

**Sespe Creek Overflow Railroad Bridge Repair IFB No. SPBL-2025-01 Questions - Responses to Questions Received as of April 15, 2025**

**Deadline to submit questions or request approved equals is April 30, 2025 at 4:00PM. Questions shall be submitted to [spbl@govventura.org](mailto:spbl@govventura.org).**

- 1. The RFP states that bids are due on Friday, May 16th, but indicates they will be opened on Monday, May 19th. Will the bid opening be open to the public?**

Bidders need not be physically present at the time of bid opening. Bidders will receive an online meeting link via MS Teams at which to view the bids.

- 2. What is the DBE / target firm participation goal? How far from the bid due date is the outreach required?**

This project is anticipated to be reimbursed (funded) in whole or in part through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement program. The Invitation for Bids and Template Contract thus follow FEMA PA guidelines. FEMA does not use the terminology of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and does not require setting of a percentage DBE goal. Rather, FEMA PA guidelines require taking affirmative steps to ensure use of small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms when possible. In alignment with applicable FEMA Public Assistance Guidelines, the following affirmative steps extend to prime contractors, as follows:

1. Were target firms included on your organization's solicitation lists?
2. Were target firms solicited whenever they were potential sources?
3. Did your organization divide total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by target firms?
4. Did your organization establish delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by target firms?
5. Did your organization use the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce?

To identify potential target firm partners, the Small Business Administration offers a search tool at: [https://dsbs.sba.gov/search/dsp\\_dsbs.cfm](https://dsbs.sba.gov/search/dsp_dsbs.cfm). NAICS codes identified for subcontracting opportunities for this project include: 237310, 237990, 238110, 238120, 238190.

There is no specific deadline before the bid due date by which outreach is required. Bidders demonstrate having taken the above affirmative steps through completion of the Bid Forms IB-7 M, N, O, and P.

**3. Is there an engineer's estimate available?**

To ensure a competitive bidding environment, VCTC does not plan to release the engineer's estimate. For an estimate of the total cost of the project already available in the public domain, you can review the Staff Report for Item 9D of the VCTC Agenda from April 4, 2025, available here: <https://www.goventura.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/VCTC-MEETING-AGENDA-APRIL-4-2025-3.pdf>.

**4. Attachments B, D & E appear to be missing from the IFB document (Bid Forms, Target Firm Provisions and Forms, Prevailing Wage Determination). Please provide these attachments.**

Bid Forms and Attachments are available at:  
<https://www.goventura.org/work-with-vctc/contracts/>

Prevailing wage determinations are available here:  
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/2025-1/PWD/index.htm>

**5. We are unfamiliar with Target Firm Goals. Is there a percentage goal we are trying to obtain?**

This project is anticipated to be reimbursed (funded) in whole or in part through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement program. The Invitation for Bids and Template Contract thus follow FEMA PA guidelines. FEMA does not use the terminology of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and does not require setting of a percentage DBE goal. Rather, FEMA PA guidelines require taking affirmative steps to ensure use of small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms when possible. In alignment with applicable FEMA Public Assistance Guidelines, the following affirmative steps extend to prime contractors, as follows:

1. Were target firms included on your organization's solicitation lists?
2. Were target firms solicited whenever they were potential sources?
3. Did your organization divide total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by target firms?
4. Did your organization establish delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by target firms?
5. Did your organization use the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the

Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce?

To identify potential target firm partners, the Small Business Administration offers a search tool at: [https://dsbs.sba.gov/search/dsp\\_dsbs.cfm](https://dsbs.sba.gov/search/dsp_dsbs.cfm). NAICS codes identified for subcontracting opportunities for this project include: 237310, 237990, 238110, 238120, 238190.

**6. Could you help explain what a Labor Surplus Area Firm is and where we could find a list of these businesses to help conduct our outreach?**

Labor Surplus Areas (LSA) are designated by the U.S. Department of Labor. An LSA is a civil jurisdiction that has a civilian average annual unemployment rate during the previous two calendar years of 20% or more above the average annual civilian unemployment rate for all states (including Puerto Rico) during the same 24-month reference period. More information about such designations and a link to current Fiscal Year 2025 LSAs are available here: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/lsa>.

**7. IB-14 Submission of Bid states you will accept hard copy bid responses only but doesn't provide a location name and address.**

Bids shall be submitted to:  
Ventura County Transportation Commission  
Attn: Amanda Fagan, Director of Planning & Sustainability  
751 E. Daily Dr., Ste 420  
Camarillo, CA 93030

**8. Do the bids need to be hand delivered or could they be fedex'd?**

Bids may be either hand delivered to the VCTC Office, or they may be sent by mail or other mail delivery service (i.e. FedEx, UPS, etc.).

**9. Bid Opening shows Monday 5/19/25 at 11AM. Will we need to be physically present at the location stated for bid responses or will you notify the bidders via email or online portal?**

Bidders need not be physically present at the time of bid opening. Bidders will receive an online meeting link via MS Teams at which to view the bid opening.

**10. On page 13 of the IFB, under the section titled "Target Firm Good Faith Effort Form," the contract documents state that "submission of Good Faith Efforts documentation can protect Bidder's eligibility for award of the contract if VCTC determines that Bidder failed to meet the goal for various reasons." However, the contract documents do not specify a Target Firm participation goal for this**

**project. Typically, the requirement to submit a good faith effort is triggered when a bidder does not meet an established participation goal. We are requesting clarification on what, if any, requirements exist for bidders regarding Target Firm participation. Based on the current information, it appears that no formal good faith effort is required, as no participation goal has been established.**

This project is anticipated to be reimbursed (funded) in whole or in part through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) reimbursement program. The Invitation for Bids and Template Contract thus follow FEMA PA guidelines. FEMA does not use the terminology of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and does not require setting of a percentage DBE goal. Rather, FEMA PA guidelines require taking affirmative steps to ensure use of small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms when possible. In alignment with applicable FEMA Public Assistance Guidelines, the following affirmative steps extend to prime contractors, as follows:

1. Were target firms included on your organization's solicitation lists?
2. Were target firms solicited whenever they were potential sources?
3. Did your organization divide total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by target firms?
4. Did your organization establish delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by target firms?
5. Did your organization use the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce?

Along with Bid Forms IB-7 M, N, and O, the Good Faith Effort form (IB-7 P) is intended to document and ensure that the bidder has completed the required affirmative steps as described above.

To identify potential target firm partners, the Small Business Administration offers a search tool at: [https://dsbs.sba.gov/search/dsp\\_dsbs.cfm](https://dsbs.sba.gov/search/dsp_dsbs.cfm). NAICS codes identified for subcontracting opportunities for this project include: 237310, 237990, 238110, 238120, 238190.