



**Sierra Valley
Groundwater
Management District**

**RFP ADDENDUM
QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS
January 25, 2021**

**to RFP for Professional Services for
Sustainable Groundwater
Management Act (SGMA) Implementation
for the Sierra Valley Subbasin (5-012.01)**

**DWR Grant Agreement Category (d)
Monitoring / Assessment**

**RFP Submission Deadline Date:
February 1, 2021 at 5:00PM**

Issued by:

**Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District
Board of Directors**

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INTRODUCTION

The Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District (District) Board Clerk received the following questions and requests for clarifications by email on or before Friday, January 22, 2021 at 5:00PM. The questions are numbered and grouped by similar topic, and the “Answer” follows.

RFP SUBMISSION DEADLINE QUESTIONS

1. This is an exceptionally short turnaround for people submitting a proposal. Has there been any consideration of extending the deadline on this solicitation?

Answer: Time is of the essence. The RFP meets the noticing and formal competitive bid procedures for professional services procurement in the District’s Purchasing Policy adopted May 18, 2020.

2. It seems that the timeframe of Feb. 1, 2021 to submit a proposal for this project is too short. I would think, that regardless of the fact that this process needs to be done quickly, extending the submission period another two weeks seems more reasonable. Thank you for your consideration.

Answer: See answer to #1 above.

ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS QUESTION

3. Larry Walker Associates was awarded the GSP contract for Grant Categories (a) through (c). Their contract also includes providing General PM responsibilities for the Grant Category (d) tasks. In their contractual role as General PM for Category (d), does this exclude them from also being the Contractor awarded the Category (d) work? Are prospective Contractors completing (sic) with the General PM for this work?

Answer: LWA is not excluded from bidding on the Category (d) work.

SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET QUESTIONS

4. Part of the Evaluation and Ranking Criteria includes Budget. We request that the SVGMD General PM provide additional details for aid in the Budget task of the RFP. For example, Task 3:
 - a. Monitoring Network requires bringing all monitoring points (new and existing) up to monitoring program standards. Approximately how many new installations are presently envisioned? Will this task and associated budget need to include drilling of new monitoring wells, and if so, are some of these envisioned to be deep monitoring wells (which can be a significant budget component)? Should the project team include a well drilling contractor?

Answer: No new monitoring well installations are included in the Category (d) GSP DWR Grant Agreement scope of work and budget. As reflected in the deliverables for Tasks 1 and 3, technical memorandums are the product. The District notes that outside of the GSP DWR Grant Agreement, the District was awarded a new monitoring well through DWR’s Technical Support Service (TSS) grant and that monitoring well was installed in the fall of 2020 and located in the northeast portion of the Sierra Valley Basin. Another DWR TSS grant has been awarded to the District for another new monitoring well, with installation in the summer of 2021. This new monitoring well is also located in the northeast portion of the Sierra Valley Basin. Specifics for these and other monitoring wells in the Basin will be made available to the Category (d) contractor(s).

- b. Are surface water gage installations contemplated to be needed as monitoring points? If so, approximate numbers based on present understanding?

Answer: No determinations have been made to-date. Contractor can choose to recommend proposed scope of work and budget as preferred and make recommendations. Primary Task 3 deliverable is a technical memorandum.

- c. Does Task 3 scope and budget include full equipping of monitoring points (wells or shallow piezometers) with water level transducers and recorders, etc.?

Answer: No determinations have been made to-date. Contractor can choose to recommend proposed scope of work and budget as preferred. Could include installation of any combination of surface water elevation, streamflow gaging, pressure transducers/specific conductance recorders, and/or nested piezometers. As stated in answer #4a above, no new monitoring wells are included in budget. If a new monitoring well is needed, it would be financed through a separate funding source.

- d. Does Task 3 contemplate climate monitoring (weather station) implementation?

