

CPA Long-Term RFO Support Services for 2020 Clean Energy RFO Questions & Responses

#	Question	Answer
1	RFP Scope of Work (Task 1): Is there access to 2018/2019 solicitations including design, scope, process, framework. Also is the list of contacts from the prior solicitations available? Can these be shared now or will they be shared with the consultant on selection?	Materials from the 2019 RFOs are available on CPA's website at https://cleanpoweralliance.org/get-involved/job-contracting-opportunities/ . CPA expects the 2020 Clean Energy RFO to be substantially similar to the 2019 Clean Energy RFO. A list of contacts from the prior solicitations will be made available after consultant selection.
2	RFP Scope of Work (Task 1): How much is the scope and expectations of deliverables different from the 2018/19 solicitations?	Please see CPA's response to Question #1, above.
3	RFP Scope of Work (Task 2): Are their solicitation materials and protocols from 2018/19 solicitations? How are they expected to be different in 2020? Can these be shared now or will they be shared with the consultant on selection?	Please see CPA's response to Question #1, above.
4	RFP Scope of Work (Task 2): What is the submission platform? Is this a website interface for bidders to access and their data/ information? Is the consultant expected to bring this platform as part of the services?	CPA expects the bidder to propose a submission platform or an alternate submission process. The 2019 Clean Energy RFO submission process was via email.
5	RFP Scope of Work (Task 2): Is the platform from 2018/19 available to review? Is that owned or accessible to CPA without the consultant not getting it, but being able to use it?	Please see CPA's response to Question #1, above.
6	RFP Scope of Work (Task 2): Can the consultant offer the written solicitation protocol and miscellaneous RFO administration services? And not have the host website for receipt of offers? Can the host website be separately acquired by CPA as part of this RFP?	CPA prefers not to hold a separate RFO for a host website. However, the bidder may propose either its own host website for offer submission, or an alternate submission process. For example, in the 2019 Clean Energy RFO, the submission process was via email.
7	RFP Scope of Work (Task 3): Can CPA provide the valuation model and financial analysis framework from the prior solicitations?	The valuation and financial analysis framework that CPA is able to share from prior solicitations is available in the RFO Protocol document from the

		2019 Reliability RFO and the 2019 Clean Energy RFO found at https://cleanpoweralliance.org/get-involved/job-contracting-opportunities/
8	General: Can CPA provide the comprehensive excel spreadsheet summarizing all the offers, as well as the summary of RFO metrics and trends, valuation ranking and the summary report from the prior solicitations?	No. CPA expects the bidder to propose a version of these deliverables.
9	General: Can CPA provide the preferred methodology for valuation and evaluation of one-off non-conforming offer variants from the prior solicitations?	The preferred methodology for valuation of one-off or non-conforming offer variants will be the same as for the conforming offers. The difference is that the inputs will vary from the conforming offers.
10	General: Are their lessons learned from these solicitations on all the four Tasks? Can these be shared now or will they be shared with the consultant on selection?	Significant lessons learned were built into the Task Order instructions. Any others will be shared with the selected bidder.
11	RFP Costs Section: "Pricing needs to be provided on a fixed price basis." Is an hourly fixed rate considered fixed price basis? Is a monthly fixed rate for 40-hours/ week considered a fixed price basis?	Qualified Bidders should prepare their submittals on a fixed price per deliverable basis. In other words, received submittals should show the total costs for the work to be performed, broken out separately, by the following task grouping listed in the Task Order: Task 1, Task 2, & Task 3 and 4. CPA does not expect bidders to calculate the cost to perform the Task Order scope of work based on a 40-hour work week. See Exhibit C (Fixed Price Per Deliverable) for more information on how to prepare a fixed price per deliverable structure.
12	General: What are the other criteria CPA will use besides price to select bidders for one or all the tasks?	Only CPA Pre-Qualified Providers will be considered in this task order solicitation. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, Prospective Bidders must first complete the Pre-Qualified Provider Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") found here: https://cleanpoweralliance.org/get-involved/job-contracting-opportunities/ The selection and award decision for this task order solicitation will be based on the bidder's qualification as a CPA Pre-Qualified Provider, which assesses, among other things, a firm's qualifications to perform the scope of work outlined in the Task Order solicitation, proposal pricing, and approach.
13	General: What detail of qualifications of consultants do you need to help you make this decision?	See Question #12.

