

Responses: Request for Proposal Questions for #SB2-3

General:

1. Will the proposal submission date or anything else regarding the RFP or project be changed in response to the current and changing situation regarding COVID-19?
The submission dates have changed due to COVID-19 and are reflected on the website. There is additional time to submit questions.
2. If the submission date is extended, will there be a further opportunity to submit questions?
Yes, please check the website.

Task 2- Alternative Systems

3. The scope of work states, “consultant will explore the design requirements for alternative treatment technologies, and allowances for alternative technologies such as: (a) gravel-substitutes made from recycled materials (EZ Flow, others); (b) vegetated recirculating gravel-wetland filter (variation on recirc sand filter).” The first half of the sentence references “alternative treatment technologies,” where as item a) is only addressing gravel-substitutes made from recycled material, and b) only references a recirculating wetland system. Is the focus of this study to solely be items a) and b), or is review of other “alternative treatment technologies” to also be explored? Alternative treatment technologies may include a wide range of treatment systems which may include membrane systems, textile/media/peat filters, worm compost system such as manufactured by BioFiltro, aerobic digestion, and/or other forms of secondary treatment applicable to septic systems. Please clarify the extent to which anything should be anticipated for exploration beyond items a) and b).
If it’s a system were not permitting already, the alternative system must have technical merit and have success in some similar jurisdictions in California.

Task 3 – Explore Water Load As It Relates To Septic Hydraulic Load

1. The scope states, “consultant to study the hydrologic load of one area of West Marin....”
 - a. Is it possible to clarify the number of units which will be addressed in the study? Not at this time. There will be one unincorporated area chosen that is in a shared water district, for example Stinson Beach or Bolinas.
 - b. How will water use data be obtained?
 - i. All municipal supplies with water meters for each parcel? An area will be chosen with a municipal water district that has water user data for each parcel.
 1. How is landscape irrigation subtracted out? Assumptions based on averages for this area or some site specific method? Data set from the wintertime? Assumptions about landscape irrigation can be discussed once the consultant has water usage data.
 - ii. Will the study be broad in nature, ie. Total water demand for an entire area and the number of units and occupants occupying that area? Yes
 1. Or, will the study focus on individual residences and obtaining water use and wastewater generation rates specific to each site to generate an average for the study? No

- c. Will installation of water meters be required to obtain water data? No. Water data can be attained from the Municipal Water District.
- d. The nature of data collection, location of data collection, as well as magnitude or size of the study area affect items such as travel time and time spent evaluating individual sites for an accurate and complete study. A response to the items noted above will help define how much efforts are required as part of this Task. Given the response to the above questions, please propose an approach that is appropriate given your experience. The scope will be refined before a contract is finalized.

Work Item #4 – Individual ADU/Agr Worker Housing Pilots

- 4. Can we assume that the property owners of the identified sites will be voluntary participants?
Yes.
- 5. Will the County be the go-between with the property owner? Is it expected that the consultant will work directly with the owner?
The County will be the go-between with the property owner.
- 6. Will the County execute some type of agreement with the property owners, include access permission for the consultant?
The County and consultant will discuss the details of this agreement.
- 7. Will the property owners be responsible for designating the desired location of the ADU/Agr Worker Housing site?
This will be discussed by the County and the consultant. Please include your assumptions in the cost for this task.
- 8. Can we assume that all of the identified properties will have a permitted OWTS? If not all, what percentage?
This will be a threshold discussed by the County and the Consultant. Please include your assumptions in the cost for this task.
- 9. What percentage of properties are expected to have a usable site plan/map that can be used for design? Will the consultant be required to conduct a full survey where one is not available? Or is the survey need open to negotiation with EHS staff?
The County and the consultant will discuss these expectations before a property owner is chosen. Please include your assumptions in the cost for this task.
- 10. Is it expected that a site evaluation of soils, groundwater, percolation will be part of the required design? Please include this expectation in your costs.
Or will sites be pre-screened for suitability by the County (EHS)?
The sites will be prescreened for suitability.
- 11. What role is anticipated for EHS staff in the process?
EHS staff will have a very active role in the project. They will review and provide comments on every deliverable.

12. Will information on current operational performance of the existing OWTS be compiled by the County in identifying candidate sites? Or will that be the consultant responsibility?

The County and the consultant will discuss these expectations before a property owner is chosen. Please include your assumptions in the cost for this task.

13. Will the design documents prepared for each site be expected to be ready for construction/permit submission to EHS? And, if so, will there be a design review-permitting phase with EHS?

The design documents are meant to be schematic, however, they will be reviewed for constructability by EHS.

14. The scope references, "...County of Marin will identify a minimum of 10 existing residences to pilot...", and, "At least 10 units will be included...." Study.

