



RFQ-25-901 Addendum #2: Q&A

This document contains the questions received on or before 1/31/2025, along with the corresponding answers.

- 1. Is RCEA seeking an independent 3rd Party commissioning firm to commission the PV or BESS systems or are you looking for the installing contractor to take on that SOW?**
Answer: No – installation contractor will be responsible for all commissioning.

- 2. Is it possible to request address for all sites and communication tower?**
Answer: No.

This Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is the first step in a two-step process that RCEA is undertaking to select a design-build entity that RCEA will contract to design and construct the Project. The RFQ will serve as a prequalification process. The second step includes issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP). The requested information will be provided in the forthcoming RFP.

- 3. Is there any preference on vendors or equipment?**

Answer: The requested information will be provided in the forthcoming RFP.

- 4. Will [RCEA] be filing with PGE?**

Answer: Yes. RCEA will be filing for interconnection agreements with PG&E. Additional information will be provided in the forthcoming RFP.

- 5. Monitoring preference?**

Answer: The requested information will be provided in the forthcoming RFP.

- 6. For the projects located in Orick and Westhaven, will any of these be required in stainless or aluminum?**

Answer: RCEA recommends use of materials that meet code requirements and best practices for electrical construction in wet conditions.

7. Are there Onsite generators at any of these facilities?

Answer: All facilities but one have an existing onsite gasoline or diesel generator; the one site without a generator will be installing a unit immanently. Details to be provided in RFP documents.

8. How may respondents walk or have access to all sites?

Answer: RCEA will organize site walks during the RFP process. RCEA asks that bidders do not contact fire stations directly.

9. Can RCEA confirm that the following information: The STW requirement is beyond the typical public works Department of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS) requirement of requesting apprentices (DAS 140/142). STW for this design build opportunity requires the entire work force to be skilled journeymen (8000 hour plus experience), and 60% of the work force must have graduated from a DAS approved apprenticeship program (commonly a 5-year commitment and the closest is located in Santa Rosa).

Answer: The Skilled and Trained Workforce (STW) requirement is separate from Public Works requirements and both will apply to this project.

Useful links:

Public Works requirements: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/PublicWorks.html>

Prevailing wage determinations: [Director's General Prevailing Wage Determinations](#)

Apprenticeship requirements for Public Works: [Public Works Apprenticeship Requirements](#)

STW requirements: [Frequently Asked Questions on Skilled & Trained Workforce \("STW"\) Requirements](#)

10. What is the average (or range of) microgrid size that has been considered in the preliminary designs?

Answer: This project has a system size range of 2kW – 80kW; system sizing subject to change based on PG&E solar hosting capacity, RRG budget and other factors. Detailed system sizing will be provided in the RFP.

11. What is the anticipated period of performance to deliver the requested projects? June 1 is listed in the RFQ as the anticipated issuance of notice to proceed but could not find a further timeline.

Answer: All projects must be complete by the end of 2026 including commissioning.

12. Will there be local preference for the RFP?

Answer: RCEA has not yet created the RFP evaluation criteria. The evaluation criteria will be developed to identify the DBE team that can provide the "best value".

13. Are all projects 3-phase or split phase?

Answer: Most sites are single phase 240V configurations except for two sites. One site is three phase 240V Delta and one is three phase 208V Y configuration. Preliminary designs included in the RFP will include electrical service information.

14. Regarding the requirement for the RFQ, can you please tell me what it means for a company like mine to have the "financial capacity" to see the project through construction? Does that mean I have to have \$1.5 M in the bank? What about a letter from a bank or other entity that states they will help support this project through completion according to the milestones and construction schedule valued at \$1.5M? Or is it just an affidavit from me stating that "I have the financial capacity to see this project through construction."?

Answer: Examples of documents that would demonstrate financial capacity include:

- Most recent Statement of Financial Position or Balance Sheet showing cash or other liquidity that can cover the cash flow necessary to begin and complete work on the Project within the requested timeline; and/or,
- A Letter of Credit from a bank or creditor that is federally, or state chartered and has a rating of not less than "satisfactory" in its most recent evaluation by the appropriate federal financial supervisory authority. The Letter of Credit should be for an amount sufficient to cover the cash flow necessary to begin and complete work on the Project within the requested timeline; and/or,
- A letter confirming any credit capacity with suppliers.

15. Regarding the skilled and trained workforce (STW) requirements, do respondents have to be enrolled in a current accredited class or apprenticeship class in order to be awarded? Please advise what type of class, if any, are employees required to be enrolled?

Answer: Please refer to pages 3-5 in the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) STW FAQ: [*Frequently Asked Questions on Skilled & Trained Workforce \("STW"\) Requirements](#)

From DIR STW FAQ "Skilled and Trained Workforce Definition" #2 (p.3):

a. Apprentices must be registered in a California DAS-approved apprenticeship program

OR

b.1 – Skilled Journeyman – must have graduated from a registered apprenticeship program, this can be California, Federal, or another state.

OR

b.2 – Equivalent hours Skilled Journeyman – must have worked enough hours to graduate from an approved apprenticeship program.

