



## RFP 24-601 Addendum No.2:

### Additional Questions from Bidders:

1. Question: In A. Executive Summary the third bullet asks for, "A detailed description of the services to be provided based on the firm's understanding of the project scope." Does RCEA expect bidders to provide additional details about the SOW in another section of the proposal? If so, which section?

***Answer: Additional details about the SOW can be provided in section E. Additions, Delections and/or Exceptions.***

2. Question: Regarding Scope of Work Task 1 item "Assist with preparation of a new Business Plan and for the 2028-2031 program cycle" and Task 2 item "Support program ramp down activities at the end of the four-year program cycle.": does RCEA plan to discontinue 2024-2027 programs in 2027 and propose all new programs in the 2028-2031 Business Plan?

***Answer: RCEA does not plan to discontinue all 2024-2027 programs, however, we do anticipate the possibility of discontinuing some programs, augmenting some existing programs, and adding new programs in the 2028-2031 Business Plan. Also, because the Proposed Decision does not include a placeholder budget for 2028-2031 for RuralREN North Programs, RCEA will plan for the possibility that programs will not be continued in 2028.***

3. Question: Regarding item D. Project Fee Proposal: can RCEA provide an NTE amount or range for this work? If not, is there room for negotiation if consultant's proposed NTE exceeds RCEA's available budget?

***Answer: Please see question 3 from Addendum #1. If the NTE exceeds RCEA's available budget, RCEA will negotiate fees for the selected consultant.***

4. Question: Regarding item D. Project Fee Proposal: bidders' proposals are due September 16, 2024, but the earliest that the Agenda Decision Modifying Rural Regional Energy Network Approved in Decision 23-06-055 may be heard by the Commission is September 26, 2024. Is it acceptable for bidders to include a contingency amount in case the Final Decision varies significantly from the Proposed Decision, e.g., with regard to requirements for the Revised Business Plan Tier 3 Advice Letter and filing? (Note that the method of compensation will be time and expense, so if additional work is not required, it would not be billed.)

***Answer: Yes, bidders may include contingency amounts for changes in the Final Decision from the Proposed Decision, as well as discuss possible fee changes during negotiations. The consultant will be selected and awarded at the Sept 26, 2024, meeting of RCEA's board, but RCEA will not move forward with contracting on the final negotiated proposal cost until after the Final Decision.***

5. Question: Will the selected bidder have responsibilities related to RuralREN advocacy/engagement in CPUC proceedings, e.g., comments and reply comments, etc.? If so, would this be limited to contributing/reviewing content where appropriate, or would this be inclusive of full preparation and finalization of documents to be filed?

**Answer: The selected bidder will not be required to prepare or finalize documents to be filed related to RuralREN North advocacy/engagement in CPUC proceedings. RCEA will retain legal counsel to support these filings, however, the consultant may be asked to review and contribute to content when relevant.**

6. Question: For annual report narratives, does RCEA have a graphic designer to develop the design template and produce the final designed narrative PDF? Or should bidder provide a budget estimate for doing so?

**Answer: RCEA will retain a marketing firm that can design the template for Annual Report narratives. The bidder should only include in their estimate support with preparation of the annual report.**

7. Question: Regarding SOW Task 2, item "Provide requested input and feedback on RuralREN North-developed program narratives, including design, delivery channels, and evaluation, measurement and verification (EM&V) plans", will RCEA be contracting separately for a consultant to conduct EM&V studies with RuralREN-North's PA EM&V budget, and the selected bidder will simply provide input to EM&V plans? Or should bidders provide a budget estimate for conducting PA EM&V studies?

**Answer: RCEA will be contracting separately for a consultant to conduct EM&V studies with RuralREN North's PA EM&V budget and the selected bidder will simply provide input to EM&V plans. If the consultant plans to bid on PA EM&V studies, they will not be asked to provide input to EM&V plans and should indicate this in Section E if that work will be excluded from their bid.**

8. Question: Regarding SOW Task 1, item "Coordinate and facilitate Joint Cooperation Memo (JCM) process with PG&E, before program launch and subsequent JCMs every two years." What is the timeline for program launches--- does RCEA anticipate developing the "before program launch" JCM in 2024 or 2025? This will be helpful to know for developing annual NTE budgets.

**Answer: RCEA anticipates launching a limited set of programs in early 2025. However, RCEA understands that the Tier 3 AL may not be approved in 2024 and the JCM deadline will likely follow that, similar to the JCMs following the TUAL approvals in 2023. RCEA also has some work already completed towards a JCM with PG&E. RCEA would like the bidder to include some preparation for the JCM (initial meetings with PG&E, develop JCM template) in 2024 and time for completion of the JCM in early 2025. These budgets can be adjusted should the timelines change.**