be considered first with other prequalified vendors for a specific project. Ultimately, projects will be allocated to selected, pre-qualified vendors at River Partners' discretion based upon the requirements of the specific project. In some cases, projects contracts may be allocated based upon a subsequent, project specific Request for Proposal to be solicited from all or a subset of the pre-qualified vendors with MSAs established under this RFQ. In these cases, each individual Request for Proposal, River Partners will describe the specific obligations of the project and any specific compliance required by the funder of the project. In all cases, before the initiation of services as requested by River Partners, the MSA firm shall submit a proposal for River Partners' review. Each proposal shall be reviewed by River Partners, and if accepted, such services shall be procured in the form of a Task Order issued by River Partners.

1. Background and Geographic Focus

[River Partners](#) gives new life to rivers. Our mission is to bring life back to rivers by creating wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment. River Partners envisions interconnected, thriving floodplains that sustain abundant wildlife, support productive farmland, preserve freshwater resources, enhance surrounding communities, and serve as the first line of ecological defense in a changing climate. Since 1998 River Partners has pioneered the use of agricultural techniques combined

with ecological science to re-introduce critical habitat in California on a scale not undertaken by any other organization. Our practices establish self-sustaining forests from seeds in just three years.

River Partners' work has historically been focused in California, but we are interested in expanding beyond the state where we can make a difference. Most of River Partners work has been focused in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys where we expect to see a significant increase in activity over the next decade, particularly in the Tulare Basin. We have implemented a significant number of projects in San Diego County and are planning significant new activity in the Imperial Valley. River Partners is open to growth beyond our traditional geographic focus and would welcome Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) from firms who specialize in other geographies such as the Lower Colorado, the Truckee River, the Klamath River, and the Central Coast.

2. Desired Qualifications

Respondents should demonstrate their capabilities for relevant services of the following regions: the Central Valley, Imperial Valley, San Diego County, and other parts of California. River Partners seeks vendors that have a strong understanding of the underlying principles of river restoration, and at least three years of experience demonstrating these capabilities. Respondents are required to have experience with restoration of river channels, floodplains, riparian corridors, or native vegetation, preferably as the lead consultant; SOQs submitted by respondents without such experience will not be reviewed.

Specific desired qualifications include:

- An understanding of river processes and the application of fluvial geomorphology and restoration principles
- An understanding of river ecology and ecosystem-based habitat restoration for multiple species and life stages
- An understanding of river engineering in the context of fluvial geomorphology and ecology, and the application of engineering services to river and stream restoration
- An understanding of River Partners' Restoration Standards and willingness to partner to achieve aspirational standards of restoration
- An understanding of rural and agricultural land management and land management planning
- Experience in public education and outreach to disadvantaged or tribal communities
- Experience with public access and recreation design
- Experience in irrigation and infrastructure design
- Experience with wetland delineation, biological, geomorphic, and sensitive species surveys
- Experience with CEQA/NEPA preparation
- Experience developing conceptual, pre-construction and as-built designs for river restoration projects (e.g. dam removal, floodplain restoration, meadow restoration, channel design, daylighting, streambank stabilization, bioengineering)
- Experience completing feasibility studies for river restoration planning and design
- Experience with hydraulic and hydrologic analysis and modeling
- Experience conducting sediment management analysis (both quality and quantity)

- Successful preparation of federal and state permit applications and approvals, and associated plans for river-related projects including encroachment permits to the Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Experience providing effective presentation of complex information to the public
- Construction oversight of contractors implementing design plans and specifications for river-related projects
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in both internal corporate practices, as well as in a commitment to workforce equity in the selection of subcontractors and procurement

3. Anticipated Need for Services

River Partners will select the best vendor for each project. This selection process will include coordination and consultation with other project-specific partners. Vendor selection for individual projects may include consideration of project-specific bids regarding total cost, period of performance for completing the project, the experience and proximity of the vendor to the work site, River Partners' determination of a vendor's suitability to each specific project, and River Partners' prior experience with a vendor submitting a project-specific bid. If none of the specific bids received meets River Partners' needs, River Partners may reject all bids and may solicit additional bids.

Due to the nature of our work, we cannot provide an estimate of the amount of work that may be provided to our MSA vendors. While River Partners works on dozens of projects, we are not the hiring entity on all of those projects, and some funding sources require us to bid projects publicly. In those cases, we will certainly include our MSA vendors in the opportunity to bid.

