



**Imperial County Workforce Development Board
Valley Works Lithium Valley Workforce and
Economic Development
Needs Assessment
Request for Proposals**



Proposers' Questions and ICWDB Answers

January 19, 2024 Q&A Publication

- Q.20 Will the chosen firm have access to the full list of participants and notes of the community outreach already done?
- A.20 ICWDB will be able to provide the selected proposer with access to the full list of participants and notes of the community outreach led by ICWDB representatives prior to the publication of the RFP.
- Q.21 The RFP mentions that land in Imperial County is affordable and available. It is not clear if these assumptions were recently measured and tested with the needs of the lithium extraction industry and subsequent value chain. Should we include a real estate component to our proposal, or is this part of a different / future RFP?
- A.21 Proposers are encouraged to communicate an approach to the workforce and economic development needs assessment that will provide the greatest benefits to Imperial County; ICWDB; workforce development, economic development, and community stakeholders; businesses; and residents.
- Q.22 What role will David Shinder (external consultant) play in the *Lithium Valley Workforce and Economic Development Needs Assessment* project once the firm is chosen?
- A.22 Mr. Shinder will continue to support ICWDB's role in project administration and oversight and may provide technical assistance, as needed, to the selected proposer, as directed by ICWDB management.
- Q.23 Will the chosen firm have access to Imperial Valley EDC's list of companies interested in investing or expanding their operations in the region? This would help assess the current type of clients and project size for the region.
- A.23 ICWDB is unable to provide this information. Requests for information should be made directly to Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation.
- Q.24 Should the consultant submit forms B through G as separate documents? Or can they be combined together in the submission package?

A.24 Proposers should submit all required proposal content as one file. Refer to section V.F of the RFP, which states:

Proposers must submit a complete proposal package with all required content by email as a ZIP file to JeffreyBurquist@co.imperial.ca.us by 5:00 p.m. PST on March 1, 2024. The subject line must state “[Proposer’s Name] Lithium Valley Needs Assessment Proposal.” Proposers must ensure that the Cover/Signature Page (Form A) is signed by an individual with authority to legally bind the proposer organization.

Q.25 Are there requirements for SBA/Minority Ownership for the chosen firm?

A.25 SBA/minority ownership is not required.

Q.26 Are there requirements for designing skills programs/education?

A.26 The RFP does not require the selected proposer to design education and training programs. However, refer to RFP section II.B.3.a, which indicates that the proposer must provide:

Recommendations for education, training, work experience, and skills development directly tied to the Lithium Valley opportunity and other industries.

Q.27 What is the early outlook for Imperial County's programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) on the impacts of extracting lithium from geothermal brine? Other environmental concerns that could limit mining and mining employment?

A.27 Imperial County is currently developing a programmatic environmental impact report on the impacts of the lithium industry. A draft is expected to be released for public comment early this year. <https://earthworks.org/releases/lithium-valley/>

Proposers are encouraged to review the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California Report that reviews and analyzes specific topics related to lithium extraction including: safe environmental methods and standards for lithium extraction from geothermal brines and how this compares to other methods for deriving lithium, and potential economic and environmental impacts to the state resulting from extraction, processing, and production of lithium and lithium-dependent products from geothermal brines. Proposers are also encouraged to conduct additional research on this topic.

Q.28 In the event of a FOIA request may a redacted NICRA be kept on file for such a response?

A.28 This question is currently being reviewed and researched by Counsel. Answers will be posted as soon as possible once received.

Q.29 Are submitted NICRAs exempt from FOIA disclosure requests?

- A.29 This question is currently being reviewed and researched by Counsel. Answers will be posted as soon as possible once received.
- Q.30 Does Imperial County intend to award a FFP contract, or can Offerors submit a T&M budget?
- A.30 In the January 12th Q&A, the response to question 10 may apply to this question. The contract for this project is under development. However, following proposal evaluation, including an assessment of proposed costs/prices, and after negotiations with the recommended proposer, Imperial County intends to execute a fixed fee contract, with pay points and amounts tied to negotiated deliverables. There may be a possibility to negotiate a cost reimbursement contract if the successful bidder prefers this.
- Q.31 Follow up on the January 12th Q&A, Question 11, Can you provide a list of companies/individuals that attended the webinar?
- A.31 ICWDB reached out to all organizations that registered and attended the webinar requesting permission to share their organization and attendees. Below is the list that agreed to share this information:

Social Policy Research Associates

Dallas Oberlee
Marian Negoita
Jessica Munoz

EDSI

Ken Mall

Resultant

Michael Schmierer
Zak Aker

Lightcast

Joylin Kirk
Dustin Lester

ECOnorthwest

Kevin Wall
Melissa Rowe

TIP Strategies

Jeff Marcell
Rachel Wise

AECOM

Pedro Spindler-Ruiz
Sara Murphy
Charlotte Kesteven