Request for Qualifications: Electrify Yurok, a Yurok Tribe Independent Energy Grid
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1. General Information

1.1. Invitation

The Yurok Tribe (Owner) invites single contractors or teams of coordinated contractors to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that clearly shows their ability to successfully deliver the master planning services outlined below. Selected contractor (Contractor) will work with the Yurok Tribal Council, Yurok Tribe Planning and Community Development Department, and other relevant Tribal Departments, Yurok Community Groups, and others to develop a master plan for an energy grid (alternatively named “The Grid” hereinafter) that will:

- provide power to all Yurok Tribal members living within Yurok Reservation (the Reservation) boundaries;
- generate revenue sufficient for the on-going operations, maintenance, and continuous modernization of The Grid;
- be owned and operated by the Yurok Tribe;
- and will be powered entirely by renewable sources from in or adjacent to the Reservation.

The master plan will also consider and incorporate opportunities for providing power to communities and households within the broader Yurok Tribe Ancestral Territory.

Submitters will be required to state their understanding of the project and describe past work that exemplifies their ability to complete the project as requested. Further SOQ requirements are included below in the SOQ Requirements Section below.

One winning submitter (Contractor) and one alternate submitter (Alternate) will be selected from the submitted SOQs to proceed to contract negotiations with the Owner. Pending successful SOQs to proceed to contract negotiations with the Owner. Pending successful contract negotiations, the Contractor will provide the services requested herein. Should the Tribe and the winning submitter fail to come to terms, the Tribe will enter into contract negotiations with the Alternate.

1.2. Background

1.2.1. The Yurok Tribe is the largest Native nation within California with over 6,300 members. The Yurok people have always lived along the Pacific
Coast and inland on the Klamath River. The Yurok Reservation constitutes, approximately, the lower forty-five miles of the Klamath River, a mile on either side, from the Yurok village of Req-woi (“Requa”) at the mouth of the Klamath River to upstream of the Yurok village of Weych-pues (“Weitchpec”).

The Yurok Tribe Planning and Community Development Department is diligently pursuing development of a Yurok owned and operated grid that meets the Yurok Tribal Council’s aspirations “(t)o make sure all Tribal members living within the Yurok ancestral territory have access to reliable, affordable, modern, cost-effective energy services. In addition, the Tribe seeks an energy program that promotes energy self-sufficiency, environmental sustainability, use of local renewable resources, and job creation and economic opportunity for Tribal members.”

Engaging a Contractor in master planning services for the Yurok Tribe Independent Energy Grid will be the Tribe’s first substantive step toward construction and successful operations and maintenance of The Grid.

1.3. Project Description

1.3.1. The Yurok Tribe is seeking master planning services for a Yurok owned and operated power grid. In addition, the Tribe is seeking consulting services regarding the reformatting and growth of the Yurok Tribe Public Utility District (YPUD). Consultant will assist in the drafting of a plan for YPUD to become an institution capable operating, managing, maintaining, and continuously modernizing the The Grid to ensure it delivers energy reliably and affordably to Tribal members and businesses/facilities. The proposed YPUD format will comply with relevant regulations and State rulemaking and will be based on a revenue generating business model.

1.3.2. The master plan will describe, among other unlisted priorities, an infrastructure that is capable of generating all of its energy supply through the development of the renewable energy resources present on the Yurok Reservation and/or Ancestral Territory; generates an amount of power that is in excess to the overall demand on The Reservation and broader Yurok community served; provides reliable power in all seasons and times of day; and utilizes storage technologies as necessary. Opportunities to provide
power within Ancestral Territory should be considered and included in the master plan, if feasible.

1.3.3. Among other goals, design of The Grid and the YPUD should strive to 1) increase Tribal sovereignty by gaining control and ownership of all energy resources and infrastructure, 2) ensure long term energy and environmental sustainability for the Tribe, and 3) create jobs and economic opportunity for Tribal members.

1.4. Project Location

1.4.1. The Yurok Tribe Reservation is located along the last 46 miles of the Klamath River Basin on California’s Northwest Coast. It’s western-most end (Downriver), at the mouth of the Klamath River and near the town of Klamath, is located within the area known as Del Norte County. The Del Norte portion of the Reservation is served with power by Pacific Power. East of the Mouth (Upriver), encompassing most of the Reservation’s land-based territory, the Reservation is located within the area known as Humboldt County. The Humboldt portion of the Reservation is served electricity by Pacific Gas and Electric.

