



COUNTY OF EL PASO
County Purchasing Department
500 East San Antonio, Suite PU500
El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 546-2048
(915) 546-8180 Fax

Notice to Interested Parties

Sealed bids will be received at the County Purchasing Department, 500 E. San Antonio, Suite PU500, El Paso, Texas 79901 before 2:00 p.m., **Tuesday, May 29, 2007** to be opened at the County Purchasing Office the same date for **Replacement of Three Cooling Towers at the County Courthouse.** A pre-bid conference will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Purchasing Conference Room located at 500 East San Antonio, Room 500, El Paso, Texas 79901.

Bids must be in a sealed envelope and marked:
"Bid to be opened May 29, 2007
Replacement of Three Cooling Towers at the County Courthouse
Bid #07-063"

Any questions or additional information required by interested vendors must be submitted in writing to the attention of the County Purchasing Agent before Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at 12:00 p.m. Questions can be faxed to (915)-546-8180.

Said contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, and the **COMMISSIONER'S COURT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND WAIVE TECHNICALITIES.** Only bids that conform to specifications will be considered. Faxed bids will not be accepted. Successful bidder shall not order items or services until a Purchase Order is received from the County Purchasing Office. Payment will not be made on items delivered without a Purchase Order. Contract will be awarded by lump sum or line item, whichever is in the best interest of the County.

In order to remain active on the El Paso County Vendor list, each vendor receiving this bid must respond in some form. Vendors submitting a bid must meet or exceed all specifications herein. Vendors submitting a no bid must submit their reason in writing to the El Paso County Purchasing Department.

If the bid totals more than \$100,000.00, the bidder shall furnish a certified cashier's check made payable to the order of El Paso County or a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of 5% of the total contract price, executed with a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas. The bid bond must be included with the bid at the time of the opening.

PITI VASQUEZ
County Purchasing Agent

BIDDING SCHEDULE

To: El Paso County, Texas

I or we agree to furnish the following described equipment, supplies, or services for the prices shown in accordance with specifications listed below or attached. By execution of this bid, I hereby represent and warrant to El Paso County that I have read and understood the Bid Documents and the Contract Documents and this bid is made in accordance with the Bid Documents.

Please quote prices and discounts on the following items:

F. O. B. El Paso County

Description – Bid # 07-063 Replacement of Three Cooling Towers at the County Courthouse Vendor must meet or exceed specifications
Please do not include tax, as the County is tax-exempt. We will sign tax exemption certificates covering these items. Please submit one (1) original copy and two (2) copies of your bid.

_____ Company	_____ Address
_____ Federal Tax Identification No.	_____ City, State, Zip Code
_____ CIQ Document Number	_____ CIQ Sent Date
_____ Representative Name & Title	_____ Telephone
_____ Fax Number	_____ E-mail
_____ Signature	_____

*****THIS MUST BE THE FIRST PAGE ON ALL BIDS*****

COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

Solicitation Check List

Replacement of Three Cooling Towers at the County Courthouse Bid #07-063

THIS CHECKLIST IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

- _____ Responses should be delivered to the County Purchasing Department by 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 29, 2007. Did you visit our website (www.epcounty.com) for any addendums?
- _____ Did you sign the Bidding Schedule?
- _____ Did you sign the "Certifications Regarding Lobbying, Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters; Drug-Free Workplace Requirements; Federal Debt Status, and Nondiscrimination Status And Implementing Regulations" document?
- _____ Did you sign the "Consideration of Insurance Benefits" form?
- _____ Did you file a copy of the completed Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (Form CIQ) with the El Paso County Clerk (in person or by mail to 500 E. San Antonio, Suite 105, El Paso, TX 79901 or by fax to 915-546-2012 attention Joann) and write the confirmation number given as proof of filing on your bidding schedule? Please include the completed and signed form with your response whether a relationship exists or not.
- _____ If your bid totals more than \$100,000, did you include a bid bond?
- _____ Did you provide one original and two (2) copies of your response?
-

Replacement of Three Cooling Towers at the County Courthouse

Bid #07-063



**Opening Date
Tuesday, May 29, 2007**

COMMENCEMENT DATE:

The Contractor shall commence immediately upon award of the Bid/RFP all necessary processes and arrangements to perform the service(s) specified in this document.

