

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP)
FOR
SAN LUIS REY VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN
SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

RFQ Issued: March 27, 2019

Pre-Submittal Meeting: April 15, 2019, 10:00 a.m..

RFQ Submission Deadline: 4:30 p.m., May 15, 2019

Yuima Municipal Water District
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FIGURES

- 1 San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin

1 BACKGROUND

On September 14, 2014, the Governor of California signed into law California Senate Bills 1168 and 1319, and California Assembly Bill (AB) 1739 (collectively, the “Sustainable Groundwater Management Act”, or “SGMA”). In accordance with SGMA, the County of San Diego (County), Pauma Valley Community Services District (Pauma Valley CSD), Upper San Luis Rey Resource Conservation District (USLRRCDD), and Yuima Municipal Water District (Yuima MWD) formed a multi-agency Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Pauma Subbasin of the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) (Figure 1). As required by SGMA, the objective of the GSA will be to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that will address groundwater sustainability in the Basin by restoring balance to regional water resources within 20 years.

Per the Emergency Regulations for GSPs and Alternatives¹ (Emergency Regulations) approved by the California Water Commission on May 18, 2016, the GSP must include a physical description of the basin, including groundwater levels, groundwater quality, subsidence, and information on groundwater and surface water interaction; data on historical and projected water demands and supplies; and a description of how the GSP will be coordinated with other plans, including the County’s General Plan. In addition, the GSP must identify the specific projects and management actions that the local governments and water supply agencies will implement to prevent undesirable results; measurable objectives for monitoring GSP effectiveness; data monitoring, management and reporting provisions; and the milestones for GSP implementation.

GSPs are prepared by GSAs and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for approval. A GSP for the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin must be adopted and submitted to DWR by January 31, 2022.

2 BASIN INFORMATION

According to DWR’s *California’s Groundwater: Bulletin 118 (Bulletin 118)*, the medium-priority Basin (Number 9-7) extends from the confluence of the San Luis Rey River and Paradise Creek continuing downstream through four valleys (Pauma, Pala, Bonsall and Mission) and ending at the Pacific Ocean in the City of Oceanside (Figure 1). Based on prior decisions by the State of California for the Basin, the groundwater in the Mission, Bonsall, and Pala Subbasins, located downstream of Frey Creek, have been determined to be a subterranean stream flowing through known and definite channels. SGMA specifically excludes subterranean streams from its requirements. Although subterranean streams are excluded from SGMA, most GSP components (as noted in Section 3) will be required for both the Pauma and Pala Subbasins (Figure 1). Other GSP components will be required for the entire Basin. The Pauma Subbasin extends from the confluence of the SLR River and Paradise Creek to the Agua Tibia Narrows near the confluence of the SLR River

¹ *California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2, Groundwater Sustainability Plans*

and Frey Creek. The Pala Subbasin Extends from the Agua Tibia Narrows to Monserate Narrows.

During August, 2018 the Legislature passed, and the Governor subsequently signed, AB 1944, which redefined the boundaries of the San Luis Rey groundwater basins to become just the Upper Subbasin and the Lower Subbasin, with the boundary between the two being the Monserrate Narrows immediately East of Interstate 15. With the passage of AB 1944, the GSA anticipates revising governance to include local public agencies in both the Pala and Pauma Subbasins – collectively known as the “Upper San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Subbasin, or Upper Subbasin”. Consistent with AB 1944, the agencies to be included in the revised GSA will work together with tribal entities to prepare the GSP and jointly manage groundwater in the Upper Subbasin. In addition to complying with SGMA and the Emergency Regulations, the implementation measures of the GSP will need to meet the needs of the local agencies and tribes in the Upper Subbasin of the Basin. Although Yuima MWD will administer the contract, the consultant will be required to coordinate activities with the San Luis Rey Valley Working Group (SLR Workgroup), which comprises representatives from local agencies and tribal entities. The consultant will also be required to provide support for comprehensive stakeholder involvement which will include regularly scheduled public meetings to aid in developing the GSP.

3 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

This RFQ is being issued by the Yuima MWD on behalf of the SLR Workgroup to retain professional consulting services, appropriately licensed by the State of California (Emergency Regulations Section 354.12), to prepare a GSP for the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin.