Answer: No determinations have been made to-date. Contractor can choose to recommend proposed scope of work and budget as preferred. Could include climate monitoring (weather station) implementation. The District notes that DWR installed a weather station in the fall of 2020 in the northeast portion of the Sierra Valley Bain. Telemetry for this weather station, called Sierra Valley Center, is available at the California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS). Sierra Valley is Station Id #264 <https://cimis.water.ca.gov/Stations.aspx>.

5. Task 1 - 2. There appears to be significant overlap with work required to be completed by Larry Walker Associates under Category (c) 2 and requested in Category (d) Task 1-2, such as identification of data, compiling data, and determining data gaps. Is the intent of including this task again in Category (d) a QC measure for the data being compiled and reviewed for accuracy for Category (c) GSP evaluations? Or are there relevant data that are not being compiled as part Category (c)? Please clarify.

Answer: The LWA Professional Services Agreement by and between the District and LWA, approved and executed on August 17, 2020, includes Exhibit "A" Scope of Services, Category (c) 2, as follows:

Data Collection and Analysis

To compile, evaluate, and analyze data necessary for development of the GSP, the existing data, reports, and studies will be summarized and used by Contractor to identify data gaps. A data gap data analysis and a workplan to address those data gaps will be prepared to guide the development of the Contractor's suggestions regarding installation locations for additional monitoring wells and stream gauges, if necessary.

Fundamental to developing and implementing a successful GSP is knowledge of the current and historical hydrogeologic conditions in the basin. Critical to this effort is development of the data management system (DMS). The DMS is a GSP requirement that consolidates different data types and data from various sources into an organized and consistent form. Contractor will develop a DMS for Sierra Valley using a framework developed for other GSPs that integrates multiple hydrologic data sets collected by various agencies in to a single, consistent format. This will allow different types of data to be added, retrieved, and processed efficiently. Tools will be developed that automatically extract values from the database to create plots and tables that are needed for the GSP and for annual reporting. The DMS will store and manage a wide array of

data including water levels, water quality, pumping data, land use/crop mapping, soils, subsidence, jurisdictional administrative boundaries, management areas, geology, GDEs and watershed boundaries.

A map-based web interface will be developed that allows data to be accessed via an internet browser window. This will allow the District, TAC, and stakeholders to quickly and efficiently view the data used to develop the GSP and will facilitate decision making and development of the various technical elements of the GSP.

6. Task 1 - 2. What formats of data compiled under Category (c) will be provided to the Contractor for Category (d) Task 1 - 2?

Answer: Primary data formats compiled to-date under Category (c) include Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, Microsoft Access databases, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) shapefiles. A GSP data portal is being developed under Category (c) and will be made publicly available in the future.

7. Task 1 – 4d. For groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDE), will monitoring considerations be dealing with a few specific areas of concern, or perhaps the GSP evaluations in Category (c) are indicating many GDEs, or a very board area of GDE? Are GDE’s defined to date primarily on public or private lands? Please provide additional details of what has been determined to date in order to define a proposed scope and budget.

Answer: No decisions on GDE types or locations has been determined to-date under Category (c). The first introduction to and overview of GDEs will be discussed at the next GSP Technical Advisory Meeting (TAC) meeting on February 8, 2021. More information on TAC meetings can be found on the District’s website at <https://www.sierravalleyqmd.org/gsp-meetings>. Based on the future analysis under Category (c), approaches for GDE monitoring under Category (d) Task 1 – 4d may include, but not limited to, the use of streamflow gauges, shallow piezometers, and/or satellite imagery. See also RFP, Section 5, Reference Materials.

8. Task 1 – 4c & Task 2. What is the number of currently metered wells? Of wells that are currently metered, are there known problems with the meters/equipping? Please provide the current general understanding of how many wells that are not currently metered, but will potentially need to be metered?

Answer: A total of 61 wells are currently being metered by the District. There are known and unknown problems with the wells being metered. All wells are metered; however, some installations are not to standard specifications.