SCOPE:

It is the intent of these specifications to replace the three cooling towers with 1.5 EVAPCO cooling towers. The contractor will be responsible for the complete dismantling and disposing of the old cooling tower and the complete installation of the new cooling towers. Contractor should include ALL parts, labor, and equipment necessary to perform both the removal and installation of the cooling towers as specified in this bid.

SPECIFICATIONS:**REMOVAL OF OLD COOLING TOWERS**

- The cooling tower frames shall be left intact to be used to house the new cooling towers;
- The vibration isolators on main I-beam shall be left intact to be used on the new cooling towers;
- Disconnect existing electrical and piping connections and fully dismantle old cooling towers by appropriate means, in a manner that will cause the least amount of disruption to the operations of the County Courthouse;
- Load, transport, and dispose the dismantled cooling towers and all of its parts in a manner in compliance with City-County Environmental codes and ordinances;
- Prepare the vacated space for the installation of the new unit, including welding of brackets to accommodate new cooling towers;

INSTALLATION OF NEW COOLING TOWERS

Minimum Requirements: All equipment and parts must be new. The County will not accept used or refurbished parts.

- EVAPCO Model REP 217-614 Induced Draft Counterflow Cooling Tower Including the Following Options:
 1. 3-Probe Electronic Water Level Control Package
 2. All Stainless Steel Construction
 3. Bottom Suction Connections
 4. El. Heaters (0°F / -18°C Ambient) (4) @ 5KW
 5. External Service Platform with Ladder
 6. Fan Motor: Inverter Duty
 7. Motor Davit with Base
 8. Start-Up
 9. Super Low Sound Fan
 10. VFD Control Panel 25HP
 11. Vibration Switch
- Each unit shall have the capacity to cool 4,500 gpm of water from 95°F to 85°F at 72°F entering wet bulb temperature;
- Unit Type: Factory assembled, induced shaft, counterflow cooling tower;
- Construction: All cold water basin components including vertical supports and air inlet louver frames are constructed of Type 316 stainless steel. Type 304 stainless steel casing, channels, and angle supports. Fan cowl is constructed of stainless steel;
- Pan Strainer: All type 304 stainless steel construction with large area removable perforated screens;
- Access: Hinged door in upper casing for fan drive and water distribution system access. Removable louver panels on all four sides of the unit for pan and sump access. Hinged swing away cover for motor access;
- Fan Shaft: Solid shaft of ground and polished steel;
- Fan Shaft Bearings: Heavy-duty, self aligning ball type bearings with extended lubrication lines to grease fittings on the exterior casing. Bearings designed for minimum L-10 life of 75,000 hours.
- Fans: Fans are axial propeller type constructed of aluminum alloy and statically balanced. The fan is installed in a closely fitted cowl with venturi air inlet. Fan screens are stainless steel mesh and have stainless steel frames bolted to the fan cowl;
- Fan Motor: Completely enclosed, ball bearing type electric motor with 1.15 service factor suitable for outdoor service. The motor is mounted externally on the unit with an adjustable motor base and swing away protective cover.
- Fan Drive: Multi-groove, solid back, reinforced neoprene v-belt type with taper lock sheaves designed for 150% of the motor nameplate horsepower. Fan sheave constructed of aluminum alloy. Motor sheave is external to the unit for dry operation;
- Fill: Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) of cross-fluted design. PVC sheets are bonded together for strength and durability. Fill is self-extinguishing for fire resistance, has a flame spread of 5 under A.S.T.M. designation E-84-81a, and is resistant to rot, decay, and biological attack;
- Water Distribution System: Precision molded ABS spray nozzles with large 3/8"x1" orifice to eliminate clogging. Spray header and branches are Schedule 40 Polyvinyl

Chloride (PVC) for corrosion resistance with stainless steel connection to attach external piping. Spray header branches are removable and are equipped with threaded end caps;