Although the contract will call for the consultant to prepare a GSP for the entire Basin that complies with SGMA and the Emergency Regulations, a hydrogeologic model, water budget, monitoring network, sustainable management criteria, and projects and management actions are not anticipated to be necessary in the “Lower Subbasin”, which is the portion of the Basin downstream of the Pala Subbasin.

It is anticipated that the contract which will be developed with the chosen consulting team will only allow work to be performed following the issuance of Task Orders or Notices to Proceed by Yuima. It is anticipated that the initial Task Order will be issued shortly following contract execution and will call for the consultant to perform the tasks necessary to complete the Data Development (Task Orders 1 and 2) phase of the overall GSP.

Yuima MWD will not pay for any costs incurred in preparation and submission of the qualifications, or in anticipation of a contract.

4. QUALIFICATIONS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

A Pre-Submittal meeting will be held at the Yuima MWD offices on April 15, 2019 to address any comments and/or questions that the firms considering submitting a Statement may have. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude no later than 12:00 noon. A memorandum will be issued by Yuima MWD that reflects the discussion at the meeting and modifies/clarifies the RFQ as deemed necessary by Yuima MWD and the Technical Team.

Submittals shall be delivered to the following address before 4:30 pm, May 15, 2019.

Yuima Municipal Water District
34928 Valley Center Road
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0177

Submittals shall be clearly marked as follows:

Qualifications for Preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin.

No late submission will be accepted for any reason. No exceptions will be allowed.

5. QUALIFICATION SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Each submittal shall be limited to the maximum number of pages listed for each section. Qualifications shall be submitted in 3-ring binders or spiral/comb bound, tabbed, using 8 ½ by 11-inch paper, and minimum of 11 point font size. Prospective proposers shall submit seven (7) hard copies, and one (1) PDF copy stored on a USB thumb drive, to the address noted in Section 4 by the submission date and time. Electronic submittal of qualifications will not be accepted.

All firms wishing to be considered for this work shall include the following information in their qualifications, with a separate tab for each section:

i. Cover Letter (Maximum: 1 page)

Include in the cover letter, the office location where the project will be managed, and the name, title and location of the project manager.

ii. Statement of Qualifications (Maximum: 5 pages)

Provide a summary demonstrating the offeror's and any subconsultants unique qualifications necessary to prepare a GSP and provide services and support related to any other SGMA needs of the SLR Workgroup.

iii. Project Team (Maximum: 2 pages per resume, No section page limit)

Include an organization chart illustrating the key project team members, the firms they are affiliated with, and the role each will serve on the project; clearly identify the name and title of the proposed project manager; provide a brief resume demonstrating qualifications for successfully completing this work for each key project team member, their office location, and a brief summary for each proposed sub-consultant firm. The final contract will include a commitment of time and participation by the key staff identified by the consultant to be important to the objectives of the GSP for the study area.

iv. Project Experience (Maximum: 5 pages)

Include a description for at least five projects that demonstrate the qualifications of the firm to prepare a GSP for the Basin. Responding firms should specifically describe which GSAs they are currently under contract to perform work for, any other SGMA-related work, and/or groundwater management experience that would be pertinent to prepare a GSP for the Basin. Indicate the key project team members for each project or SGMA related experience described.

v. Project Approach (Maximum: 20 pages)

Provide a description of the proposed tasks that will be required or recommended to complete a GSP for the Basin. Identify those tasks that will involve significant input and participation from the SLR Workgroup and other stakeholders/public and those tasks that will require significant decisions from the SLR Workgroup. Describe the proposed approach for implementing SGMA and the Emergency Regulations. Describe milestones, appropriate deliverables, and important decisions to be made by the SLR Workgroup that will be necessary to complete a GSP for the Basin. Include a project schedule/Gantt chart. The target completion date for the GSP is June 30, 2021.

Since the consultant will be required to recommend allocations and sustainability projects in the GSP that are appropriate for the Upper Subbasin, the offeror is expected to demonstrate a clear understanding of the jurisdictional complexities, water rights, unique geologic and hydrogeological characteristics of the San Luis Rey Valley Basin, state requirements and stakeholder concerns specific to the Pala and Pauma Subbasins (Upper Subbasin). A critical component of this will be a determination of the amount of water (if any) which must legally be discharged to the lower subbasin from the upper subbasin and

an inventory of the water rights, contractual and judicial obligations for water pumping, delivery and/or usage.