Note: equivalent hours vary by apprenticeable occupation.

Equivalent hours link:

[Division of Apprenticeship Standards \(DAS\) - Minimum Industry Training Criteria \(MITC\)](#)

16. If a respondent's coverage meets the required limits through a combination of policies (i.e. general liability \$1M/occurrence \$2M/aggregate plus umbrella \$5M), is that sufficient to qualify?

Answer: This RFQ requires that the respondent provides evidence that they have the capacity to obtain the insurance coverage listed. If a respondent has an umbrella policy that includes language to satisfy the minimum insurance coverages listed in the RFQ, such written evidence must be provided in the SOQ. If a respondent does not currently have policies to meet the minimum requirements of the RFQ's insurance coverages listed, the respondent should provide evidence that they have the capacity to obtain the required insurance coverage.

17. Does the Skilled and Trained Workforce (STW) requirement only apply to certain trades (e.g. electricians CLSB C-10), or does it extend to all workers involved in the solar installation process, including general labor or Solar installers (CLSB C-46)?

Answer: Determination of apprenticeable occupations related to STW requirements are made by the Department of Industrial Relations Office of the Director – Research.

As the Awarding Body, RCEA will ultimately make the determination of apprenticeable occupations to be used on the Project based on the workforce needed as identified by bidders in the RFP responses.

RCEA recommends reaching out directly to the Prevailing Wage unit of the Office of the Director – Research which oversees both the Prevailing Wage determinations and STW requirements.

Office of the Director – Research phone #: (415) 703-4780

Office of the Director – Research Prevailing Wage phone #: (415) 703-4774

Office of the Director – Research email: statistics@dir.ca.gov

Office of the Director – Research webpage:

https://www.dir.ca.gov/oprl/ContactUS_ODResearch.htm

18. In accordance with STW regulations, 60% of the workforce must be either journeyman or in a state-approved apprenticeship program. Is there a phased compliance schedule for achieving compliance STW percentage?

Answer. No, there is no phased compliance. Please note, per the DIR STW FAQ, DAS-approved apprenticeship programs can also include out-of-state and federal apprenticeship programs.

Please refer to pages 3-5 in the Department of Industrial Relations' (DIR) STW FAQ: [*Frequently Asked Questions on Skilled & Trained Workforce \("STW"\) Requirements](#)

19. Are there any exceptions, waivers, or exemptions to the STW requirements for C-46 solar contractors or subcontractors?

Answer: See the links provided in question #17 for more information and assistance with STW occupation determinations.

- a. **If exceptions exist, what are the criteria for qualifying, and what documentation is required to apply for an exemption?**
Answer: See the links provided in question #17 for more information and assistance with occupation determinations.
- b. **Are exceptions granted based on the availability of qualified workers within a given region?**
Answer: Exemptions are granted on a case-by-case basis by the DIR Office of the Director.

20. If compliance with STW is not feasible due to limited availability of apprenticeship program graduates, are alternative workforce certification programs acceptable as a substitute? If so, which ones?

Answer: No.

21. Can a firm that has Skilled and Trained Workforce (STW) qualified electricians/laborers team with multiple firms responding to the RFQ / RFP?

Answer: Yes. RCEA encourages firms with STW capacity to team with as many potential bidders as are interested – that is, a firm with STW capacity is not limited to teaming with one firm only.

22. Q: Will there be reporting requirements to the DSA (Department of State Architecture)?

Answer: No. DSA reporting is not required for this project.

23. Q: Are any of the projects on Tribal lands?

Answer: Yes, three (3) projects are on tribal lands.

24. Q: Will RCEA buy excess power from these facilities?

Answer: No. The project consists of behind-the-meter systems that will be interconnected with PG&E under the Net Billing Tariff rate structure.

25. Q: Regarding permitting, how much effort will RCEA be putting out vs. the DBE? Could this slow down the project?

Answer: The requested information will be provided in the forthcoming RFP.

26. Q: Separate permitting applications for 11-12 projects?

Answer: Yes, that is correct.

27. Q: Will we have access to the electric bills you used for the preliminary scope?

Answer: No. RCEA will specify system sizes based on these data.

28. Q: Are you sizing (the PV + Battery systems) based on average solar production or focusing on the winter months?

Answer: RCEA is sizing the systems to offset the net annual energy use at each site.

29. Q: For 12-month performance guarantee – how can we provide this if we don't design the system?

Answer: The selected DBE will design the systems based on the sizing specified by RCEA.

30. Q: What do you want for fully designed plans?

Answer: Detailed designs that specify equipment to be used and all balance-of-systems components. Designs must also comply with all regulations and permitting requirements.

31. Q: Do you want us to identify critical loads?

Answer: No. RCEA plans to work with each fire station to develop a critical loads strategy.

32. Q: How will billing/invoicing be processed? Progress payments?

Answer: The payment process will be determined during contract negotiation and will likely include a milestone or progress-based schedule.

33. Q: Is this a Public Works project with prevailing wage requirements? Other requirements?

Answer: Yes, this is a Public Works project, and prevailing wages are required. Skilled and Trained Workforce requirements must also be met.

-End of Q&A-