- Eliminators: Eliminators are constructed entirely of Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) in easily handled sections. Design incorporates three changes in air direction and limits the water carryover to a maximum of 0.001% of the circulating water rate;
- Electronic Water Level Control Package: Electronic water level control package with three (3) stainless steel water level sensors one (1) high level, one (1) low level, and one (1) ground with NEMA 4 enclosure mounted in a cleanable Schedule 40 PVC external standpipe with slow closing solenoid valve(s) and "y" strainer(s);
- Super Low Sound Axial Propeller Fan(s): Unit is provided with Super Low Sound Fan(s). Fans are high efficiency axial propeller type with non-corrosive FRP hub and blade construction. The one-piece molded heavy duty fan construction utilizes a forward swept blade design for superior sound quality. Each fan is statically balanced and installed in a closely fitted cowl with venture air inlet for maximum fan efficiency. Fan cowl is covered with heavy gauge hot dip galvanized (or stainless) steel fan guard;
- Air Inlet Louvers: Air inlet louvers are constructed from UV inhibited polyvinyl chloride (PVC) and incorporated a framed interlocking design that allows for easy removal of louvers for access to the entire basin area for maintenance. The louvers have a minimum of two changes in air direction and are of non-planar design to prevent splash-out, block direct sunlight, and block debris from entering the basin.
- Paint existing cooling tower frames;
- Crane, rigging and setting of new cooling towers;
- Modify piping to accommodate new cooling tower valves, piping, and fiberglass insulation with aluminum jacket;
- Remove existing by-pass capability on each tower;
- Connect electrical service including sump heaters and vibration switches;
- Commissioning and control sequencing of VFD's and Automation system;
- Test and balancing

Contractor shall be responsible for:

- Project management and site supervision;
- Ordering the new unit and all necessary equipment, parts, and materials associated directly or indirectly with the complete installation of the new unit under this bid;
- Arranging, scheduling, and paying for the crane and rigging for both removal of the old cooling towers, and installation of the new towers;
- Inspecting the condition of the new unit upon delivery;
- **OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS REQUIRED BY THE CITY OF EL PASO**, including blocking off the street for the crane;
- The complete installation of the new unit, including all equipment, parts, materials, and labor necessary to install, connect, and operate the new unit in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local ordinances;
- Installing all necessary system connections in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local codes and ordinances;
- Assuring that all work is performed by licensed/certified personnel as required by law, for

- the work they are performing;
- Properly disposing of all boxes, cartons, pallets, packing materials, and any other trash. Minimal trash may be disposed of on site, however large space-consuming trash must be disposed of off-site by contractor

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Contractor must use licensed/certified personnel to perform work where required in this bid, including but not limited to the electrical and plumbing trades. Contractor shall provide proof of licensure/certification upon request;
- There may be times that work will need to be completed after hours or on weekends so that the Courthouse operations are not interrupted; Contractor should take this in to consideration when estimating labor costs;
- The Contractor must notify the Facilities Manager at least three days in advance when work will need be completed after hours or on weekends so that access to the building can be arranged;
- The County will not provide free parking for contractor vehicles or worker's personal vehicles. The Contractor is responsible for paying their own parking fees;
- There is only one passenger elevator to the 13th Floor and the freight elevator does not go to the 13th Floor. Contractor should make sure that equipment, parts, tools, etc. being brought in to the building will be of a size/weight that can be accommodated in a standard passenger elevator;
- Contractor shall conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner at all times;
- Contractor shall make a reasonable effort to keep noise and distraction of their work to a minimum;
- Keep all workspaces safe, clean, and orderly;
- Contractor must follow the El Paso County Contractor Safety Requirements at all times

CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Each Contractor shall be held to have examined all areas and premises under consideration and confirmed full understanding of these specifications and the County's needs and satisfied him/herself that he/she is cognizant of all factors relating to requirements contained in these specifications as no extra charges or compensation will be allowed after bids are opened.

SUBCONTRACTING:

Contractor must declare their intention to use a sub-contractor to perform any one or multiple parts of this bid, and identify all sub-contractors in relation to the work they will perform as part of this bid. Sub-contractors must meet all of the specifications, requirements, and qualifications of this bid. The Contractor shall guarantee all work performed by its sub-contractors. The Contractor may not use sub-contractors other than those specifically declared and identified in this bid, unless the Contractor first receives approval from the County of El Paso. Sub-contracting will not be permitted after the bid opening if the Contractor does not declare their intent to use a sub-contractor in this bid.

INVOICING PROCEDURE

Invoice will be paid once all of the specifications according to this bid/RFP have been met satisfactorily.

