



Finance Department
Purchasing Division

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
Specification No. 24-11641-C
FOR
Environmental Justice Element, Safety Element Update, and Equitable Climate and Resilience Metrics
PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE OPENED AND READ PUBLICLY

ADDENDUM "C"
November 22, 2023

Dear Proposer:

Questions received from proposers along with answers are attached.

Proposals/bids must be received no later than 2:00 pm, on Tuesday, December 12, 2023. All responses should be sent via email to purchasing@berkeleyca.gov and have **"Environmental Justice Element, Safety Element Update, and Equitable Climate and Resilience Metrics"** and **Specification No. 24-11641-C** indicated in the subject line of the email. Please submit one (1) PDF of the technical proposal. Corresponding cost proposal shall be submitted as a separate PDF document.

Proposals will not be accepted after the date and time stated above.

We look forward to receiving and reviewing your proposal.

Sincerely,

Darryl Sweet
General Services Manager

Addendum “C”

Questions and Answers for Specification No. 24-11641-C Environmental Justice Element, Safety Element Update, and Equitable Climate and Resilience Metrics

The City of Berkeley has received questions from some potential respondents regarding Specification No. 24-11641-C, Environmental Justice Element, Safety Element Update, and Equitable Climate and Resilience Metrics. In an effort to provide the same information to all, listed below are the questions received to date, with responses from City staff.

1. Q. Could you speak a little bit more to the participation responsibility split between the Ecology Center and this consultant?

1. A. The Ecology Center is a key partner in our grant with the Governor’s Office of Research and Planning (OPR). They are taking the lead and have grant funding to use the Climate Equity Collaborative as a vehicle to do deep stakeholder engagement, particularly with underrepresented voices in this planning process. The Ecology Center will be leading targeted engagement through 2024, and will continue supporting engagement through 2025. As noted in the RFP, the consultant team will lead broad public outreach and engagement of the General Plan Elements and related work (e.g. large public meetings, surveys, Commission meetings, Council meetings, etc.) to complement the Ecology Center’s more targeted efforts.

2. Q. Can you talk a little bit about the Hazardous Railway Materials Training requirement and how that came to be? I’m curious of the history of that and what your expectation is?

2. A. As part of the Adaptation Program Grant Application, the City identified climate change-related issues and possible solutions that the project will address. At the request of our Toxics Department, the City identified the need to better understand and prepare for the impacts of a railway disaster involving hazardous materials as a critical information gap. As a result, conducting a tabletop training for analysis and planning for rail hazard situations was included as a subtask as part of the Technical Vulnerability Analyses and Technical Training in the City’s application for the grant. The City is seeking a consultant to carry out this work, which is part of the funding and a deliverable for this grant. The Adaptation Program Grant Application has been added as Addendum B on the RFP webpage:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/doing-business/working-city/bid-proposal-opportunities/environmental-justice-element-safety-element>]

3. Q. What’s the public health department’s participation going to be like for this?

3. A. There are parts of the Environmental Justice Element that relate to the work done by the City’s Health, Housing, and Community Services Department; they will be one of our partners for this project. We will be coordinating with them, especially as it relates to community outreach and their effort to develop a citywide Community Health Assessment that is just getting underway.

4. Q. Can you talk more about past CEQA work that the City has done related to the Housing Element and lots of other projects, and why we think a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is needed for this project, rather than a Mitigated Negative Declaration or some other options?

4. A. Due to recent legislation related to evacuation planning, the Safety Element needs to evaluate evacuation routes, evacuation times, and identify constrained areas of the city. The Housing Element Update EIR did not include an assessment of the proposed Safety and EJ policies; the City has no adopted thresholds of significance as it relates to these topics under CEQA. We believe that the City will need an EIR that includes a robust methodology to support development of these thresholds and impact analysis similar to other cities, such as the City of Oakland.

5. Q. At the bottom of page 4 of the RFP, it references that the final deliverables for the OPR grant are “Final Public Review Draft Environmental Justice Element, a Final Public Review Draft Safety Element, and...”. But a “Public Review Draft” suggests that the public can still review and provide feedback/comments for further edits. Can you please clarify the nature of the final deliverables?

5. A. The RFP includes final deliverables that go beyond those that are specific to the OPR grant. Given the project timeline, the Final EIR will not be certified until summer or fall of 2026, and only after that can the Final Safety and Environmental Justice Elements be adopted. As the OPR grant deliverables are due at the end of 2025, the City and OPR agreed that the final deliverable for the grant would be the Final Public Review Draft Safety and Environmental Justice Element (as there is no requirement that all CEQA review be complete by the end of the grant term). However, as these documents will be public review drafts, additional work to incorporate public feedback into the elements may happen after the grant term has ended.

6. Q. Do any of the following pages count toward the 25-page limits: outside cover, section dividers, and table of contents?

6. A. No.

7. Q. Is the City conducting the evacuation analysis as part of the update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan?

7. A. Yes. [The final scope for the evacuation analysis, being conducted by KLD Engineering, has been added as Addendum D on the RFP webpage: <https://berkeleyca.gov/doing-business/working-city/bid-proposal-opportunities/environmental-justice-element-safety-element>]

8. Q. Will the City release a sample contract for this RFP?

8. A. Yes; the City will post a sample contract no later than Monday, November 27th.

9. Q. Would language requesting modifications to the sample contract be included in the 25-page limit? For example, the RFP seems to convey that the Contract Terminations section would not count towards this limit.

9. A. The sample contract is included for reference only. The vendor that is selected can propose modifications, to the boilerplate language, during contract development and finalization of the scope of services. Any changes to boilerplate terms and conditions require the approval of the City Attorney.

Except as provided herein all other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

