



City of Tacoma

Questions and Answers

Ecological Services RFB Specification No. **ES25-0240F**

All interested parties had the opportunity to submit questions in writing by email to Stan Rowden, Senior Buyer by December 10, 2025. The answers to the questions received are provided below and posted to the City's website at www.TacomaPurchasing.org. Navigate to [Current Contracting Opportunities / Public Works and Improvements Solicitations](#), and then click [Questions and Answers](#) for this Specification. This information IS NOT considered an addendum. Respondents should consider this information when submitting their proposals.

1. Question:

Will the contractor be able to set different rates for different tasks within a work order once awarded?

Answer: The markup rate submitted on the bid proposal form shall be applied to all work categories included in each task authorization.

2. Question:

Is there both a payment and a performance bond for 25% or is this to be considered one bond?

Answer: Separate bonds are required.

3. Question:

If the City chooses to pay with a credit card will it pay the fee associated with this payment method?

Answer: Credit card fees will be paid for by the City.

4. Question:

The RFB mentions there may be fees associated with the Final Payment. The RFB lists items A-F and mentions that if any fees are generated with acquiring these documents the contractor will pay them. Can the City, to its best ability, describe the costs of these fees or what they will potentially be? And are they guaranteed to be generated? Or can the documents be obtained free of charge?

Answer: Close out of Public Works and Improvement contracts include filing of documentation with various government agencies. There are, at times fees associated. These fees are not controlled by the City of Tacoma.

5. Question:

Can the contractor awarded a contract operate under the assumption that they will be able to increase wages on a yearly basis that are charged under this contract as they align with Federal cost of living increases?

Answer: Wage rate increases are allowed by Amendment to the contract.



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6. Question:

Will the performance bond be returned to the contractor after the life of the contract? Will the funds be placed in an interest-bearing account during this time period?

Answer: Bonds are released as part of the contract close out process. Contractors do have the retainage option to select "Performance Bond*, Payment Bond*, and Escrow agreement**"

7. Question:

Are there any herbicides currently restricted within the City of Tacoma?

Answer: No herbicides are restricted, but the City has a preferred list.

8. Question:

Will any BMP's that are required per task order be laid out prior to initiating any work?

Answer: Yes

9. Question:

Will any refuse needing to be disposed of at a transfer station be reimbursed under the current layout of payments?

Answer: Yes, this is covered under line item 4 "Miscellaneous Expenses" of the bid proposal form.

10. Question:

In the bid proposal form is the contractor expected to multiply the estimated quantities to the markup to achieve the total amount? No taxes or other associated costs are expected to be included in the total amount, correct?

Answer: Yes and yes

11. Question:

Where does the bidding contractor enter the cash discount in order to be evaluated during the bid evaluation as stated on page 60 under Payment Terms?

Answer: This solicitation is not considering any payment discounts.

12. Question:

What is meant by Specification No.?

Answer: The Specification Number for this RFB is ES25-0240F.



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13. Question:

There appears to be contradictory information regarding the payment and performance bonds- on page 61 under Surety Bonds it states the contractor will be responsible for obtaining a bond that is in the amount of 100% of the submitted bid (>\$500,000) which is in opposition to an earlier stating of those bonds needing to be in the amount of 25% of the total as stated on page 15. Which amount is it?

Answer: The bond requirements listed in the Request for Bids take precedence over those in the General Provisions.

14. Question:

I understand this is a two-year contract, with possibility of three, one-year extensions. If we were to win this bid, and the City of Tacoma wanted to use the option to extend, are we locked in to the same markup rate from the initial bid, or can we negotiate an increase with each year extension (considering COLA and inflation increases)? So basically, if this contract goes five years, would we charge the same rate the entire length of the contract with the city?

Answer: Wage rate increases are allowed by Amendment to the contract at the time of extension.

15. Question:

For the purpose of this bid, and determining what amount our bond is to be based on, are we to use the \$500,000 limit? Even though that budget may be divided with multiple vendors?

Answer: Per Section 14.1 of the specification - The amount of the Bid Bond must be not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount bid.

16. Question:

Will there likely be more than one contractor to win this award? Are there plans to take the lowest three for example?

Answer: The City may choose up to three contractors. The lowest bidder will be given first right of refusal prior to each task authorization.

17. Question:

One labor rate (item no.1 on the Bid Proposal) would encompass all categories of labor that you would find in a traditional contract of ecological services, such as Crew Lead, Herbicide work, crew members, and project management. So, generally a little bit higher than say a normal labor rate, due to averaging the general cost of those different labor services?

Answer: The labor markup rate entered in the bid proposal shall be applied to all work categories included in each task authorization.



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18. Question:

If the contract is awarded to multiple companies will the amount awarded to each contractor be less than the \$500,000 that is being reported as the total of the entire contract. I am asking in reference to buying a bond for the performance and payment portions of the project.

Answer: The City may choose up to three contractors to fulfill the combined total of \$500,000 for the contract. Per Section 15 of the specification - A payment and performance bonds, including power of attorney, for this project is required in the amount of 25 percent of the Contract total.

19. Question:

Is COT planning on taking 5% retainage in addition to all of the bonds, to be released only one time per year?

Answer: Yes, the retainage options are listed below.

- Performance bond and payment bond, with 5% retainage
- Hold 10% retainage in lieu of performance bond and payment bond (reserved for contracts \$150,000 or less per RCW 39.08.010)
- Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Bond in-lieu-of retainage
- Performance Bond, Payment Bond, and Escrow agreement

20. Question:

COT can cancel the contract anytime for any reason, is that the same for the contractor? Realizing there are bond requirements, there is also no guarantee of utilization so if the task authorizations are complete, can a cancellation happen and final payouts be made?

Answer: See Section 2.11 of the City's General Provisions (Appendix D of the specification) for the complete standard contract provision on termination.

21. Question:

The specs say there should be SAM registration, and many times throughout the specs CFRs are referenced implying federal funding. Are we to assume that each task auth could have different funding and therefore different rates and requirements administratively?

Answer: Federal funds are not currently planned to be used for this contract.

22. Question:

It is noted that the pricing is to last for the duration of the contract, does that include the potential extensions? Is this referencing the markup specifically, so if the prevailing wage rates increase we are able to increase them to our workers or is it expected that the markup will be on the prevailing wage rates listed for the duration of the contract?



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Answer: The labor markup provided in the proposal shall be applied to the current wage rates at the time of task authorization execution.

23. Question:

Are daily work activity reports required to be submitted daily or can they be totaled and turned in weekly, monthly, and/or another agreed upon interval as needed?

Answer: The interval is negotiable per task authorization.

24. Question:

What is the Certificate of registration as a contractor?

Answer: This can be found here: [Labor & Industries \(L&I\), Washington State](#)

25. Question:

Coverage nor your employees working in Washington? Non applicable. What is this referring to?

Answer: This can be found here: [Labor & Industries \(L&I\), Washington State](#)

26. Question:

Washington DOR state excise tax registration number. What is this referring to?

Answer: This can be found here: [Home | Washington Department of Revenue](#)

27. Question:

contractor has completed the training required by RCW 39.04.350, or is on the list of exempt businesses. How do we know if we are on the list or how do we get on this list?

Answer: This can be found here: [Labor & Industries \(L&I\), Washington State](#)