Price to disassemble and dispose of old
cooling towers: \$ _____

Price of new cooling towers: \$ _____

Labor & Installation: \$ _____

Manufacturer's Warranty Period: _____

Contractor's Workmanship Warranty Period: _____

Projected Start Date: _____

Estimated Time To Complete Entire Project: _____

Will you use a sub-contractor? _____ No
_____ Yes (*Complete following section*)

SUB-CONTRACTOR IDENTIFICATION

Name of Sub-Contractor:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Work To Be Performed:	

Name of Sub-Contractor:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Work To Be Performed:	

Name of Sub-Contractor:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Work To Be Performed:	

COUNTY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING LOBBYING, DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS; DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS; FEDERAL DEBT STATUS, AND NONDISCRIMINATION STATUS AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS*

Instructions for the certifications:

General Requirements

The County of El Paso, Texas is required to obtain from all applicants of federal funds or pass-through certifications regarding federal debt status, debarment and suspension, and a drug free workplace. Institutional applicants are required to certify that they will comply with the nondiscrimination statutes and implementing regulations.

Applicants should refer to the regulations cited below to determine the certifications to which they are required to attest. Signature of the form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 21 CFR part 1405, "New Restrictions on Lobbying," 21 CFR part 1414, Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Non-procurement), Certification Regarding Federal Debt Status (OMB Circular A-129), and Certification Regarding the Nondiscrimination Statutes and Implementing Regulations. The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the County of El Paso determines to award the covered cooperative agreement

1. LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented in 21 CFR part 1405, for persons entering into a cooperative agreement over \$100,000, as defined at 21 CFR Part 1405, the applicant certifies that;

(a) No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, and officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any Federal grant, the entering into continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal grant or cooperative agreement,

(b) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal Grant or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions;

(c) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award document for all sub-awards at all tiers (including sub-grants, contracts under grants and cooperative agreements, and subcontracts) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

1. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS

As required by Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension and implemented at 21 CFR Part 1404, for prospective participants in primary covered transactions

A. The applicant certifies that it and its principals:

(a) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of Federal benefits by a State or Federal court, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

(b) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application been convicted of or and a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(c) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default; and

B. Where the applicant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, he or she shall attach an explanation to the application.

2. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

As required by the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, and implemented at 21 CFR Part 1404 Subpart F.

A. The applicant certifies that it will or will continue to provide a drug free workplace by:

(a). Publishing a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the applicant's workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition;

(b) Establishing an on-going drug free awareness program to inform employees about:

- (1) The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
- (2) The applicant's policy of maintaining a drug free workplace;
- (3) Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs; and
- (4) The penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violation occurring in the workplace;

(c) Making it a requirement that each employee to be engaged in the performance of the grant be given a copy of the statement required by paragraph (a)

(d) Notifying the employee in the statement required by paragraph (a) that, as a condition of employment under the grant, the employee must

- (1) Abide by the terms of the statement; and
- (2) Notify the employer in writing of his or her conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction.

(e) Notifying the agency, in writing, within 10 calendar days after receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2) from an employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of such convictions. Employers of convicted employees must provide notice including position title, to: The County of El Paso, Texas, 500 East San Antonio Street, Suite 406, El Paso, Texas 79901. Notice shall include the identification number of each affected grant

(f) Taking one of the following actions within 30 calendar days of receiving notice under subparagraph (d)(2), with respect to any employee who is so convicted:

- (1) Taking appropriate personnel action against such an employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; or
- (2) Requiring such employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency

(g) Making a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f).

3. CERTIFICATION REGARDING FEDERAL DEBT STATUS (OMB Circular A-129)

The Applicant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it is not delinquent in the repayment of any federal debt.

4. CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE NONDISCRIMINATION STATUTES AND IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

The applicant certifies that it will comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and their implementing regulations: (a) title VI of the Civil right Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000D et seq.) which provides that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the applicant received federal financial assistance; (b) Section 504 of the rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicap in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; (c) title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972m as amended (20 U.S.C. 1981 et seq.) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance; and (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and amended (42 U.S.C. 6101 ec seq.) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, except that actions which reasonably take age into account as a factor necessary

for the normal operation or achievement of any statutory objective of the project or activity shall not violate this statute.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above certifications.

