

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

FOR THE

SILICON VALLEY CLEAN WATER

LONG RANGE FACILITY PLAN (LRFP)

CIP #9275

AUGUST 12, 2026

SOQ DUE – SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

AT 2:00 PM

at

Silicon Valley Clean Water

1400 Radio Road

Redwood City, California 94065

(650) 591-7121

Attention: Anir Bhagwat, Project Manager



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Introduction

Silicon Valley Clean Water (SVCW) is inviting qualified Consulting Engineers experienced in master planning services of municipal wastewater treatment agencies to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) to provide facility planning services for CIP #9275 Long-Range Facility Plan (Project).

The Long-Range Facility Plan (LRFP) is envisioned to be the roadmap for how SVCW will evolve over the next 50 years. The core purpose is to ensure the plant can reliably meet regulatory requirements, handle flows and loads reliably, manage risks, and optimize capital spending now and in the future.

The purpose of the SOQ is to demonstrate the qualifications of the Proposer to perform the work described in this RFQ, in conformance with the requirements of this RFQ. A subsequent RFP will be issued to 3 or 4 shortlisted firms, and a Proposal will be requested from those firms only through a subsequent RFP (Request for Proposal) process. The Proposal submitted in response to that RFP shall demonstrate a specific project approach and scope of services that will meet the RFP requirements.

The submitted SOQ must conform to the requirements of this RFQ and must be submitted in conformance with the deadline and in the manner described herein.

There is no obligation for SVCW to deliver this project, subsequent projects resulting from this effort, or to deliver any subsequent projects through the selected consultant for this Project. The approval of a Master Services Agreement and task order will be subject to the terms and conditions of the RFP. This RFQ is not a tender or an offer.

1.2 RFQ Organization

This RFQ consists of the following:

- Section 1: Introduction
- Section 2: Brief Scope of Work
- Section 3: Other Project Information
- Section 4: Procurement Process
- Section 5: SOQ Submittal Requirements
- Section 6: SOQ Evaluation
- Section 7: Limitations

The contents of the RFQ Sections take priority over any conflicting statements in any RFQ Attachments.

1.3 Background

SVCW operates a tertiary treatment plant that serves about 300,000 people and businesses located in the surrounding service area. The plant is permitted under NPDES No. CA0038369 for a raw influent average dry weather flow of up to 29 million gallons per day (MGD) and discharges treated effluent to

San Francisco Bay. The current average dry weather flow is 12 MGD, and the annual daily average flow is 14.3 MGD. The liquid stream includes influent screening and primary sedimentation, followed by a two-stage biological treatment system, including fixed film reactors and aeration basins, which operate over a short sludge age (< 3 days) to reduce TSS and BOD. Secondary effluent is filtered using dual media filters and disinfected using sodium hypochlorite in chlorine contact tanks, followed by dechlorination using sodium bisulfite. Approximately 97 percent of TSS and BOD are removed. SVCW produces 1.0 to 1.5 MGD of reclaimed water for use by Redwood City during the dry season, primarily for landscape irrigation, and this demand could increase in the future. A simplified treatment process schematic for SVCW is shown in **Figure 1**.