14	General: Is there an incumbent, and if so, is it possible to identify the incumbent?	For both the 2019 Clean Energy RFO and 2019 Reliability RFO, Ascend Analytics performed RFO Support Services.
15	General: Why is the RFP referred to as a “Task Order”?	The Pre-Qualified Provider (“PQP”) Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) process is to secure one or more qualified respondents to provide a variety of services (i.e. Engineering, Regulatory Compliance, Financial, Forecasting and Rate Design, Customer Outreach, IT and Cybersecurity, & General Staff Support Services) to CPA. As part of the PQP RFQ process, CPA issues Task Order solicitations from time to time to secure such services.
16	General: Will proposals received be made public?	All information received by CPA in response to this Task Order solicitation is subject to the California Public Records Act and may be subject to the California Brown Act.
17	General: Was one of the potential bidders involved in the preparation of this Task Order?	No. CPA did not use a potential bidder in the preparation of this Task Order solicitation.
18	General: Is the Task Order open to any potential bidders or only to a limited potential bidder list?	Please see CPA’s response to Question #12, above.
19	General: Have prior CPA solicitations been tendered as open to any bidder, through limited competition, or awarded without competition?	Prior Task Order solicitations have been carried out according to the process described in CPA’s response to Question 12 above.
20	RFP Scope of Work: Deliverables 3c and 3d clearly state that the longlist is deliverable as an Excel spreadsheet summarizing all offers with key descriptive information for each offer and a summary of RFO metrics. Can an exception to the requirement to use Excel in unlocked formats described in Footnote 1 be considered? We have portfolio analysis models developed in tools other than Excel which are not normally provided to our clients. Instead our clients received a description of the mathematical formulation and algorithmic implementation to avoid the perception of a “black box” model while preserving our intellectual property rights and moderate the price of the engagement.	CPA prefers an Excel format for presentation of the results. The analysis itself may utilize tools other than Excel.
21	General: Is there a target budget range available for this work?	CPA has budgeted funds for this work, but CPA anticipates that the received proposals will inform the costs for these services.

22	<p>RFP Exhibit C: “Total Maximum Amount” for each Task Order Deliverable and specifies a “Fixed Price Per Deliverable Basis.”</p> <p>Is the “Fixed Price” for each deliverable equal to the “Total Maximum Amount” per deliverable?</p>	<p>Yes, “fixed price” for a deliverable should be interpreted to mean the total maximum amount for each deliverable, inclusive of all anticipated costs, for that particular deliverable.</p>
23	<p>RFP Exhibit C: “Total Maximum Amount” for each RFP Deliverable and specifies a “Fixed Price Per Deliverable Basis.”</p> <p>Does CPA plan to pay the “Fixed Price” for each deliverable, regardless of the level of effort necessary to complete each deliverable?</p>	<p>CPA expects that Proposers will identify the approach necessary to complete the task order in their submittals. The submittal should inform the level of effort necessary to complete each deliverable. CPA expects that the price to perform the work to be commensurate with the level of effort necessary to complete each deliverable.</p>
24	<p>RFP Exhibit C: “Total Maximum Amount” for each RFP Deliverable and specifies a “Fixed Price Per Deliverable Basis.”</p> <p>How is the contractor to bill CPA for services? Are bills to be sent regularly, or subsequent to the completion of milestones? If the latter, what are those milestones?</p>	<p>For providing the tasks, deliverables, services, and other work authorized pursuant to an executed CPA Master Agreement and an accompanying task order, the selected contractor shall separately invoice CPA for each Task order deliverable upon CPA acceptance of the completed deliverable.</p> <p>See Exhibit C for more information.</p>
25	<p>RFP Exhibit C: “Total Maximum Amount” for each RFP Deliverable and specifies a “Fixed Price Per Deliverable Basis.”</p> <p>Given that the amount of effort to complete some deliverables is proportional to the number of bids received from the marketplace in the RFO, how should bidders submit a fixed price bid for their services?</p>	<p>The bidder may propose a pricing structure dependent on the number of bids received. For reference, CPA received roughly 150 offers in its 2019 RFOs.</p>
26	<p>General: Are there any regulations, laws, statutes, and/or rules that the RFO must adhere to? If so, please specify.</p>	<p>Proposers should be familiar with, or have applicable expertise in, providing RFO support that complies with State and Federal regulatory requirements, applicable laws & statutes, as well as the rules and procedures for running such RFO solicitations.</p>
27	<p>General: Please explain how CPA will weigh the following factors in its evaluation of proposals: (a) budget, (b)</p>	<p>All of these criteria determine the Best Value to CPA. Please see the Non-Energy Public Contracting Policy for a definition of “Best Value”:</p>

	<p>experience of key personnel, (c) proposer's previous experience, (d) experience with renewable energy, energy storage, and paired project procurement, (e) experience in evaluating renewable energy and energy storage power purchase agreements, (f) California ISO expertise, and (g) proposed scope of work and work approach.</p>	<p>https://cleanpoweralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CPA2019-012_Non-Energy-Public-Contracting.pdf</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>General: We believe a specialized analytical firm (to be selected competitively by CPA under this Task Order, rather than selected by us and bid as part of our team) could focus exclusively on Task 3b, Task 3d and Task 4. Our team would propose to perform Task 1, Task 2, Task 3a and Task 3c. Would this be acceptable to CPA?</p>	<p>CPA is seeking a single Qualified Bidder. It is the Qualified Bidder's responsibility to submit a complete response to the solicitation.</p>