

# REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

August 3, 2021

**PROJECT:** Speciation Analysis of PM2.5 Samples

**QUOTES DUE BY:** 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 24, 2021

## OVERVIEW

The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) participates in community air monitoring as required by California Assembly Bill 617 (AB 617). As a part of the air monitoring network, the District collects ambient air samples using a Met One SASS to determine local species of particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5). Analysis that can be performed on collected samples can include, but is not exclusive to Gravimetry, Ion Chromatography, Auto Colorimetry, Atomic Adsorption, Thermal Optical Analysis, and X-Ray Fluorescence. The District is seeking a laboratory to perform analysis of these samples and submit the findings back to the District.

The District is issuing this Request for Quotation (RFQ) in order to retain a qualified contractor who will analyze the collected air samples. This contract will cover a one-year period.

To be considered for this project, contractors must meet the minimum eligibility requirements, and submit cost-effective proposals that satisfy this RFQ's quotation requirements. The District will pay on a per analysis basis. Payments will be made subsequent to proper verification of completed monthly data submission to the District, confirming that the work was completely and satisfactorily carried out.

Because District funding for the project may include State funds:

- Contractor shall comply with all federal and state conflict of interest laws, statutes, and regulations, which apply to performance of this Agreement and shall be applicable to all parties and beneficiaries and any officer, agent, or employee of District under this Agreement.
- The contractor must not be presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, voluntarily excluded from participation or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation under federal assistance programs. Contractor must ensure that all subcontractors employed for conduct of this project also certify compliance with this provision of law to the contractor.

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- A contractor or any individual identified in the proposal that appears in the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) is not eligible for award of a contract. The EPLS is a central registry that contains information regarding entities debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, excluded, or otherwise declared ineligible from receiving Federal contracts. Access to the EPLS is available at [www.epls.gov](http://www.epls.gov).
- The contractor certifies by signing the signature page of the original copy of the submitted proposal and any amendment signature page(s) that the proposer is not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, voluntarily excluded from participation, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation under federal assistance programs.

The contractor will provide certification that commercial general liability insurance coverage (\$1,000,000 per occurrence) for bodily and personal injuries or for property damage as well as Workers Compensation Insurance as in accordance with the California Labor Code are obtained and are in full force.

The District reserves the right to reject any and all quotations, and to make no awards.

## ***SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS***

A contractor who submits a quotation in response to this RFQ must adhere to the following instructions:

1. The deadline for submitting quotations is 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 24, 2021. Quotations received after this time and date will not be accepted.
2. Quotations are to be mailed or emailed to the following address:  
  
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District  
Attn: Bradley Dawson  
Supervising Air Quality Instrument Specialist  
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93726-0244  
[brad.dawson@valleyair.org](mailto:brad.dawson@valleyair.org)
3. The envelope should be marked with title "Quotation for Speciation Analysis of PM2.5 Samples"

## **MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Contractors must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Successful completion of PM2.5 speciation for a public agency within the last 5 years.
2. Completion of Attachment A (Itemized Cost List).

## **QUOTATION REQUIREMENTS**

At a minimum, submitted quotations are to individually address the above 2 'Minimum Eligibility Requirements' and numbers 2 through 6 of the below 'Quotation Requirements:'

1. Not exceed 24 pages in length (including cover letter and reference material) and pages must be numbered.
2. Describe previous experience in the documentation and analysis of PM2.5 speciation (references are required).
3. Provide qualifications of contractor staff who will be assigned to this project and describe the role of each assigned staff member to be used in the project.
4. Generally describe the process that the contractor will use in the analyses of the samples.
5. Include a price quote on Attachment A (Itemized Cost List) for the analysis of an Audit Sample or Performance Evaluation that the District may request.
6. Include a price quote for each of the following items on a per sample:
  - a. The cost of analysis of the sample.
  - b. The cost of the creation of the report.
  - c. Documentation of invalid samples.

## **GENERAL PROJECT GUIDELINES**

The following is a description of the general project guidelines, requirements, and responsibilities that both the District and contractor will hold during the life of the project:

1. At any time the District may require that the contractor successfully complete an analysis of an audit sample or performance evaluation in order for the District to evaluate the performance of the lab.

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2. The District estimates the need to analyze *up to* 728 samples during the contract period, but the exact quantity and target compounds may change based on need. All prices given shall be per analysis method per sample sent, as outlined in Attachment A.
3. The contractor shall perform PM<sub>2.5</sub> speciation on samples collected by the District using a Met One SASS.
4. All potential compounds to be analyzed will be listed in Attachment B. Not all compounds may be targeted for each sample. The District will work with the contractor to specify target compounds on each sample run.
5. The District will supply the sample filters owned by the District.
6. If warranted, the contractor shall provide the District specific instructions detailing the specific procedures for shipping. If the contractor prefers that the collected samples be returned to them using a specific kind of container, other than what the District proposes to use, then the contractor must supply these materials to the District as part of the contract. The containers/shipping materials must meet all of Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration requirements for safe handling and transport provided by shipping companies like UPS or FedEx. If the contractor desires the District to use a particular written form for tracking the exposed sample (i.e. a 'Chain of Custody' (COC) form other than the form the District provides), the contractor will supply a sufficient quantity of these forms for use by District staff.
7. The contractor is responsible for all record keeping and shipping costs of other materials being sent to the District and/or the audit laboratory for this project. The District is responsible for recording keeping and shipping costs to return the above mentioned materials to the contractor.
8. Payment schedule:
  - a. Since this is a short term contract, the District prefers invoicing when all the work is completed to the satisfaction of the District. Upon receiving the invoice, the District ensure that all of the contract requirements are met. Once everything is verified, the contractor will send a single invoice to the District and payment will be made.
  - b. The District recognizes that some respondents require monthly invoices and that is also acceptable to the District. Once the District has concluded that the monthly deliverables are acceptable, the contractor may submit a monthly billing statement based upon the site, sample collection date, and time of sample collection and the number of samples for that month. The billing will not be based on the date of the 'Chain of Custody' form, the date the sample was received at the laboratory, or the date of the laboratory's internal tracking system.