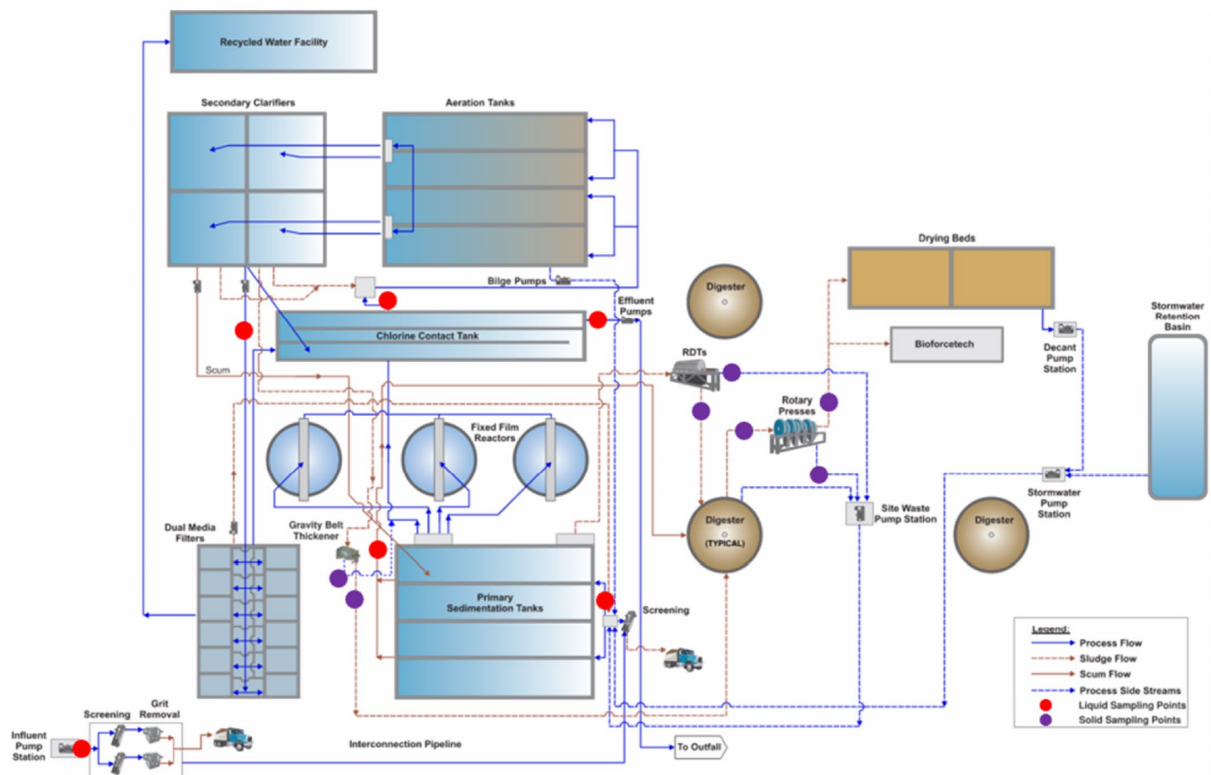
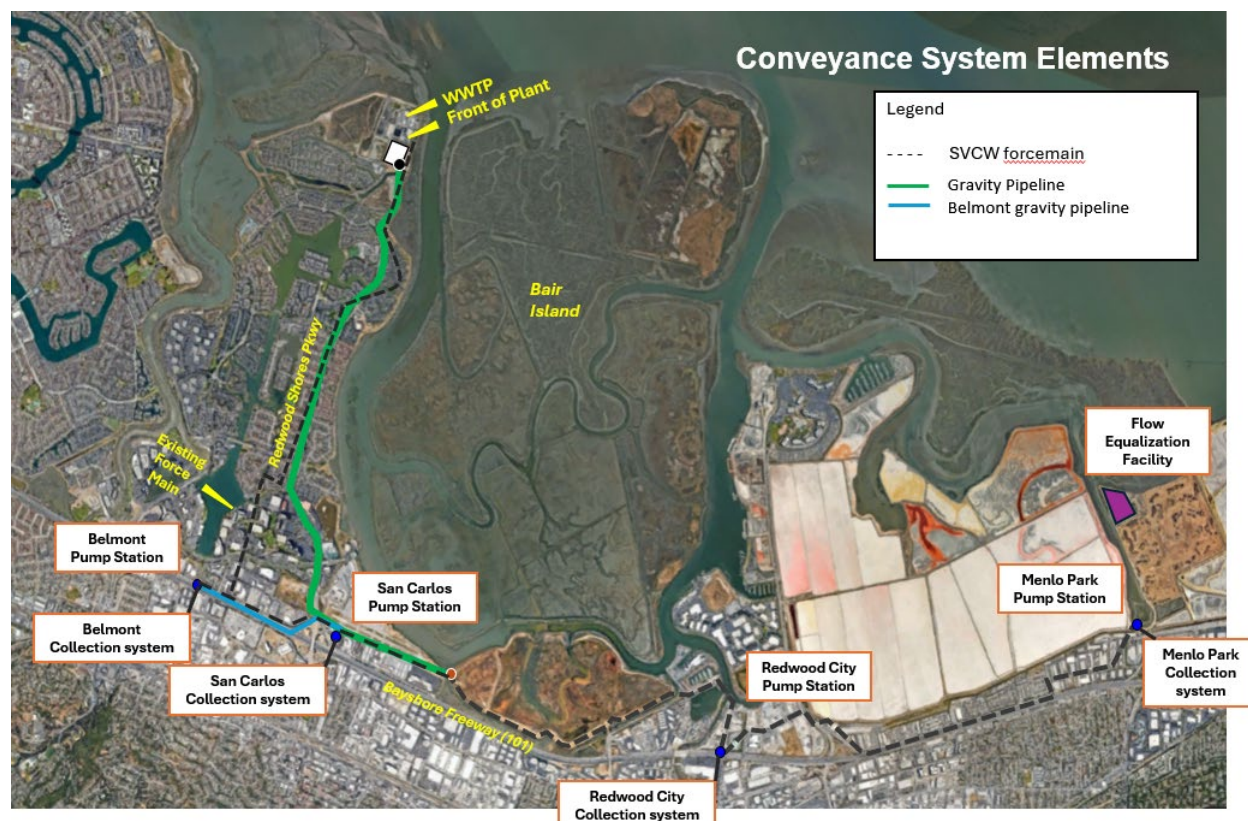


Figure 2: SVCW WWTP and Conveyance System Elements



1.4 Project Purpose and Drivers

SVCW was formed as a Joint Powers Authority in 1975 and recently celebrated its 50-year anniversary. The main WWTP and conveyance facilities were constructed in the early 1980s and are nearing the 50-year mark for age of facilities. Many of the WWTP and conveyance facilities have been rehabilitated and upgraded since original construction and are anticipated to need further improvements and upgrades to keep them functional for the next 50 years. The basis year for this evaluation will be 2028.

