

Sent: Tuesday, December 02, 2014 3:35 PM

Subject: Request for Applications for 5th Cycle of Regional Water Planning

Hello all.

This afternoon we posted a Request for Regional Water Planning Applications (RFA) for the 5th Cycle of Regional Water Planning (2017-2021).

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/contract_admin/rfq/RFA03.asp

We anticipate the notice will be posted December 12, 2014 in the Texas Register with a **March 3, 2015 noon** deadline. Similar to previous contracts, the application will be based on a standardized scope of work with predetermined formula funding for each region and all associated materials are located on our website here:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/planningdocu/2021/index.asp>

Key issues to be aware of:

1. At their next regularly posted meeting, prior to the week of the March 3, 2015 deadline, RWPGs will need to:
 - a. Designate their Political Subdivision for the 5th Cycle of RWP; and
 - b. Authorize their Political Subdivision to apply for funding and post the associated 30-day public notice (at least 30 days prior to TWDB Board action on the application), anticipated to be early April 2015 (generic example language is provided on the website above).
2. Prior to the March 3, 2015 deadline, the designated RWPG Political Subdivision will need to:
 - a. Post the public notice of intent to apply for TWDB regional water planning funds under 31 TAC §355.91 (notice Quick-Reference at website above);
 - b. Prepare the application; and
 - c. Include proof of that posted public notice, as required, within the Region's application that is submitted to TWDB by noon on March 3, 2015.
RWPGs and their Political Subdivisions need to also allow for their own schedules.
3. RWPGs do not have to procure technical consultants prior to submitting their application, but will have to procure technical consultants prior to performing technical work toward the 2021 Regional Water Plans.
4. The funding is formula based and the scope of work has been developed by TWDB for all RWPGs for the initial planning activities (see materials on website above).
 - a. The funding allocations are shown in Table 2 of the Regional Water Planning Grant Application Instructions document and only cover initial planning tasks;
 - b. RWPGs will need to post notice and submit an application based on the TWDB application guidance, application documentation requirements, and general scope of work provided by TWDB as part of the application documents on the website above;
 - c. There is no 'scope/application development' budget (not necessary); and

- d. Please note that Task 10 is only partially funded based on dollars that are currently available. In its current Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR), the TWDB has requested \$5.6 million in additional funding for regional water planning that would go towards rounding out the funding of that task and the remaining planning tasks with 'TBD' reflected in their budget. TWDB anticipates requesting similar levels of funding in future biennia to complete the 2021 regional plans.
5. In the event that TWDB's cursory review of the RWPG's notice materials submitted as part of a RWPG's application reveals an error, the March 3rd submission deadline allows sufficient time for the RWPG to quickly re-post their public notice and resubmit proof of notice in time for consideration of the applications at the anticipated April 9, 2015 TWDB Board meeting.
6. As has been done in past rounds, RWPGs must post notice of a public meeting to receive input from the public on the scope of work for regional water planning (per 31 TAC §357.12(a)(1) and 357.21(d)(1). The associated public scoping meeting does not have to occur prior to Board action on the grant application however, TWDB will not reimburse for any activities (with the exception of that discussed below) that occur prior to the scoping meeting under the TWDB contract.
7. TWDB staff anticipates requesting permission from our Board to allow reimbursement of Political Subdivisions (under the new contracts) for allowable, direct (non-labor) costs associated with posting the notices for this application. Staff does not anticipate our Board authorizing payment for any other activity that occurs prior to execution of the 5th cycle contract. TWDB staff anticipated executing all 5th cycle contracts no later than **August 31, 2015**.

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact your TWDB RWP project manager.

Thanks,
Temple

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