

**ATTACHMENT 1  
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES GOVERNING RFPs  
(NON-IT SERVICES)**

**1. COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE JUDICIAL BRANCH ENTITY ( “JBE”)  
REGARDING THE RFP**

Except as specifically addressed elsewhere in the RFP, Proposers must send any communications regarding the RFP to [rmoble@sonomacourt.org](mailto:rmoble@sonomacourt.org) (the “Solicitations Mailbox”). Proposers must include the RFP Number in subject line of any communication.

**2. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RFP**

Proposers interested in responding to the RFP may submit questions via email to the Solicitations Mailbox on procedural matters related to the RFP or requests for clarification or modification of the RFP no later than the deadline for questions listed in the timeline of the RFP. Once submitted, questions become part of the procurement file and are subject to disclosure; Proposers are accordingly cautioned not to include any proprietary or confidential information in questions. If the Proposer is requesting a change, the request must set forth the recommended change and the Proposer’s reasons for proposing the change. Questions or requests submitted after the deadline for questions will not be answered. Without disclosing the source of the question or request, a copy of the questions and the JBE’s responses will be made available prior to the proposal due date and time.

**3. ERRORS IN THE RFP**

- A. If, before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, a Proposer discovers any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or error in the RFP, the Proposer must immediately notify the JBE via email to the Solicitations Mailbox and request modification or clarification of the RFP. Without disclosing the source of the request, the JBE may modify the RFP before the proposal due date and time by releasing an addendum to the solicitation.
- B. If a Proposer fails to notify the JBE of an error in the RFP known to the Proposer, or an error that reasonably should have been known to the Proposer, before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, the Proposer shall propose at its own risk. Furthermore, if the Proposer is awarded the agreement, the Proposer shall not be entitled to additional compensation or time by reason of the error or its later correction.

**4. ADDENDUMS**

- A. The JBE may modify the RFP before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP by issuing an addendum. It is each Proposer's responsibility to inform itself of any addendum prior to its submission of a proposal.
- B. If any Proposer determines that an addendum unnecessarily restricts its ability to propose, the Proposer shall immediately notify the JBE via email to the Solicitations Mailbox no later than one day following issuance of the addendum. Addendums will be posted on our court website:  
<http://sonoma.courts.ca.gov/info/purchasing>

**5. WITHDRAWAL AND RESUBMISSION/MODIFICATION OF PROPOSALS**

A Proposer may withdraw its proposal at any time before the deadline for submitting proposals by notifying the JBE in writing of its withdrawal. The notice must be signed by the Proposer. The Proposer may thereafter submit a new or modified proposal, provided that it is received at the JBE no later than the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP. Modifications offered in any other manner, oral or written, will not be considered. Proposals cannot be changed or withdrawn after the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP.

**6. ERRORS IN THE PROPOSAL**

If errors are found in a proposal, the JBE may reject the proposal; however, the JBE may, at its sole option, correct arithmetic or transposition errors or both on the basis that the lowest level of detail will prevail in any discrepancy. If these corrections result in significant changes in the amount of money to be paid to the Proposer (if selected for the award of the agreement), the Proposer will be informed of the errors and corrections thereof and will be given the option to abide by the corrected amount or withdraw the proposal.

**7. RIGHT TO REJECT PROPOSALS**

- A. Before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, the JBE may cancel the RFP for any or no reason. After the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the RFP, the JBE may reject all proposals and cancel the RFP if the JBE determines that: (i) the proposals received do not reflect effective competition; (ii) the cost is not reasonable; (iii) the cost exceeds the amount expected; or (iv) awarding the contract is not in the best interest of the JBE.
- B. The JBE may or may not waive an immaterial deviation or defect in a proposal. The JBE's waiver of an immaterial deviation or defect shall in no way modify the RFP or excuse a Proposer from full compliance with RFP specifications. Until a contract resulting from this RFP is signed, the JBE reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the items in the proposal, to award the contract in whole or in part and/or negotiate any or all items with individual Proposers if it is deemed in

the JBE's best interest. A notice of intent to award does not constitute a contract, and confers no right of contract on any Proposer.

- C. The JBE reserves the right to issue similar RFPs in the future. The RFP is in no way an agreement, obligation, or contract and in no way is the JBE or the State of California responsible for the cost of preparing the proposal.
- D. Proposers are specifically directed **NOT** to contact any JBE personnel or consultants for meetings, conferences, or discussions that are related to the RFP at any time between release of the RFP and any award and execution of a contract. Unauthorized contact with any JBE personnel or consultants may be cause for rejection of the Proposer's proposal.

## **8. EVALUATION PROCESS**

- A. An evaluation team will review all proposals that are received by the appropriate deadline to determine the extent to which they comply with RFP requirements.
- B. Proposals that contain false or misleading statements may be rejected if in the JBE's opinion the information was intended to mislead the evaluation team regarding a requirement of the RFP.
- C. During the evaluation process, the JBE may require a Proposer's representative to answer questions with regard to the Proposer's proposal. Failure of a Proposer to demonstrate that the claims made in its proposal are in fact true may be sufficient cause for deeming a proposal non-responsive.

## **9. DISPOSITION OF MATERIALS**

All materials submitted in response to the RFP will become the property of the JBE and will be returned only at the JBE's option and at the expense of the Proposer submitting the proposal.

## **10. PAYMENT**

- A. Payment terms will be specified in any agreement that may ensue as a result of the RFP.
- B. **THE JBE DOES NOT MAKE ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR SERVICES.** Payment is normally made based upon completion of tasks as provided in the agreement between the JBE and the selected Proposer.

## **AWARD AND EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT**

- A. Award of contract, if made, will be in accordance with the RFP to a responsible Proposer submitting a proposal compliant with all the requirements of the RFP and any addendums thereto (including any administrative or technical requirements), except for such immaterial defects as may be waived by the JBE.
- B. A Proposer submitting a proposal must be prepared to use a standard JBE contract form rather than its own contract form.

- C. The JBE will execute any contract based on the RFP that best meets its requirements. However, exceptions taken by a Proposer may delay execution of a contract.
- D. Upon award of the agreement, the agreement shall be signed by the Proposer in two original contract counterparts and returned, along with the required attachments.**FAILURE TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT**

The period for execution set forth in Section 11 (“Award and Execution of Agreement”) may only be changed by mutual agreement of the parties. Failure to execute the agreement within the time frame identified above constitutes sufficient cause for voiding the award. Failure to comply with other requirements within the set time constitutes failure to execute the agreement. If the successful Proposer refuses or fails to execute the agreement, the JBE may award the agreement to the next qualified Proposer.

## **11. AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

The JBE complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and similar California statutes. Requests for accommodation of disabilities by Proposers should be directed to **ROSIE FAVILA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

## **12. PLACEMENT ON QUALIFIED LIST (MASTER AGREEMENT)**

- A. Placement on a qualified list, if made, will be in accordance with the solicitation documents to a responsible service provider submitting an SOQ compliant with all the requirements of the solicitation documents and any addendums thereto, except for such immaterial defects as may be waived by the Court.
- B. The Court reserves the right to determine the suitability of submittals for contracts on the basis of a submittal’s meeting selection criteria, technical requirements, and its assessment of the quality of service and ability to perform the proposed scope of work.
- C. After this solicitation, future proposals may be accepted at an interval to be determined by the Court.