With this need in mind, SVCW is planning its capital improvements over the next 50 years through the development of a 50-year Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP). The core purpose is to ensure the plant can reliably meet regulatory requirements, handle flows and loads reliably, manage risks, and optimize capital spending now and in the future. It incorporates both the future rehabilitation needs based on current state of facilities and facility upgrades based on anticipated growth, regulatory requirements, site planning for operational and administration needs, climate change, and programmatic needs, thus providing a framework for capital investments and fiscal planning over the next 50 years. The LRFP is also envisioned to be a dynamic communication tool that allows SVCW to communicate the capital expenditure outlook to its member agencies with transparency, and a dynamic visual planning tool that communicates the risk implications of modifying the spending outlay. The various strategic drivers for SVCW to embark on this LRFP effort are shown in Figure 3:



Figure 3: Strategic drivers for the LRFP

A description of these drivers is provided below.

- **Addressing Regulatory Challenges:**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) recently established new nutrient discharge limits for SVCW, effective July 1, 2024. Under the Third Watershed Nutrient Permit, the dry season total inorganic nitrogen (TIN) average load limit is 3,000 kg/day through June 30, 2024, followed by a final limit of 880 kg/day effective July 1, 2024. SVCW is addressing these requirements through the Strategic Treatment Advancement Roadmap (STAR) project.

SVCW also recognizes the need to prepare for future regulatory requirements involving phosphorus, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in water and biosolids, microplastics, and other contaminants of emerging concern (CECs). Meeting these requirements will likely necessitate a range of capital projects. Future regulations may also affect other aspects of plant operations, including worker safety, laboratory compliance, and information technology.

- **Addressing Aging Infrastructure:**

The WWTP, pump stations, and other conveyance elements were originally constructed in the early 1980s. SVCW has completed various capital improvements over the years to rehabilitate existing assets and continue operating the plant cost-effectively and efficiently to serve its ratepayers. Additional improvements would be needed to continue meeting the regulatory wastewater discharge requirements over the next 50 years.

A Conditional Assessment Project, conducted by AECOM, would provide the baseline condition Remaining Useful Life (RUL) information of existing assets (at a system level) to allow this LRFP project to determine the needed improvements. The Condition Assessment project will also provide cost estimates for immediate projects within 5 years. The LRFP will have to conduct a Risk Analysis (Probability of Failure; Consequence of Failure) based on this baseline information and then package and phase capital projects based on a holistic integration of other studies, including the Nutrient Removal Project (STAR).

Other anticipated needs include strategic review and update recommendations to existing SVCW automation systems and Wonderware SCADA systems, Electrical Systems, Combined Heat and Power (Cogeneration engines, Linear Generators), and Conveyance system.

- **Addressing Population and Economic Growth:**

SVCW needs to plan for projects needed to provide adequate conveyance and treatment capacity for future growth in the service area.

- **Addressing Sustainability, Resilience, and Climate Adaptation:**

SVCW delivers capital projects guided by the goals of optimizing energy use and operations, improving process efficiency, and reducing operational risk. Other projects may be necessary to address the effects of climate change and sea-level rise, ensuring that SVCW's facilities can continue operating reliably and without interruption for the next 50 years.

- **Addressing Stakeholders and Community Priorities:**

SVCW anticipates the need to develop a Campus Development Strategy to support the plant's operational requirements over the next 50 years. The strategy should address the expansion of the existing operations control room, which is currently space-constrained, as well as provide additional facilities to accommodate staff supporting future nutrient-removal improvements. SVCW also intends to evaluate temporary workforce accommodation for employees who live outside the Bay Area, which could help attract and retain qualified candidates.

SVCW also intends to provide member agencies with greater transparency regarding anticipated capital expenditure over the next 50 years. This information will enable each member agency to develop appropriate rate structures and debt-financing strategies for its required contributions, consistent with its individual risk tolerance.

SVCW is also collaborating with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and other regional partners on the PureWater Peninsula initiative to support the future implementation of potable water reuse. The initiative anticipates supplying approximately 8 million gallons per day (MGD) of denitrified SVCW effluent to a new PureWater Peninsula advanced water purification facility. Although the PureWater Peninsula facilities are anticipated to be constructed on SVCW property, the projects will be externally financed and therefore are not expected to be included in SVCW's capital expenditure projections.

1.5 Available SVCW Studies and Reports

Previous SVCW efforts related to the Project, listed below, are available for download [at this URL link](#). Proposers are not obligated to review these documents during the RFQ stage and are not expected to do so. Brief summaries are provided for each effort:

