



State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

August 10, 2020

The Honorable Gary Carter, Chairman
Appropriations - Economic Recovery Subcommittee
Louisiana House of Representatives
Post Office Box
Baton Rouge, LA

RE: HSR 2

Dear Representative Carter:

In response to HSR 2 of the 2020 First Extraordinary Session and a request from your staff, Ms. Amanda Trapp, I am writing to provide information about the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's efforts related to assisting Louisiana small/disadvantaged and local businesses. As you know, CPRA's mission is to achieve comprehensive coastal protection and restoration for Louisiana through implementation of programs and projects that establish and support a sustainable coast.

As such, we contract for a significant portion of the work to implement these programs and projects, and we do this in a variety of ways. Please see the attached document, which details the types of services we solicit and the methods by which we advertise solicitations and select firms in accordance with Louisiana law. We provide this information on our website as well as to our partner agencies, Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC), as well as to Non-governmental Organizations (NGO's). We have attended business forums and in-person meetings with several NGO's, and we host an industry day with contractors, all in an outreach effort to increase visibility on our upcoming work and to connect our work with businesses. We participate in the Hudson and Veteran Initiatives to the maximum extent allowed by law in our contract solicitations as well.

An exciting initiative is a partnership we have with the Department of Economic Development and Nicholls State University to create a resource center to help Louisiana companies compete for coastal protection and restoration work across the Louisiana coast. The Louisiana Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) will assist Louisiana firms in qualifying for work as contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in Louisiana's growing water management sector. The CTAC will be based at Nicholls State University where the South Louisiana Economic Council will oversee the management and operations. CTAC will help companies acquire training, licensing and other qualifications for participating in the public bidding process for coastal recovery projects.

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We are also near finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, which will serve to provide additional labor and work force information on coastal projects to the LWC in order to better coordinate workforce training needs and efforts with a goal to better match employers with eligible workforce for coastal projects and programs.

In summary, we at CPRA are ready to assist you in your endeavor to aid in the economic recovery and development of minority, female, and veteran-owned businesses, to the extent that we are able to do so. We are available to further discuss our efforts or to address any new ways for CPRA to contribute. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Lawrence B. Haase
Executive Director

Attachment

c: Janice Lansing, Chief Financial Officer



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



CPRA Contracted Services

Project Construction Services — Title 38, Public Bid Law

- Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) administers the advertisement/bid process.
- Advertisements are posted on the CPRA website: <http://coastal.la.gov/resources/rfps-rsiqs-contracts/bids/>
- Ads are placed in the Official State Journal (The Advocate) and the Official Journal of the parish where the project is located (3) three times.
- A contractor can request to receive notice of a construction advertisement by emailing their contact information to: cp.ra.bidding@la.gov

Project Other — Title 39, Public Procurement Code

(maintenance and repair work on existing projects or debris removal type work)

- The Office of State Procurement (OSP) handles the advertisement/bid process for CPRA.
- Advertisements are posted on the Louisiana Office of State Procurement – LaPac Website: <https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubMain.cfm>
- A contractor can be placed on an OSP list to receive notice of an advertisement by registering with Office of State Purchasing: <http://www.doa.la.gov/pages/OSP/purchasing/vendorcenter.aspx>

Engineering, Surveying, and Geotechnical services - Title 39, Public Procurement Code

- Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) administers the advertisement/bid process.
- Generally, these services are acquired through a Request for Solicitation of Interest and Qualifications (RSIQ) process, and a Professional Services Contract is awarded to one or more contractors. Task Orders are issued from these contracts for work needed.
- The RSIQ is posted on the CPRA website: <http://coastal.la.gov/resources/rfps-rsiqs-contracts/contracts-and-grants/>
- Ads are placed in the Official State Journal (The Advocate) and The Times-Picayune (3) three times.
- A contractor can request to receive notice of an RSIQ advertisement by emailing their contact information to: CPRAcontracts@la.gov

Environmental Science Consulting and Land Rights Services - Title 39, Public Procurement Code

- Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) administers the advertisement/bid process.
- These services are acquired through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process and a Consulting Services Contract is awarded to one or more contractors. Task Orders are issued from these contracts for work needed.
- The RFP is advertised:
 - Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority: <http://coastal.la.gov/resources/rfps-rsiqs-contracts/contracts-and-grants/>
 - LaPac: <https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/lapac/pubMain.cfm>
 - An ad is placed in the Official State Journal (The Advocate) and one other newspaper in the state.
 - An email is sent to notify the incumbent firm(s) of the Request for Proposal.
 - A contractor can be placed on a pre-qualified offerers list through the Office of State Procurement by enrolling at: <https://wwwcfprd.doa.louisiana.gov/OSP/LaPAC/vendor/VndPubMain.cfm>



Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority



CPRA procures goods and services in strict compliance with the Louisiana Procurement Code (Title 39, Chapter 17). Governor Edwards, through Executive Orders, has encouraged all state agencies to utilize small business participation when possible in small purchasing procedures (see Executive Orders JBE 16-39 and 17-18) and has mandated that state agencies utilize contract preferences allowed by the Hudson Initiative for small entrepreneurships (see Executive Order JBE 16-37). CPRA has implemented procurement preferences allowed by law when applicable, including the Hudson Initiative (La. R.S. 39:2001, et seq.) and has undertaken other agency initiatives which are intended to encourage small business participation in our work.

Hudson Initiative Participation

- In accordance with La. R.S. 39:2001, et seq., Hudson Initiative small entrepreneurships will be encouraged to participate in CPRA work through scoring preferences identified in contract solicitations and as part of the technical evaluation.
- In addition to the statutes, rules for the Hudson Initiative are included in the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC 19:VIII Chapters 11 and 13).
- 10 percent of the total RSIQ evaluation points are reserved for proposers who are themselves a certified Hudson small entrepreneurship (SEs) or who have demonstrated a good faith effort to use one or more Hudson SE's in subcontracting.

Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Service Contracts and Task Distribution

- To the extent allowable by law, CPRA is also managing and monitoring prime contractors and encouraging that task distribution to subcontractors is occurring as indicated in these contracts.

Limited Service IDIQ program (Executive Order JBE 16-39, under Section 2)

- Implemented a limited service IDIQ program which is intended to provide opportunity for and to encourage smaller firms to serve as a prime contractor for CPRA on parts of larger projects or on tasks geared more towards smaller firms.
- Provides services to CPRA regional field offices in the performance of their operations and maintenance duties
- Allows smaller firms an opportunity to work with CPRA staff, become familiar with our contracting and billing, and also provides relevant work experience with the Agency
- However, in accordance with procurement law, these solicitations are still open to all proposers and are not limited solely to certified SEs

Public Works Projects

- Construction projects are procured in accordance with Louisiana Public Bid Law (La. R.S. 38:2211, et seq.)
- CPRA includes contract provisions in all construction contracts which require contractors to provide certain Louisiana resident workforce and labor information to the Louisiana Workforce Commission, in accordance with the Louisiana First Hiring Act (La. R.S. 39:2201, et seq.).
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