Spanning the Reservation, are a number of potential energy-producing resources. Biomass and micro-hydro opportunities have been identified in some areas, and in the Upriver area (more specifically from the village of Weitchpec to the village of Wautec), solar resources are abundant, especially in the summer months. Wind energy has been shown to be marginally viable in the Upriver area as well. In addition, a large scale off-shore wind power infrastructure is planned for development along the Yurok Coast. This project and its potential integration into the master plan should be studied by the design contractor and included in the master plan.

1.5. Project Budget

1.5.1. The overall budget for development of the described master plan is $438,000.

1.6. Scope of Services
1.6.1. **General**  
1.6.1.1. Contractor’s exact scope of services will be detailed in contract documents signed by both parties (Yurok Tribe and Contractor) at a later date. General Scope will consist of working intensively with the Yurok Planning and Community Development Department, as directed by the Yurok Tribal Council (Council), to develop a master plan of The Grid.

At a minimum, the master plan shall be presented to Yurok Tribal Council for feedback and comments on three separate occasions: once at an early concept phase as designated by the Planning Department, once after sufficient revision following the first presentation, and once at 90% completion of the project scope. Contractor will also attend a minimum of one in-person meeting with the Planning Department and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in Sacramento and bi-weekly meetings with the Planning Department and other Yurok Tribe staff and/or Yurok community members. In addition, community engagement will be essential to the successful development of the master plan. Contractor will be required to attend community meetings, the number of which to be defined by the Planning Department in collaboration with Contractor through on-going discussion and coordination.

1.6.2. **Master Planning Services and Deliverables**  
1.6.2.1. Among other responsibilities required for the successful development of the required deliverables, Contractor will be responsible for the following:

1.6.2.1.1. In conjunction with Owner, immediately establish the project requirements and master plan program and prepare a comprehensive list of project tasks, a timeline, and a budget.

1.6.2.1.2. Complete a master plan of The Grid to a level refined enough to communicate its totality and components to Yurok Tribe Council and staff, regulators, funders, and the Yurok and California North Coast communities.

1.6.2.1.3. Master plan should include written narratives, drawings, and specifications as established and required
through on-going collaboration between the Contractor and the Yurok Planning Department.

1.6.2.1.4. Provide rough cost estimates for construction, at a minimum, at the completion of 100% deliverable (master plan).

1.6.2.1.5. Provide engineering, cost estimation, scheduling, community engagement, and other services required for the successful delivery of a sufficiently developed master plan.

1.6.2.1.6. With the Planning Department, co-develop and continue to refine a comprehensive master project schedule and budget. Update and monitor the project schedule and budget with the Planning Department to identify and plan for deviations and/or changes.

1.6.2.1.7. Coordinate design tasks with all relevant Yurok Departments and Yurok community members and groups at the request and guidance of the Planning Department.

1.6.2.1.8. Coordinate with all relevant regulators, including the CPUC, to identify regulatory opportunities and challenges that may affect the successful deployment, operation, maintenance, and continuous modernization of the Grid.

1.6.2.1.9. If necessary, coordinate with area Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs, Pacific Power and PG&E) during design of the master plan.

1.6.3. TERO

1.6.3.1. The project is subject to compliance with the Yurok Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO), and a 1% TERO fee will be assessed on all professional services.

1.6.4. Additional Contractor Obligations and Authorities

1.6.4.1. Contractor will complete all master planning tasks in consultation with the Yurok Tribe Planning Department and all deliverables will require the approval of the Yurok Tribal Council. The Planning Department will maintain the right to reject or request revisions to any and all master planning work. Bi-weekly design meetings will be required and will include Yurok staff, and the master planning team’s representatives, including its project manager, lead design staff, and accounting staff when appropriate.
1.6.4.2. Contractor will provide to the Yurok Tribe Planning Department any project records, accounting, and other budgetary documentation and information directly related to the project, in any form, it may request at any time.

1.7. Cost Savings

1.7.1. To the extent the actual cost of the project may be reduced through the course of the project, the reduction in cost shall revert entirely to the benefit of the Yurok Tribe. There shall be no shared savings compensation to Contractor.