Portions of the La Jolla, Pala, Pauma, and Rincon Tribes are located within the Upper Subbasin. The San Pasqual Tribe is also located in the vicinity of the Upper Subbasin. The local agencies are working with the tribes to develop a 50/50 partnership to administer SGMA in the Upper Subbasin. The consultant will be required to integrate tribal land into the GSP in accordance with agreements made between the local agencies and the tribes that fully respects federally-reserved water rights. A confidentiality agreement between the consultant and tribes may be required.

vi. References (Maximum: 2 pages)

Provide contact names and phone numbers for at least three (3) references for similar projects that the Proposer has performed related services within the last five years. Please include a brief description of the services provided, the duration of the project, the completion status of the projects, the total contracted fee for the project, and the agency contact name, title, phone number, and email.

vii. Conflict of Interest

Provide a discussion of any potential conflicts of interest the firm may have in performing this work for the GSA and any work currently being done or previously performed for any of the stakeholders, water rights holders, or land owners in the Basin. Stakeholders are defined as all governmental and Tribal interests within the Upper San Luis Rey groundwater subbasin, as well as any major landowner or business within said area.

viii. Fee Schedule (No page limit)

Include a fee schedule listing the billing rates for all classifications of personnel and sub-consultants that may be assigned to the project. Be advised that the fee schedule shall be included as an attachment to any contract that may result from this selection process, and, therefore, the fee schedule should reflect billing rates that will remain in effect through January 31, 2022.

All work associated with the preparation of the GSP and other tasks assigned by Yuima MWD shall be performed on a time and materials basis with a Cost Not to Exceed provision, which shall be negotiated with the successful consultant and included in the Executed Agreement for the subject work under individual Task Orders to be reviewed and approved by Yuima MWD. All work shall be completed to the satisfaction of Yuima MWD and the SLR Workgroup within the time periods allocated for each Task Order and within the budget assigned to each Task Order.

5. QUALIFICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

Yuima MWD and the SLR Workgroup will convene a review panel made up of local agencies and tribal representation. The review panel reserves the right to select a consultant based on its sole discretion. Yuima MWD with agreement from the review panel anticipates selecting only one consultant as the GSP consultant, and the consultant may contract directly with one or more sub-consultants as necessary and in coordination with Yuima MWD staff. A review panel established by the SLR Workgroup will review and evaluate the qualifications submitted in response to this RFQ. Each qualifications submittal will be reviewed for the following, in no particular order of importance:

- Quality and completeness of the qualifications submittal. (20%)
- Understanding of project requirements, and key project issues and challenges. (20%)
- Proposed approach for completing the project on schedule, efficiently, effectively and suitable for approval by DWR. (40%)
- Project team qualifications, experience with similar projects and potential for conflict of interest with any of the local agencies or tribes. (20%)

If the review panel decides to convene in-person interviews with 2 or more offerors, offerors will be notified with the details of the interview process. Upon completion of interviews, if needed, the review panel will make a recommendation to the SLR Workgroup and the Yuima MWD Board of Directors to contract with the consultant. The selected firm should expect that the contract would include terms and conditions necessary to protect the interests of the SLR Workgroup, its members and overlying beneficial users of groundwater.

6. SCHEDULE

A fully-executed agreement with the selected firm(s) is anticipated by no later than June 15, 2019.

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7. CONTACT INFORMATION

All comments and questions regarding this RFQ shall be made in writing via email or U.S. Mail to Yuima MWD at:

yuima@yuimamwd.com

Yuima Municipal Water District
34928 Valley Center Road
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0177

Responses to comments or questions shall be provided to all firms that requested a copy of the RFQ.

FIGURE 1

SAN LUIS REY VALLEY GROUNDWATER BASIN MAP



San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin GSA Boundaries

	San Luis Rey Valley Groundwater Basin		San Luis Rey MWD
	Tribal Lands		Rainbow MWD
	Pauma Valley Community Service District		Valley Center MWD
	Pauma MWD		Yuima MWD
	Mootamai MWD		No Water District Coverage