Business Name

Date

Name of Authorized Representative

Signature of Authorized Representative

COUNTY OF EL PASO PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 500 EAST SAN ANTONIO,
ROOM PU500, EL PASO, TEXAS 79901
(915) 546-2048, FAX: (915) 546-8180

PITI VASQUEZ, PURCHASING AGENT
JOSE LOPEZ, JR. ASST. PURCHASING AGENT
LINDA GONZALEZ, BID CLERK/BUYER

BIDDING CONDITIONS

This is the only approved instruction for use on your invitation to bid. Items below apply to and become a part of the terms and conditions of the bid.

1. BY SUBMITTING A BID, EACH BIDDER AGREES TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS IT HAS OR MAY HAVE AGAINST THE COUNTY OF EL PASO, AND ITS OFFICERS, AGENTS AND EMPLOYEES, ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH: THE DOCUMENTS, PROCEDURES, ADMINISTRATION, EVALUATION, OR RECOMMENDATION OF ANY BID; THE WAIVER BY EL PASO COUNTY OF ANY REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE BID DOCUMENTS OR THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS; THE ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF ANY BIDS; AND THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT.
2. Bids must be in the Purchasing Department BEFORE the hour and date specified. Faxed bids will not be accepted.
3. Late bids properly identified will be returned to bidder unopened. Late bids will not be considered under any circumstances.
4. All bids are for new equipment or merchandise unless otherwise specified.
5. Quotes F.O.B. destination. If otherwise, show exact cost to deliver.
6. Bid unit price on quantity specified-extend and show total. In case of error in extension, unit prices shall govern. Bids subject to unlimited price increases will not be considered.
7. Bids must give full firm name and address of bidder. Failure to manually sign bid will disqualify it. Person signing should show title or authority to bind his firm in a contract.
8. No substitutions or cancellations permitted without written approval of County Purchasing Agent.
9. The County reserves the right to accept or reject all or any part of any bid, waive minor technicalities and award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder. The County of El Paso reserves the right to award by item or by total bid. Prices should be itemized.
10. Bids \$100,000.00 and over, the bidder shall furnish a certified cashiers check made payable to the County of El Paso or a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of 5% of the total contract prices and execute with a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas. The bid bond must be included with the bid at the time of the opening.
11. This is a quotation inquiry only and implies no obligation of the part of the County of El Paso.
12. The County of El Paso reserves the right to reject any proposal due to failure of performance on deliveries. The County Purchasing Agent will justify this.
13. Brand names are for descriptive purposes only, not restrictive.
14. The County of El Paso is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

15. Any proposal sent via express mail or overnight delivery service must have the proposal number and title clearly marked on the outside of the express mail or overnight delivery service envelope or package. Failure to clearly identify your proposal may be cause for disqualification.
16. PURSUANT TO TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 2253.021, A PRIME CONTRACTOR WHO IS AWARDED A PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT SHALL, PRIOR TO BEGINNING THE WORK, EXECUTE TO THE COUNTY:
 - a. A PERFORMANCE BOND, IN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT, IF THE CONTRACT IS IN EXCESS OF \$100,000; AND
 - b. A PAYMENT BOND, IN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT, IF THE CONTRACT IS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000.
17. PURSUANT TO TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 262.032(b), ANY SUCCESSFUL BIDDER WHO IS AWARDED ANY CONTRACT IN EXCESS OF \$50,000 MAY BE REQUIRED TO EXECUTE A PERFORMANCE BOND TO THE COUNTY. SAID BOND SHALL BE IN THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE CONTRACT AND MUST BE FURNISHED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE A PURCHASE ORDER IS ISSUED OR THE CONTRACT IS SIGNED AND PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTUAL WORK. ANY PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL BE NOTED IN THE ATTACHED DETAILED BID SPECIFICATIONS OR SCOPE OF WORK. THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 2253, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE.
18. "Beginning January 1, 2006, in order to implement HB 914 (adding new Local Government Code Chapter 176), ALL VENDORS MUST SUBMIT A CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE (Form CIQ) disclosing its affiliations and business relationships with the County's Officers (County Judge and Commissioners Court) as well as the County employees and contractors who make recommendations for the expenditure of County funds. The names of the County Officers and of the County employees and contractors making recommendations to the County Officers on this contract are listed in the Specifications.

THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE MUST BE FILED WITH THE COUNTY CLERK AND A COPY OR PROOF OF FILING MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BIDDER'S RESPONSE SUBMITTED TO THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.

Bidders should be aware that this bidding condition is not intended to cover or to advise you about all situations in which Local Government Code Chapter 176 would require you to file a Form CIQ. You should consult your private attorney with regard to the application of this law and your compliance requirements. Failure to comply is punishable as a Class C misdemeanor.

NOTICE:

ALL COMMUNICATIONS BY A VENDOR TO THE COUNTY, ITS OFFICIALS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE DONE THROUGH THE EL PASO COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT. **THE EL PASO COUNTY CODE OF ETHICS PROHIBITS ALL PRIVATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN VENDORS AND CERTAIN COUNTY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AS DESCRIBED BELOW:**

No vendor, its representative, agent, or employee shall engage in private communication with a member of the El Paso County Commissioners Court or county department heads regarding any procurement of goods or services by the County from the date that the bid, RFP, or RFQ is released. No private communication regarding the purchase shall be permitted until the procurement process is complete and a purchase order is granted or a contract is entered into. Members of the commissioners court are required to make a reasonable effort to inform themselves regarding potential procurements and have a duty to inquire of vendors, their representatives or employees, the nature of any private communication being sought prior to engaging in any communication. "Private Communication" means communication with any vendor outside of a posted meeting of the governing body, a regular meeting of a standing or appointed committee, or a negotiation with a vendor which has been specifically authorized by the governing body.

Health Insurance Benefits Provided By Bidder

Consideration of Health Insurance Benefits*

1. Do you or your subcontractor(s) currently offer health insurance benefits to your employees?

If so, please describe those health insurance benefits that you or your subcontractor(s) currently provide/offer to your employees.

2. What percentage, if any, of your of your subcontractor's employees are currently enrolled in the health insurance benefits program?

El Paso County may consider provision of health insurance benefits as part of the overall "best value" determination. Failure to provide health insurance benefits will not disqualify you from participating in this bid selection process.

Business Name

Date

Name of Authorized Representative

*

Signature of Authorized Representative

* This page must be included in all responses.



COUNTY OF EL PASO
County Purchasing Department
500 East San Antonio, Suite PU500
El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 546-2048
(915) 546-8180 Fax

RE: Bid #07-063, Replacement of Three Cooling Towers at the County Courthouse

Dear Vendor:

As of January 1, 2006, the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 requires all vendors and potential vendors who contract or seek to contract for the sale or purchase of property, goods, or services with any local government entity to complete and submit a Conflicts of Interest Questionnaire. A copy of the requirements regarding vendors is attached. Also attached is a copy of the Questionnaire which needs to be filed and was prepared and approved for statewide use by the Texas Ethics Commission.

In filing out the Questionnaire, the following are the County Officers that will award the bid and the employees which will make a recommendation to the Commissioners Court:

County Officers: County Judge Anthony Cobos
Commissioner Luis C. Sariñana
Commissioner Veronica Escobar
Commissioner Miguel Teran
Commissioner Dan Haggerty

County Employees: Piti Vasquez, Purchasing Agent
Jose Lopez, Jr., Assistant Purchasing Agent
Linda Gonzalez, Bid Clerk/Buyer
Manny Lucero Jr., Facilities Management

Please note that the state law requires that the Questionnaire be filed with the **COUNTY CLERK** no later than **the 7th business day after submitting an application, response to an RFP, RFQ or bid** or any other writing related to a potential agreement with the County. Failure to file the questionnaire within the time provided by the statute is a Class C misdemeanor

Tex. Local Gov't Code § 176.006 (2005)

§ 176.006. Disclosure Requirements for Vendors and Other Persons; Questionnaire

(a) A person described by Section 176.002(a) shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the date that the person:

(1) begins contract discussions or negotiations with the local governmental entity; or

(2) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential agreement with the local governmental entity.

(b) The commission shall adopt a conflict of interest questionnaire for use under this section that requires disclosure of a person's affiliations or business relationships that might cause a conflict of interest with a local governmental entity.