1.8. Schedule

1.8.1. The project schedule shall be a period of 12 months, commencing at the time of contract signing. Establishment of a design schedule shall be the responsibility of Contractor immediately following award.

1.9. Contacts

Please direct all RFIs, submittals, and all other correspondence to Michael Gerace, Yurok Tribe Planning Director and Project Manager; mgerace@yuroktribe.nsn.us; 190 Klamath Blvd., Klamath, CA 95548; 707.482.1350 ext. 1360

1.10. Schedule of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time (PST)</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/12/22</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>RFQ issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19/22</td>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Contractors to confirm if they will submit (not required to submit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/19/22</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Deadline for receipt of questions and inquiries</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5/26/22  1:00 pm  Final responses to questions
6/2/22   3:00 pm  Deadline for submission of proposals
6/8/22   5:00 pm  Contractor selected
6/23/22  10:30 am Tribal Council to sign contract with selected submitter

1.11. Selection Process

1.11.1. **Yurok Tribe Rights:** The Yurok Tribe reserves the right to reject any or all responses to this RFQ. Selection of candidates will be based on their apparent ability to best meet the overall expectations of the Yurok Tribe and will be determined solely by the Yurok Tribe.

The Yurok Tribe reserves the absolute right to conduct investigations as it deems necessary for the evaluation of any proposal and to establish and check the experience, responsibility, reliability, references, reputation, business ethics, history, qualifications, and financial ability of the submitter. The purpose of such an investigation is to determine that the submitter has the ability, experience, resources, and reputation necessary to perform the work and to support all warranties in accordance with the contract documents.

1.11.2. Selection Criteria

1.11.2.1. The following items will be reviewed to provide a basis for selection, they are not in priority order:

1) **Statement (30 Points)** of submitter’s qualifications, including related experience with similar types of projects. Submitters with experience designing renewable energy grids/microgrids, designing such systems for California’s North Coast, a history of working with CA regulators and Northern California IOUs, experience studying and/or designing off-shore infrastructure, and record of participating in fundraising for construction funds with owners are preferred.

2) **Qualifications (25 Points)** and experience of key individuals, who will be assigned to this project, as indicated by prior involvement in similar projects. Same preferences as described in the Statement Section apply.
3) **Three project references (15 points)** with project contact names and telephone numbers, and brief project descriptions. We are looking for a record of innovation, integrity, judgement, performance, and timeliness in the execution of previous contracts. Same preferences as described in the Statement Section apply.

4) Evidence of **Indian ownership (10 points)**.

5) **Proposed approach (20 points)** to completion of the scope of work and understanding of the project and project issues.

### 1.12. Statement of Qualifications Instructions

1.12.1. The Tribe’s review of qualifications will be based on qualifications of the proposing firms alone. Do not submit fees with your submission.

1.12.2. Proposals shall not exceed 15 pages in length (with the exception of the Table of Contents, Cover Letter, section dividers, and appendices) and shall be numbered in sequential order. Two-sided, single pages will be counted as two pages.

1.12.3. Submittal Requirements: Submit a single PDF file of your proposal by the submittal date and time aforementioned. Email your submittals to the contact person and email address aforementioned. Alternatively, you may submit a thumb drive containing your single PDF proposal to the front desk of the Yurok Tribe Main Office in Klamath, attn. the aforementioned contact, by the submittal deadline. All other forms of submittal will not be accepted.

1.12.4. No proposing firm may submit more than one proposal. No proposing firm may be part of more than one submitting team. Multiple submissions under different names will not be accepted.

1.12.5. Each respondent must comply with the submission requirements as outlined. Submittals that fail to comply with the requirements as specified will be disqualified from consideration. At any stage, the Yurok Tribe reserves the right to terminate, suspend, or modify this selection process; reject any or all submittals at any time; and waive any informalities, irregularities, or omissions in submittals, as the best interest of the Yurok Tribe may require.

1.12.6. Indian Preference: Indian Preference will apply. Any firm seeking such preference must provide evidence that it is not less than 51% Indian
owned and controlled. Pre-qualification is required. Indian preference applications are due by May 16, 2022 and can be obtained by calling Manuel Sanchez at (707) 482-1350 ext. 1388 or Cynthia Bones, Planner III cbones@yuroktribe.nsn.us (707) 482-1350 ext. 1385. If you’ve already submitted an Indian preference application to the Yurok Tribe within the last six months, then email a statement to yuroktero@yuroktribe.nsn.us identifying changes in your organization or notify us of no changes in your organization. The Project is subject to the Tribe’s Employment Rights Laws and policies, and a 1% TERO tax shall be included in the contract cost.