1. Presentation slides to update SVCW Commission for SVCW's Nutrient Removal Program (July 2026)
 - SVCW is working on a Nutrient Master Plan (Strategic Treatment Advancement Roadmap or STAR) with Hazen & Sawyer to develop project alternatives for SVCW to meet these upcoming nutrient limits and anticipates receiving a final report deliverable in Q4 2026. These presentation slides were used to provide a project update to the SVCW Commission in July 2026.
2. PureWater Peninsula Basis of Design Report (2024, Kennedy Jenks)
 - SVCW had engaged Kennedy Jenks to develop Basis of Design Drawings for an AWPf, Conveyance System, and Pulgas Facility upgrades to support the PureWater Peninsula effort in collaboration with San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). This Basis of Design Report is the final deliverable of this effort.
3. Scope of Work for Condition Assessment Project (2026)
 - SVCW has engaged AECOM to determine Remaining Useful Life (RUL) for existing WWTP and conveyance system assets.
4. Scope of Work for Capacity Assessment Update and Connection Fee Study (2025)
 - SVCW has engaged Brown and Caldwell to update the current plant capacity (in terms of both flow and loading) and perform a connection fee study to inform the pending update of the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).
5. Scope of Work for Member Agency Flow Projection Review (2026)
 - SVCW has engaged Hazen and Sawyer to compare the sanitary flow projections with independent water-demand-based estimates derived from the recent Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) regional water demand study to reconcile divergence between the water-based and wastewater-based projections. This effort will

optionally summarize Wet Weather Flow assumptions used by member agencies for context in long-range system planning.

6. SVCW Flood Hazards and Sea Level Rise Resilience Report (2024, Schaaf and & Wheeler)
 - This study characterizes and quantifies the flood hazards presented by San Francisco Bay at the SVCW treatment plant shoreline and how those hazards are expected to change with future sea level rise. It also includes project alternatives evaluation to existing flood protection system to mitigate tidal water leakage.

1.6 RFQ Subject to Revision

This RFQ is subject to revision after the date of issuance via written addenda (Addenda). Addenda issued by SVCW will be posted on its website. Each Proposer is solely responsible for verifying receipt of all Addenda prior to submitting its SOQ and shall confirm in its SOQ submittal, that all addenda have been received. SVCW assumes no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the distribution of Addenda to Proposers.

2 BRIEF SCOPE OF WORK

2.1 Project Scope

The base scope of work is identified below. Proposer must provide a SOQ for the base scope of work. During the Proposal phase, Proposer may suggest modifications to the scope of work according to their experience with similar projects, should they deem it advantageous for this project. Any modifications of the scope of work and their associated costs must be identified and clearly delineated separately within the Proposal at that time.

- Conduct Project Management Activities.
- Review and integrate existing efforts, including:
 - Facility Condition Assessment (AECOM)
 - Capacity Analysis studies (Brown and Caldwell, Hazen)
 - Architectural Planning (Fred Ponce and Associates),
 - STAR Nutrient Roadmap (Hazen)
- Conduct a gap analysis
- Project flows and loads for the next 50 years
- Conduct risk analysis for existing assets based on previously conducted Condition Assessment
- Identify other Regulatory & Treatment Requirements
- Conduct needs assessment with various SVCW departments (Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, Lab, Information Technology, HR etc.)
- Engage JPA stakeholders (SVCW Technical Advisory Committee) in collaboration with SVCW and prepare presentation materials for these meetings
- Conduct Workshops to gather input and develop consensus.
- Evaluate Alternatives for non-nutrient removal projects (Biosolids etc.)
- Prepare a Campus Development Strategy for workforce and O&M needs

- Conduct strategic review and provide recommendations for upgrades to existing SVCW automation systems and Wonderware SCADA systems, Electrical Systems, Combined Heat and Power (Cogen, LGens), and Conveyance systems
- Prepare sufficiently accurate cost estimates with probability-based risk profiles
- Prepare estimates for operating costs for any new future facilities and differential operating costs for modifications to existing facilities (as an input to the SVCW Long Range Financial Model)
- Prepare a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
- Prepare Implementation Strategy for CIP (packaging, phasing)
- Develop and deploy dynamic dashboard tool (“LRFP Tool”) for optimizing FY annual capital expenditure “on the fly”, while incorporating various probability-based risk and inflation scenarios for expenditure optimization. Final deliverable tool shall be compatible with Microsoft Power Apps and shall be owned and operable by SVCW.
- Provide input to SVCW Long-Range Financial Plan model.

The anticipated framework of activities for this project is depicted in **Figure 4**.