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9. The contractor shall retain and archive a copy of all paper and electronic records of this project for a minimum of three (3) years. The archived records will include any documentation pertaining to the analysis and reduction of raw and processed data, including calibrations, samples, and run sequences. In the case where there is a need of clarification or investigation of the reported data, the contractor will provide any and all necessary information as requested so that the entire analysis can be reconstructed.
10. The contractor will be available by phone to discuss issues related to this project on the same business day that the District places the call with the contractor. The contractor shall notify the District immediately upon the discovery of any irregularities during the course of the project.
11. It is understood by the Contractor that time is of the essence in the performance of this project.
12. Since an Agreement for this project will likely exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), the contractor will be subject to examination and audit of the auditor general for a period of three (3) years after final payment under contract.

## **QUALITY CONTROL REQUIREMENTS**

The following procedures will be employed to ensure the quality of the project and the resulting data:

1. The contractor is to provide their own certified reference for calibration standard purposes. The reference must include the required compounds. These references must be traceable to a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standard.
2. Samples shall be promptly analyzed to prevent degradation of the sample.
3. The contractor will analyze contents of only the valid samples as identified in District 'Chain of Custody' (COC) forms. The contractor will not analyze contents of invalid samples. The contractor will appropriately document missing samples.
4. The contractor will provide written documentation indicating the methodology used for analytical instrument calibration, analysis and quality control/assurance. Copies of all related paperwork used to conduct data analysis such as chromatograms, instrument calibrations, etc., shall be supplied to the District in an electronic form (Flash Drive, Compact Disc, etc.)
5. At no additional cost, the contractor will analyze for audit purposes, any sample(s) sent to the contractor by a CARB, USEPA, and/or EPA approved National Air Toxics Trend Stations (NATTS) Laboratory designated by the

District. The contractor shall provide copies of these audit results to the District. The results shall include all pertinent information regarding calibration reports and standard certificates.

## **DATA REQUIREMENTS**

The following is a list of requirements for the collection and reporting of the data involved in this project:

1. The contractor will report data for the compounds that are required to be analyzed per sample. Attach full list of compounds identified in Attachment B.
2. Laboratory equipment must be capable of detecting and measuring speciated PM<sub>2.5</sub> samples at detection levels that meet the minimum requirements for the test methods utilized.
3. Data is to be reported to the District in lowest detection available.
4. All measured values are to be reported. Any data below the Practical Quantification Limit (PQL) will be reported and flagged with "LJ". All non-detectable data will be reported as zero and flagged with "ND". Other Qualifier Codes can be used if necessary.
5. The contractor will submit monthly e-mails summarizing the analyzed data during the course of the project.
6. The contractor will provide resulting data files and reports via email or other means as determined between the contractor and the District.
7. All laboratory activities and completed data file reports are to be submitted to the District **no later than one month after contract end date**.

## **EVALUATION OF RESPONSES TO THIS RFQ**

Each response to this RFQ will be evaluated with particular emphasis on how well the respondent complies with the information requested in this RFQ, experience in PM<sub>2.5</sub> speciation laboratory analysis, cost of postage, and cost for services as shown on Attachment A. Demonstration of capability to provide additional analysis of speciated results may increase the overall score. Not providing all of the information requested in this RFQ will lower the overall score and may be grounds to disqualify the response from further review.

## ***INQUIRIES***

Technical and administrative questions concerning this RFQ should be directed to Brad Dawson, Supervising Air Quality Instrument Specialist, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District at [brad.dawson@valleyair.org](mailto:brad.dawson@valleyair.org) or (559) 230-6000. An editable copy of Attachment A (Itemized Cost List) is available on request.

Attachment A

Itemized Cost List

**Itemized Cost List for PM 2.5 Speciation Laboratory Analysis**

Show all costs on the following table.

<b>Cost per Sample</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Cost per analysis of each valid sample:	
-Gravimetry	
-Ion Chromatography	
-Auto. Colorimetry	
-Atomic Adsorption	
-Thermal Optical Analysis	
-X-ray Fluorescence	
Cost per other type of PM2.5 speciation analysis your lab can perform:	
Cost of audit sample or performance evaluation	
<b>Other costs not included in the above</b>	
1.	
2.	
3.	
<b>Sub-Totals</b>	
Cost of laboratory analysis for <i>up to</i> 728 samples	
Total cost of "other costs"	
<b>Grand Total for Project (Sum of the Sub-Totals)</b>	



Attachment B

Potential Target Compounds

Mass	Al	As
Chloride	Si	Se
Nitrate	P	Br
Sulfate	Cl	Rb
Ammonium ion	K	Sr
Soluble potassium	Ca	Y
Atomic Adsorption	Ti	Zr
Organic carbon	V	Mo
Elemental carbon	Cr	Ag
	Mn	Cd
	Fe	In
	Co	Sn
	Ni	Sb
	Cu	Ba
	Zn	Hg
	Ga	Pb