1.12.7. The Contractor will be required to maintain insurance throughout the entire term of the Project, including comprehensive general liability, professional liability, auto liability, workers compensation, and employer’s liability insurance. Contractor will provide the Tribe with certificate of insurance demonstrating the insurance in effect.

1.13. SOQ Content Requirements

1.13.1. Table of Contents

1.13.2. Cover Letter
Provide a cover letter (maximum length of two pages), indicating the proposer’s interest and summary of qualifications. Include name(s), office location(s), and years in operation for each submitting firm on the submitting team. Include name and contact for the individual authorized to represent the submitter for any correspondence and/or negotiations.

1.13.3. Project Understanding and Approach
Summarize the submitting firm’s understanding of the project and the approach it would take toward accomplishing project goals.

1.13.4. Experience and Qualifications
Describe the submitting team’s qualifications for completing the project as described and present at least three related design projects completed by the submitting team. Include the below in your project descriptions:

- Project location and dates
- Project costs, including total project costs, construction costs, and submitter’s design fees
• Project intentions
• List of staff directly involved with the project with names and titles
• Client/Owner contact with telephone number
• Owner’s Representative (if any) contact with telephone number

1.13.5. **Appendices: Project Team & Staff**

1.13.5.1. Please provide resumes (maximum two pages each) for the key members of your team

1.13.5.2. Please provide references for your team’s project manager and lead designer (including telephone numbers and email). Clearly identify which project and who the reference is in relation to.

1.13.5.3. Provide an organizational chart graphically indicating how the submitter would staff and structure its proposed team.

1.14. **Questions and Addenda**

1.14.1. Questions regarding this RFQ must be emailed to Michael Gerace at mgerace@yuroktribe.nsn.us by the deadline shown in the Schedule of Events. Questions will be responded to in writing. All questions and answers will be sent to all potential submitters included on the Interested Parties List. If necessary, addenda will be issued to listed submitters and posted to the Yurok Tribe Request for Proposals Webpage.

1.15. **Selection Process**

1.15.1. The Tribe will review all responses to this RFQ that meet requirements and are received prior to the designated closing date and time.

1.15.2. Upon review of the qualified firms, the Tribe will select the proposal which best reflects the Tribe’s needs and requirements, as informed by scores generated using the system detailed in 1.11.2.1.

1.15.3. The top submitter’s proposal, based on qualifications, will be provisionally accepted and negotiations will commence.

1.15.4. If a satisfactory agreement with the proposer cannot be reached, at a price that is determined to be fair and reasonable, negotiations with that firm shall be formally terminated. Negotiations with the second ranked proposer may then be initiated. Failing accord with the second ranked proposer, Owner shall formally terminate negotiations and may then
undertake negotiations with the third ranked proposer, or re-issue the RFQ, at its discretion.

1.15.5. The Tribe will have sole determination of which proposal is in its best interest.

1.16. Right of Rejection

1.16.1. The Tribe reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses to this RFQ and to enter into discussions and/or negotiations with one or more qualified proposing firms, if such action is in the best interest of the Tribe. The Tribe has the right, in its sole discretion, to select the qualifying proposal or proposals that the Tribe determines best meets its needs.

1.17. Modification and Withdrawal of proposal

1.17.1. Withdrawn proposals may be resubmitted up to the time designated for the receipt of the proposals due date/time provided that they are then fully in conformance with the RFQ.

1.17.2. All proposals shall remain open for forty-five (45) days after the submission deadline, but the Tribe may, in its sole discretion, release any proposal prior to that date.

1.18. Cost of proposals

1.18.1. Expenses incurred in the preparation of proposals in response to this RFQ are the Proposing Firm’s sole responsibility. The Tribe assumes no responsibility for payment of any expenses incurred by any proposing firm as part of the RFQ process.
Exhibit A: Area Map
The Yurok Reservation is located in Northern California within Del Norte and Humboldt counties. The reservation spans approximately one mile on each side of the Klamath River from the confluence with the Trinity River to the Pacific Ocean.