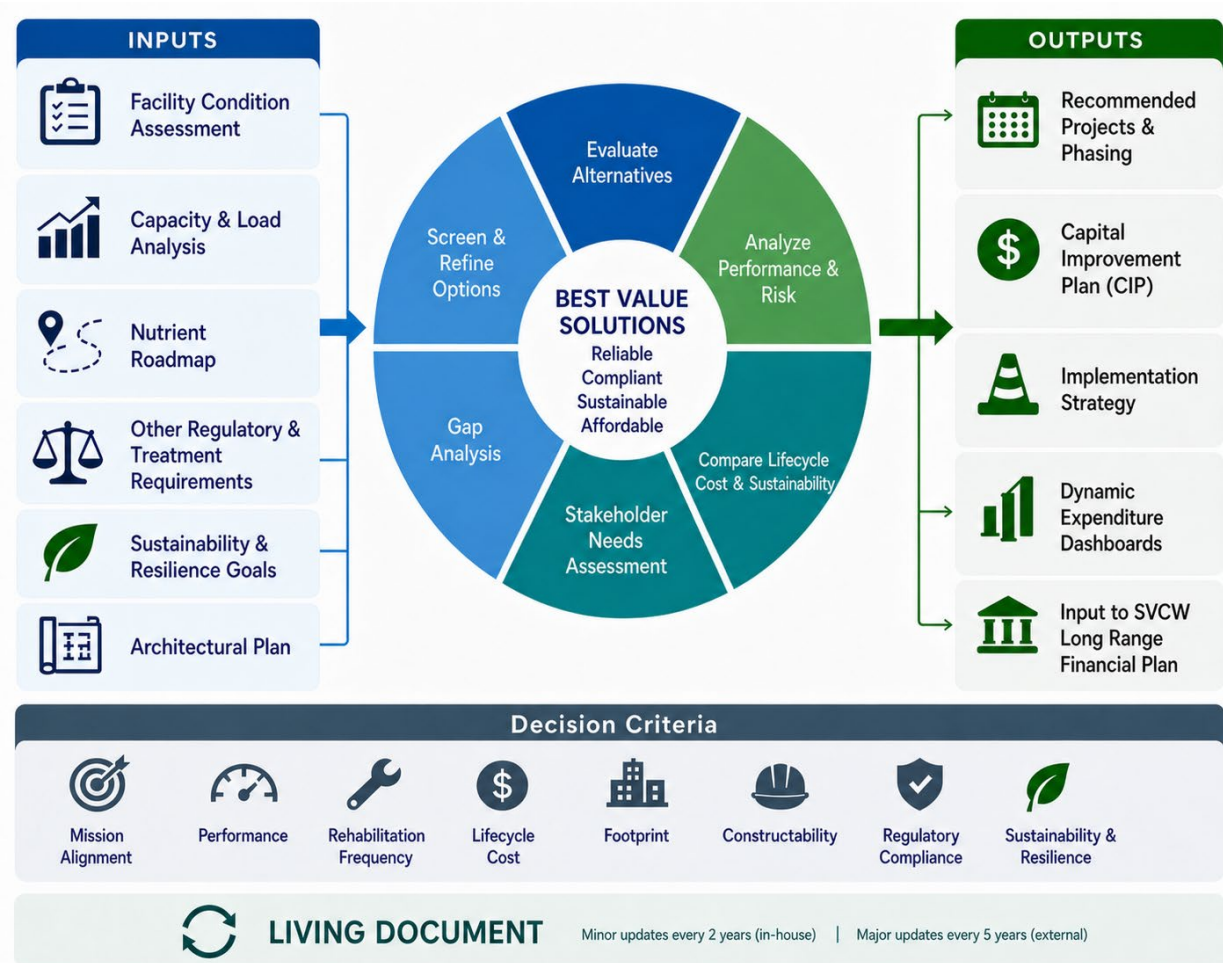


Figure 4: Anticipated activities within Project scope and decision criteria

3 OTHER PROJECT INFORMATION

3.1 Project Schedule

SVCW desires to work collaboratively with the selected Consultant to complete the Project in Q1 2028. The anticipated duration of this Project is 12 months. The deliverable of this Project will provide input to the development of SVCW's Long Range Financial Plan and then allow member agencies to seek financing in June 2028.

3.2 Project Budget

The budget allocated for this Project is \$2 million.

3.3 Coordination with Other Consultants

The following outside consultants will be involved with the project (under separate authorizations directly with SVCW):

- SVCW Academic Advisory Committee (Dr. Mike Stenstrom, Dr. Krishna Pagilla, and Dr. George Tchobanoglous) - Technical Advisors

The SVCW Project Manager will determine the level of effort for each of these consultants throughout the project.

3.4 SVCW Roles and Responsibilities

SVCW will collaborate with the selected Consultant and will fulfill its responsibilities in a timely manner to facilitate timely and efficient performance of services. Owner responsibilities include:

- Furnish existing studies and provide data and information regarding the Project, including record drawings, preliminary studies, etc.
- Collaboratively work with the Consultant to complete the Project.
- Provide access to plant and conveyance system assets.
- Review submissions and provide comments to the Consultant.
- Make decisions where necessary.

4 PROCUREMENT PROCESS

4.1 General

SVCW is using a two-step RFQ-RFP process to select the Consultant for the Project, which involves issuing an RFQ, receiving SOQs, evaluating SOQs, shortlisting of up to four firms, issuing an RFP, receiving Proposals, conducting interviews, selecting the winning Proposer, and negotiating a Task Order (TO) under a Master Services Agreement (MSA).

4.2 Agency Contacts and Communications Protocols

The Project Manager, listed below, shall be the Owner Contact for the purposes of this RFQ and shall facilitate the RFQ process. All communications shall be submitted in writing by email and shall specifically reference this RFQ. All questions or comments should be directed at the Owner Contact as follows:

Anir Bhagwat, Project Manager
Silicon Valley Clean Water
1400 Radio Road
Redwood City, CA 94065
Email Address: abhagwat@svcw.org

Oral communication with the Owner Contact or other individual shall not be binding. Contact with any Public Official, SVCW Commission member, Owner's Consultants, or Owner's staff outside of the Owner Contact shall not be permitted. Failure to comply may result in disqualification of the Proposer.

