

Deadlines: The department must receive proposals prepared according to instructions in the RFP package on or before March 15, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

To Obtain a Copy of the RFP: Requests for a copy of the RFP should be submitted to Amanda Landry, Finance Division, Texas Department of Transportation, 150 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704, email: Amanda.Landry@txdot.gov, telephone number (512) 486-5614 and fax (512) 486-5390. Copies will also be available on the Electronic State Business Daily at (<http://esbd.cpa.state.tx.us/>).

TRD-201300490

Angie Parker

Associate General Counsel

Texas Department of Transportation

Filed: February 6, 2013



Request for Qualifications

Pursuant to the authority granted under Transportation Code, Chapter 223 (enabling legislation), the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may enter into public-private partnership agreements, also known as comprehensive development agreements, for the design, development, construction, financing, maintenance, and operation of a toll project on the state highway system. The enabling legislation authorizes private involvement in toll projects and provides a process for the department to solicit proposals for such projects. Transportation Code, §223.203 prescribes requirements for issuance of a request for qualifications and requires the department to publish a notice in the *Texas Register* if the department decides to issue a request for qualifications for a project. The Texas Transportation Commission (commission) has promulgated rules located at Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, §§27.1 - 27.10 (the rules), governing the submission and processing of qualifications submittals, and providing for publication of notice that the department is requesting qualifications submittals, and setting forth the basic criteria for professional experience, technical competence, and capability to complete a proposed project, and such other information the department considers relevant or necessary in the request for qualifications. The commission has authorized the issuance of a request for qualifications to develop, design, construct, finance, maintain, and operate tolled managed lanes, general purpose lanes, and associated facilities along State Highway 183 from State Highway 121 to Interstate Highway 35E and any additional connecting facilities that are necessary for connectivity and financing purposes (project), through a public-private partnership agreement (P3A).

On January 31, 2013, in Minute Order 113427, the commission authorized the department to commence the procurement process for the project under the enabling legislation. This notice represents the next step in the process.

Through this notice, the department is seeking qualifications submittals (QS) from teams interested in entering into a toll concession P3A in response to a request for qualifications (RFQ). The department intends to evaluate any QS received and may request submission of detailed proposals, potentially leading to negotiation, award, and execution of a P3A. The department will accept for consideration any QS received in accordance with the rules and the RFQ on or before the deadline in this notice. The department anticipates issuing the RFQ, receiving and analyzing the QSs, developing a shortlist of proposing entities or consortia, and issuing a request for detailed proposals (RFP) to the shortlisted entities. After review and a best value evaluation of the responses to the RFP, the department may negotiate and enter into a P3A for the project.

RFQ Evaluation Criteria. QSs will be evaluated by the department for shortlisting purposes using the following general criteria: tech-

nical qualifications and capability, statement of technical approach, project finance qualifications and capability, conceptual project financing discussion, and safety qualifications. The specific criteria under the foregoing categories will be identified in the RFQ, as will the relative weighting of the criteria.

Release of RFQ and Due Date. The department currently anticipates that the RFQ will be available on February 15, 2013. Copies of the RFQ will be available at the department's Dallas District office located at 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643 and on the following website:

www.txdot.gov/government/partnerships/current-cda/sh183/183-rfq.

QSs will be due at 12:00 p.m. Central Time on May 15, 2013 at the address specified in the RFQ.

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Angie Parker

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Texas Department of Transportation

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Texas Water Development Board

Request for Applications for Agricultural Water Conservation Grants-Fiscal Year 2013

Request for Applications

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) solicits Request for Applications (RFAs) for the state fiscal year 2013. The total amount of the grants to be awarded by the TWDB shall not exceed \$600,000 from the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund. The rules governing the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund (31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 367) and application instructions are available upon request from the TWDB.

Summary of the RFA

Solicitation Date (Opening): Date published in the *Texas Register*

Due Date (Closing): 12:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Anticipated Award Date: June 20, 2013

Estimated Total Funding: \$600,000

Eligible applicants: Political Subdivisions, State Agencies, and State Institutions of Higher Learning

Contact: Cameron Turner, Agricultural Water Conservation Division, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231, Phone: (512) 936-6090, E-mail: cameron.turner@twdb.texas.gov

Agricultural Water Conservation Grant Categories:

Applicants must be in response to one of the following three categories:

1. Agricultural irrigation water use measurement equipment

Individual applications in this category are limited to \$100,000 in TWDB grant funds. Applications must identify an agricultural water conservation strategy from their applicable most recent regional water plan and/or the 2012 State Water Plan. Entities that received TWDB grants funds for irrigation metering projects in the past two years are not eligible for a 2013 metering grant in this category. The intent is to attract new entities to participate in the TWDB voluntary irrigation metering program and/or bring back those entities that previously participated but are no longer involved in the program.