- a. Should the proposals be based on only 10 designs being part of the study? Yes
 - b. How will additional designs be addressed? Only 10 sites will be chosen.
 - c. Should a cost per design be included? If it's possible to include that information, please do so.
 - d. Septic system design is very dependent upon the specific site soil conditions, design flow, and parcel size, shape, topography and existing development. Unless very similar parcels are selected, each design will require a site specific design and therefore, therefore additional designs beyond the 10 listed will require additional engineering efforts. Please clarify if, and how the proposals shall address greater than 10 designs. The proposal shall not include more than 10 designs. All sites will be in one sub-region of West Marin, presumably with similar site characteristics, screened by the County's Environmental Health Services.
2. Septic designs typically require topographic survey to identify topography, available square footage, site development level and setbacks, and slope.
- a. Should the proposals include preparation of a topographic survey for the 10 parcels selected, or will that be provided alternately by the County? Please clarify. Please include this as an optional task. The sites will be prescreened for suitability. All sites will have existing septic systems on site.
3. Septic designs typically involve information about the onsite soils to properly site and size dispersal fields. This is typically done with backhoe test pits for profiling, or use of hand-digging tools on restricted sites.
- a. Will sites be selected which already have County approved soil data on file, or should it be assumed that soil investigations will be required on each parcel selected for the pilot program? The sites will be prescreened for suitability and some may have approved soil data on file. Please include soil investigations as a task as it may be needed on some or all sites.
4. Same question as Task 4, #3, but with respect to percolation testing.
- a. Will percolation testing be required for each pilot parcel? This information may be available through the County's EHS, but may be required for some sites, so please include it in your costs.
 - b. Can soil hydrometer, bulk density, and plasticity testing be used to prove soil permeability in lieu of percolation testing? Possibly, please include this as an optional task.
 - i. In this alternative method, wet weather percolation may still be required

5. With respect to wet weather groundwater monitoring, how should this be addressed in the proposal?
 - a. Should it be assumed to require groundwater monitoring on every parcel selected for the pilot? This information may be required for some sites, so please include it in your tasks.
 - b. Can groundwater monitoring be excluded and later provided as an additional service on a property by property basis? Yes.
 - i. If so, should we provide a fee per parcel for if/when groundwater monitoring is required? Please provide a fee per parcel.
6. Wet weather percolation testing and groundwater monitoring
 - a. If the project year results in drought conditions, will the timeframe be extended for the projects? See answer below.
 - b. Or, will the same schedule hold and alternative methods must be used for perched water table and soil application rate? The same schedule will hold and alternative methods will need to be used for perched water table and soil application rate.
 - i. Groundwater elevations via soil mottling and/or other indicators in soil profile (root depth, horizon change, etc.)
 - ii. Percolation test application rate via Soil Suitability Triangle and Hydrometer, bulk density, and plasticity testing.

Task 5 - Small Community Systems

15. The RFP refers to 5 sites; will the consultant participate in the process of selecting the 2 sites for design?
The consultant will participate in a discussion about the site selection process.
16. Will basic site plans (housing layout, etc.) be prepared for potential sites?
Basic layouts will be provided.
17. Is it expected that a site survey (topographic) be part of the design?
A site survey may already exist for the site, in the case that it does not, a site survey will need to be done for the site.
18. Is it expected that full site evaluation per EHS standards will be required for the 2 systems? Or subject to some adjustment with County concurrence?
Full site evaluations will be required for any site that has not already undergone a full site evaluation. Please include this in your scope and cost estimate.
19. Who (in general) will be the owner of the small community systems and housing projects? County? Non-profit housing organization? Other?
The site will be owned by a non-profit housing organization or the County.
20. What role will third party owner have in the wastewater design process?
The owner or their representative will be part of the design process.
21. Is it anticipated that any sites will be within the Coastal Zone, and potentially trigger CDP issues?

Small Community Systems may be in the Coastal Zone.

22. Will the design documents prepared for each system be expected to be ready for construction/permit submission to EHS?

Yes, please build this into your costs.

23. Do the proposals need to address evaluating all 5 sites with respect to soil depth/type, percolation rates, groundwater elevation, and available space for treatment and dispersal systems?

1. Or, will the 2 sites be predetermined by the County? The County will discuss the sites with the consultant. All of the evaluations above would be helpful in selecting sites.
 1. If so, are the services listed in question 1 of this task required to be provided for each site? Please clarify. If a site is chosen that does not have all of the above evaluations, please build an optional task into your scope.
2. Should a topographic survey for the 2 selected sites be provided in the design estimate for this task? Yes

Sample Offer – Proposer Certification

As Engineers, we are neither certified “Dealers” nor “Manufacturers.” Preparation of documents could be construed as manufacturing of engineering plans. Is there a required certification process with the County of Marin for this portion, or is possession of current and active California Registered Civil Engineering license sufficient for this item? A Civil Engineering license is sufficient. Please make any changes to the sample offer that you see fit.