4.3 SOQ Submittals

SOQs will be submitted to SVCW per the schedule outlined in Table 1, and per the SOQ requirements outlined in Section 5. SVCW will evaluate each SOQ in accordance with Section 6.

4.4 Procurement Process Schedule

It is the intent of the Owner to follow the procurement schedule provided below. The Owner reserves the right to adjust this schedule however it deems necessary. **Error! Reference source not found.** provides a summary of the anticipated procurement process.

Table 1: Project Procurement Dates

EVENT	DATE
Issue RFQ	August 12, 2026
Deadline for RFIs	5:00 PM, August 27, 2026
Responses to RFIs Issued	September 1, 2026
SOQs Due	2:00 PM, Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Shortlisting	September 11, 2026
Issue RFP	September 16, 2026
Confidential Meetings	September 21, 2026 – October 9, 2026
Deadline for RFIs	5:00 PM, Monday, October 19, 2026
Responses to RFIs Issued	October 23, 2026
Proposals Due	2:00 PM, Thursday, October 29, 2026
Interviews	November 9, 2026 – November 13, 2026
Determination of Selected Firm	By November 30, 2026
Commission Approval	Planned for December 10, 2026

4.5 Inquiry Period

SVCW will receive Requests for Information (RFI) on the RFQ up to the date for providing such comments as set forth in Table 1 of this RFQ. RFIs shall be communicated to SVCW in accordance with Section 4.2 of this RFQ. SVCW will issue responses to RFIs in accordance with the schedule presented in Table 1.

4.6 Withdrawal of SOQs

Proposers may withdraw a SOQ by providing a written request, duly executed by an authorized representative, and delivered to the Owner Contact at any time prior to the SOQ submittal deadline. Individuals making the withdrawal shall provide evidence of serving as an authorized representative of the Proposer. SOQs withdrawn by the Proposer prior to the SOQ submittal deadline can be claimed by the Proposer within ten (10) days following the SOQ opening. After that time, they will be destroyed. SOQs, once opened by SVCW at the time of SOQ Submittal Deadline, shall not be withdrawn or modified.

4.7 Addenda

If any revisions to this RFQ become necessary (other than changes to the SOQ submittal deadline), SVCW will make addenda available at least three (3) business days before the SOQ submittal deadline. SVCW may extend the SOQ submittal deadline via addendum at any time. It is the responsibility of all Proposers to ascertain whether any addenda have been issued before the SOQ submittal deadline. If an addendum is issued, Proposer must acknowledge receipt of addendum in the Transmittal Letter of the SOQ (see Section 5.3.1).

All questions about the meaning, intent, or any other aspect of the RFQ shall be submitted in writing to the Owner Contact. Interpretations or clarifications considered necessary in response to such questions will be issued by addendum to all Proposers. Questions received after the deadline for RFIs date listed in Table 1 of this RFQ may not be answered. Only answers issued by addendum will be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarifications will be without legal effect.

4.8 Consultant Licensing Requirements

Each Proposer is responsible for determining and complying with all applicable professional licensing requirements necessary to complete the Project's scope of work.

5 SOQ SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

SOQs shall be concise, well organized and demonstrate the responder's qualifications for the Project. The SOQ must address the information identified in the following sections.

5.1 Submittal Deadline and Location

Submissions must be received no later than scheduled time on due date stated in the Procurement Process Schedule (Table 1) at the offices of:

Silicon Valley Clean Water

1400 Radio Road
Redwood City, California 94065
(650) 591-7121

5.2 Page Limitations, Required Copies, and Labeling

SOQs are limited to twelve (12) total pages (most or all 8½ x 11 inches with 1-inch or greater margins), excluding the transmittal letter, index or table of contents, front and back covers, title pages/separation tabs, and appendices will be favorably considered. Limited use of 11 x 17-inch tri-fold format pages for graphics and schedules is permitted. Eleven-point font or larger must be used in SOQ sections. Font size associated with any graphics or exhibits included in SOQ may be less than eleven-point font.

The Proposer shall submit an electronic version of its SOQ on a USB flash drive in searchable PDF format (Appendices if included are not required to be searchable). USB Flash drives are to be submitted in a sealed envelope with the following information clearly marked on the outside of the envelope:

Name of Proposer
Long Range Facility Plan (CIP #9275)

Failure to comply with the SOQ submittal requirements of this RFQ may result in disqualification. SOQs received after the time and date specified above will not be considered. SVCW will not reimburse Proposers for any efforts and expenditures in producing and submitting SOQs for the Project.

5.3 Submission Content and Scoring

SOQs submitted in response to this RFQ shall be in the following order and shall include the following:

- Transmittal Letter
- Section 1 – Firm Qualifications and Relevant Project Experience
- Section 2 – Team Structure and Qualifications
- Section 3 – Examples of Previously Developed Planning-level Software Tools

The content requirements set forth in this RFQ represent the minimum content requirements for the SOQ. It is the Proposer's responsibility to present all relevant information and other materials in its SOQ. The SOQ, however, should not contain standard marketing or other general materials. It is the Proposer's responsibility to modify such materials so that only directly relevant information is included in the SOQ.