A vendor's MSA is dependent on the quality of its work, and if River Partners determines that vendor's work is unacceptable or not in the best interest of River Partners' program goals, it may result in termination of the MSA. Such a determination will be made based on the consistency of the vendor's work product(s) with the basic specifications, the quality of vendor's work product(s), the vendor's ability to abide by contractual and administrative procedures, and the vendor's responsiveness to the stated program and project goals of River Partners.

4. Instructions for Submittals

Respondents must submit SOQs in digital (i.e. PDF) format. Hard copy submittals will not be accepted. SOQs must be submitted to: info@riverpartners.org with the Subject Line: "Design RFQ Response."

SOQs must be received electronically by **June 14, 2024**. A response will be provided for all SOQs received successfully.

The SOQ package shall include:

1. Cover letter indicating a primary contact for the proposal and that person's title, address, phone number and email address. The cover letter should note the regions of interest in which the respondent is able to provide services. Regions of interest to River Partners include: the Central Valley, Imperial Valley, the Lower Colorado River, San Diego County, the Klamath Basin, and the Central Coast.

2. List of references including names, titles, addresses and phone numbers, preferably clients (not including River Partners) for whom similar work has been performed within the past three (3) years. Not to exceed one (1) page.
3. Billing rates for applicable personnel/positions, with profit listed as a separate element, a copy of the most recent annual financial statement, and a brief description of staffing capabilities. Federal guidelines require us to review the amount of profit firms earn on project work. Please provide your percentage of profit or formula you use to apply profit. Selected firms will be held to these rates over the three-year term of the Master Service Agreement.
4. Resumes for primary personnel expected to participate in contracts. Not to exceed one (1) page per team member, and eight (8) team members in total.
5. Project reference pages, including a summary of the project, the specific role of the respondent in the project, and representative photographs. Not to exceed eight (8) pages.

5. RFQ Questions

River Partners staff will not respond to telephone questions about the RFQ. Questions concerning this RFQ must be submitted via email to info@riverpartners.org. Questions must be submitted by **May 31, 2024**, and must have the Subject Line: "Design RFQ Questions." If you have a question, please follow this procedure to ensure consistency of answers. Any information obtained by speaking one-on-one with a staff person is not considered an official response for the purposes of this process.

A digest version of all questions and answers will be emailed to all applicants. Please submit as detailed above to be included. River Partners shall distribute the Q&A Digest via email by **June 7, 2024**.

6. Selection Process

River Partners will evaluate submittals based on the following criteria:

- A. Demonstration of significant and effective experience implementing the skills listed in this RFQ;
- B. Demonstration of innovative and successful solutions to complex river restoration issues;
- C. Demonstration of successful cooperation, communication, and partnership with non-profits, local, state and federal agencies and private partners and a commitment to accountability;
- D. Demonstration of past project experience and success;
- E. Demonstration of project management effectiveness and experience of primary personnel;
- F. Demonstration of commitment to workforce equity as reflected in internal policies and selection of sub-contractors;
- G. Quality of work evaluated against cost for services;
- H. Clarity, quality of writing and presentation of proposal.

	SELECTION CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS
1.	Professional experience of the firm and the collective professional experience of its team in performing services of similar nature and scope as those checked in Section 9 below.	30
2.	Quality and relevance of recently completed or ongoing work and associated references.	15
3.	Cost Competitiveness	35
4.	Qualifications, education, and experience of key project staff	10
5.	Demonstrated clarity, high-quality writing, and polished presentation in proposal submission.	10
	Total Possible Points	100

7. Timeline:

May 22, 2024	RFQ Release
May 31, 2024	Deadline for submittal of questions on RFQ (by 5:00 PM Pacific Time)
June 7, 2024	Q&A Digest emailed.
June 14, 2024	Deadline for receipt of responses to RFQ (by 5:00 PM Pacific Time)
June 28, 2024 (anticipated)	Final selection and notification to all submitted firms. Begin development of MSAs.

8. Disclaimer

This RFQ does not commit River Partners to award an MSA or to pay any costs incurred during the preparation of the SOQ. River Partners reserves the right to reject any or all the SOQs for completing this work.

9. Qualification Checklist

Please select (check) the service areas that your organization or company are qualified to provide:

- Project Management
 - Bid Document Preparation
 - Construction Oversight
- Engineering Services
 - Feasibility Studies
 - Engineering Analysis
 - Sediment, Hydraulic and Hydrologic Modeling
 - Engineering Design
 - Project Cost Estimating
- Site Planning
 - Public Education and Outreach
 - Outreach to Disadvantaged Communities

- Tribal Outreach
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