(c) The questionnaire adopted under Subsection (b) must require, for the local governmental entity with respect to which the questionnaire is filed, that the person filing the questionnaire:

(1) describe each affiliation or business relationship the person has with each local government officer of the local governmental entity;

(2) identify each affiliation or business relationship described by Subdivision (1) with respect to which the local government officer receives, or is likely to receive, taxable income from the person filing the questionnaire;

(3) identify each affiliation or business relationship described by Subdivision (1) with respect to which the person filing the questionnaire receives, or is likely to receive, taxable income that:

(A) is received from, or at the direction of, a local government officer of the local governmental entity; and

(B) is not received from the local governmental entity;

(4) describe each affiliation or business relationship with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which a local government officer of the local governmental entity:

(A) serves as an officer or director; or

(B) holds an ownership interest of 10 percent or more;

(5) describe each affiliation or business relationship with an employee or contractor of the local governmental entity who makes recommendations to a local government officer of the local governmental entity with respect to the expenditure of money;

(6) describe each affiliation or business relationship with a person who:

(A) is a local government officer; and

(B) appoints or employs a local government officer of the local governmental entity that is the subject of the questionnaire; and

(7) describe any other affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest.

(d) A person described by Subsection (a) shall file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate records administrator not later than:

- (1) September 1 of each year in which an activity described by Subsection (a) is pending; and
- (2) the seventh business day after the date of an event that would make a statement in the questionnaire incomplete or inaccurate.
- (e) A person is not required to file an updated completed questionnaire under Subsection (d)(1) in a year if the person has filed a questionnaire under Subsection (c) or (d)(2) on or after June 1, but before September 1, of that year.
- (f) A person commits an offense if the person violates this section. An offense under this subsection is a Class C misdemeanor.
- (g) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (f) that the person filed the required questionnaire not later than the seventh business day after the date the person received notice of the violation.

Tex. Local Gov't Code § 176.001 (2005)

§ 176.001. Definitions

In this chapter:

- (1) "Commission" means the Texas Ethics Commission.
- (2) "Family member" means a person related to another person within the first degree by consanguinity or affinity, as described by Subchapter B, Chapter 573, Government Code.
- (3) "Local governmental entity" means a county, municipality, school district, junior college district, or other political subdivision of this state or a local government corporation, board, commission, district, or authority to which a member is appointed by the commissioners court of a county, the mayor of a municipality, or the governing body of a municipality. The term does not include an association, corporation, or organization of governmental entities organized to provide to its members education, assistance, products, or services or to represent its members before the legislative, administrative, or judicial branches of the state or federal government.
- (4) "Local government officer" means:
 - (A) a member of the governing body of a local governmental entity; or
 - (B) a director, superintendent, administrator, president, or other person designated as the executive officer of the local governmental entity.
- (5) "Records administrator" means the director, county clerk, municipal secretary, superintendent, or other person responsible for maintaining the records of the local governmental entity.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with chapter 176 of the Local Government Code by a person doing business with the governmental entity.

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local government not later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code.

A person commits an offense if the person violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

1 Name of person doing business with local governmental entity.

2

☐

Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire.

(The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than September 1 of the year for which an activity described in Section 176.006(a), Local Government Code, is pending and not later than the 7th business day after the date the originally filed questionnaire becomes incomplete or inaccurate.)

3

Name each employee or contractor of the local governmental entity who makes recommendations to a local government officer of the governmental entity with respect to expenditures of money AND describe the affiliation or business relationship.

4

Name each local government officer who appoints or employs local government officers of the governmental entity for which this questionnaire is filed AND describe the affiliation or business relationship.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity

FORM CIQ

Page 2

5

Name of local government officer with whom filer has affiliation or business relationship. (Complete this section only if the answer to A, B, or C is YES.

This section, item 5 including subparts A, B, C & D, must be completed for each officer with whom the filer has affiliation or other relationship. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer named in this section receiving or likely to receive taxable income from the filer of the questionnaire?

☐

Yes

☐

No

B. Is the filer of the questionnaire receiving or likely to receive taxable income from or at the direction of the local government officer named in this section AND the taxable income is not from the local governmental entity?

☐

Yes

☐

No

C. Is the filer of this questionnaire affiliated with a corporation or other business entity that the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership of 10 percent or more?

☐

Yes

☐

No

D. Describe each affiliation or business relationship.

6

Signature of person doing business with the governmental entity

Date