5.3.1 Transmittal Letter

Proposers must submit a transmittal letter (maximum one page) on the Proposer's letterhead. It must be signed by a representative of the Proposer who is authorized to sign such material and to commit the Proposer to the obligations contained in the SOQ. The transmittal letter must include the name, address, phone number and email address for the Proposer's Contact, and an acknowledgement of any addenda issued for this RFQ.

The Transmittal Letter may include other information deemed relevant by the Proposer.

5.3.2 Firm Qualifications and Relevant Project Experience

- **Firm Experience.** Provide firm's experience in conducting long-term facility planning efforts for wastewater municipal agencies that demonstrate Firm's ability to:
 - translate technical recommendations into capital improvement and financial planning strategies,
 - provide sufficiently accurate cost estimates incorporating probabilistic profiles,
 - provide clear, structured planning process aligned with SVCW's integrated framework,
 - prepare tools to communicate results clearly to stakeholders.

Include reference contacts (phone and email) for listed projects.

5.3.3 Team Qualifications

- **Team Experience and Structure.** Provide staff-level organizational charts showing the reporting relationships and responsibilities of the Consultant's and subconsultant's key personnel. Proposer organizational chart should show all Proposer's team members that Proposer believes it is important for SVCW to consider in its decision, but at a minimum, must identify the following project roles for the key components listed above:
 - Project Manager
 - Discipline Leads
 - Software Digital Platform Developer

Provide reference contacts (phone and email) for previous, similar work performed by key project personnel and their role on those reference projects.

- **Subconsultants:** Identify any other subconsultants included on the Project Team and describe the scope of each firm's services and responsibilities during execution of the Project.
- Provide brief biographies of the Proposer's key personnel which demonstrate their ability to fulfill their roles and responsibilities and will enable Proposer to successfully provide Project services. Include the approximate percentage of time each key person will be dedicated to the project, as well as a statement that they have the availability to do the work. Separately, two-page resumes for each of the Proposer's Key Personnel shall be included as an Appendix.

5.3.4 Examples of Previously Developed Planning-level Software Tools

- Provide examples of planning-level software tools developed by Firm. Provide a summary of software tool capabilities and screenshots or other multimedia to illustrate these capabilities. Multimedia can include a weblink for a demonstration website, if available. Include reference contacts (phone and email) for facilities where these tools were deployed.

6 SOQ EVALUATION

6.1 General

The SOQs will be reviewed and evaluated by SVCW's Evaluation Committee according to the requirements and criteria outlined in this section. The Evaluation Committee will open and review the SOQs in confidence.

The selection process will consist of the following:

1. SVCW will receive and open the SOQs.
2. SVCW Evaluation Committee members will review and score each SOQ based on the evaluation criteria indicated in **Table 2**.

Table 2: SOQ Evaluation Criteria

SOQ Scoring	
Criterion	Maximum Possible Points
Firm Qualifications and Relevant Project Experience	30
Team Structure and Relevant Qualifications	40
Experience in Developing Digital Planning Tools	30
SOQ Total	100

6.2 Shortlisting of Proposers

The top three to four Proposers receiving the maximum score against the criteria summarized in Table 2 will be shortlisted for the RFP step. SVCW will notify all Proposers of the selection outcome, with the intent to issue an RFP to shortlisted firms.

7 LIMITATIONS

This section sets forth SVCW rights and disclaimers, restrictions due to conflicts of interest, how SVCW will treat information considered by Proposers to be confidential and / or proprietary, protest procedures, and obligations of the Proposer.

7.1 SVCW Rights

In connection with this procurement, SVCW reserves to itself all rights (which rights shall be exercisable by SVCW in its sole discretion) available to it under the Public Contract Code and applicable law, including, without limitation, the following, with or without cause and with or without notice:

1. Cancel, modify, or withdraw the RFQ without incurring cost obligations or liabilities.
2. Issue a new RFQ, or modify dates set or projected in the RFQ.
3. Accept or reject any or all SOQs or information submitted related to a SOQ.
4. Issue addenda, supplements, and modifications to the RFQ.

5. Modify the procurement process with appropriate notice to Proposers as applicable.
6. Appoint an Evaluation Committee and evaluation teams to review SOQs and consider the advice and assistance of non-Owner experts in evaluations.
7. Seek or obtain data from any source that has the potential to improve the understanding and evaluation of the SOQs.
8. Revise and modify, at any time before the SOQ Deadline, the factors it will consider in evaluating SOQs and to otherwise revise or expand its evaluation methodology.
9. Conduct interviews and/or discussions with Proposers.
10. Waive any weaknesses, informalities, irregularities, or omissions, and seek and receive clarifications.
11. Disqualify any Proposer that changes its organization or other information included in the SOQ without SVCW written approval.
12. Hold the SOQs under consideration for the maximum duration of the SOQ validity period specified in the RFQ or longer if there is a mutual agreement.
13. Approve the award of the Master Services Agreement and initial Task Order, with or without negotiations, to the Proposer determined by the SVCW to have offered the Best Value to the SVCW.
14. Disclose information contained in the SOQs to the public as described in the RFQ.
15. Terminate evaluations of SOQs received at any time.
16. Require confirmation of information, additional information concerning a SOQ, or require additional evidence of qualifications to perform the work described in this RFQ.
17. Contact and ask questions of contact persons.
18. Approve or disapprove changes to the Proposer Teams.
19. Add or delete scope.
20. Negotiate with one or more Proposers.
21. Suspend and/or terminate negotiations, engage in negotiations with someone other than the highest ranked Proposer if negotiations with the highest ranked Proposer prove to be unsuccessful.
22. Retain ownership of all SOQs and materials submitted in hard-copy and/or electronic format.
23. Exercise any other right reserved or afforded to the SVCW under the RFQ.

7.2 SVCW Disclaimers

In issuing this RFQ and undertaking the procurement process specified herein, SVCW disclaims the following:

1. Any obligation, responsibility, liability - fiscal or otherwise - to reimburse a Proposer for all or part of the costs incurred or allegedly incurred by parties considering a response to and/or in responding to the RFQ.
2. Any obligation to enter into a Master Services Agreement or approve a Task Order to the Proposer submitting the lowest priced Proposal.
3. Any obligation to enter into a Master Services Agreement or approve a Task Order.

4. Any contractual obligation or liability for any obligations with respect to the Project until such time (if at all) as a task order, in form and substance satisfactory to the SVCW, has been authorized and executed.

The Proposer acknowledges that, by submitting a SOQ in response to the RFQ, it accepts these disclaimers and waives any right whatsoever to legally challenge or protest any Owner's actions that exercise these disclaimers.

7.3 Proprietary and Confidential Information

All SOQs submitted in response to this RFQ become property of SVCW and will be kept confidential until a recommendation for approval of a task order has been announced. Thereafter, except for financial information and specific information that the Proposer identifies and agrees to defend as not subject to disclosure, SOQs are subject to public inspection and disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.). Therefore, unless the information is exempt from disclosure by law, the content of any SOQ, or related submission, between SVCW and any Proposer regarding the procurement, shall be available to the public.

If a Proposer believes any portion of its SOQ or related communication contains trade secrets or other proprietary information that the Proposer believes would cause substantial injury to the Proposer's competitive position if disclosed, the Proposer may request that SVCW withhold from disclosure the proprietary information by marking each page containing such proprietary information as confidential. By submitting a SOQ with portions marked —confidential, a Proposer represents it has determined such portions qualify for exemption from disclosure under the California Public Records Act. A Proposer may not designate its entire SOQ as confidential. SVCW will not honor such designations and will disclose submittals so designated to the public. The foregoing statement does not impact the fact that SVCW will treat SOQs as confidential during the RFQ evaluation and selection process.

If a Proposer requests that SVCW withhold from disclosure information identified as confidential, and SVCW complies with the Proposer's request, Proposer shall assume all responsibility for any challenges resulting from the non-disclosure, indemnify and hold harmless SVCW from and against all damages (including but not limited to attorneys' fees that may be awarded to the party requesting the Proposer information), and pay any and all costs and expenses related to the withholding of Proposer information. Proposer shall not make a claim, sue, or maintain any legal action against SVCW or its directors, officers, employees, or agents concerning the withholding from disclosure of Proposer information. If Proposer does not request that SVCW withhold from disclosure information identified as confidential, SVCW shall have no obligation to withhold the information from disclosure and may release the information sought without any liability to SVCW.

7.4 Obligation to Keep Team Intact

Proposers are advised that all firms and Key personnel identified in the SOQ shall remain on the Project Team for the duration of the procurement process and execution of the Project. If extraordinary circumstances require a change, it must be submitted in writing to the Owner Contact, who, at their sole

discretion, will determine whether to authorize a change, recognizing that certain circumstances (such as termination of employment) may occur that are beyond the Proposer's control.

7.5 Appeal Procedures

SVCW will entertain appeals regarding this RFQ process only as set forth in this Section.

Appeals Prior to SOQ Submittal Date

Appeals may be based upon restrictive requirements or alleged improprieties in the RFQ that are apparent or reasonably should have been discovered prior to SVCW's receipt of SOQs. Such appeals shall be filed in writing with the Owner's Representative, at least 14 calendar days prior to SVCW's receipt of SOQ. The appeal must clearly specify in writing the grounds and evidence on which the appeal is based.

No Appeals of Substantive Scores

SVCW will not entertain appeals regarding, or reconsider, substantive scores or determinations made in the evaluation process.

SVCW Response to Appeals

SVCW will respond to an appeal in writing within ten calendar days of receipt, and SVCW's determination shall be final.

Sole Appeal Procedures

The appeal procedures summarized in this Section comprise the sole appeal procedures for this RFQ. A Proposer's failure to comply with the procedures set forth herein will likely result, at the sole discretion of SVCW, in rejection of the appeal.
