



**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES  
PURCHASING**

**Mark A Cowart**  
Administrative Services,  
Chief Information Officer

2222 "M" Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
(209) 385-7331  
(209) 725-3535 Fax  
[www.co.merced.ca.us](http://www.co.merced.ca.us)

Equal Opportunity Employer

October 2, 2013

**MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE**

**September 26, 2013  
10:00 A.M.**

**MERCED COUNTY**

**BID NO. 7014**

**RE-GRADE EXISTING DRAINAGE DITCHES AT THE  
JOHN LATORRACA ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

**Attendees:**

Frank Rybka – Merced County Administrative Services-Purchasing  
Amy Gonzales – Merced County Administrative Services-Purchasing  
John Vierra – Sinclair General Engineering  
Art Lawrence – Lawrence Backhoe Service

**Introduction:**

Frank Rybka of Merced County Administrative Services – Purchasing opened up the meeting. Attendees were required to sign in and agenda was provided to the attendees. Everyone introduced themselves and the companies they represented. The following BID requirements were reviewed:

**ORAL ANSWERS AT THE CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE BINDING. BIDDERS ARE INSTRUCTED TO DISREGARD ANY PROSPECTIVE ORAL REPRESENTATIONS IT MAY HAVE RECEIVED PRIOR TO, AND DURING, THE SOLICITATION PROCESS OF THE BID.**

**General Overview of Bid Requirements:**

- Announcement of Bid
- Contact personnel for information – Frank Rybka: [frybka@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:frybka@co.merced.ca.us)
- Number of copies – One (1) original with signature in blue ink and one (1) copy
- Questions must be submitted in writing
- Deadline for written questions – October 1, 2013
- Closing Date – Thursday, October 10, 2013 at 4:00 PM
- Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference
- Performance Bond
- Attachments A, B, C, D & E

Frank Rybka then reviewed the technical specifications and led a walk-through of the facility grounds.

The meeting was opened up for discussion, questions and answers.

**QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO DATE:**

- Question 1:** **Someone asked a question when this is going to begin.**  
Answer: It's going to begin as soon as you can get your performance bond to me after the bid is awarded. Hopefully there won't be any issues as far as issuing the letter of Intent to award. So once that happens, you have to give me your performance bond – whoever the winner is. After that, as quickly as you can mobilize, I would say 30 days after you mobilize, you'll be expected to finish or sooner dependent upon when the rain starts, I guess.
- Question 2:** **If you get rain here, you're going to be out of business for a while. So this could run on into the dry weather in the spring.**  
Answer: Right. The exception to the length of service is an act of God or Mother Nature and that's up to us and the contractor to determine whether the project keeps going or whether we just stop it, at that point. I mean, that's a variable that you can't determine.
- Question 3:** **But basically, there's no liquidated damages, you're saying, correct?**  
Answer: Yes.
- Question 4:** **What is the – when you say re-grade this, is it going to change the elevations of the flow or the direction of flow or anything or just grading?**  
Answer: These prints, right here, tell you how this was graded. The way the water flows, is it all comes out to the street. There's a culvert out there, right at the entrance to this driveway and that culvert takes it this way to a drainage holding pond over at Juvenile Justice. There used to be a holding pond to the left that's been vacated and that was used until this facility was built about five or six years ago. Everything flows from the back to the front from here to the front.
- Question 5:** **So the grading is just to keep the flow from that direction?**  
Answer: Correct.
- Question 6:** **Are there issues with ponding or flowing the wrong way or not flowing?**  
Answer: There are no issues but it needs to be cut out because dirt and debris have gone into it and it's going to affect its capacity and its flow. The culverts, especially, need to be cleaned out because they're plugged up, too, to ensure that we have the correct flow and sufficient flow to take the water out of this facility when it's raining.
- Question 7:** **So we're draining to the existing culverts?**  
Answer: Yes.
- Question 8:** **And the culverts are they going to be washed out like by pressure washing or-**  
Answer: Yes. They have to be cleaned out and washed out.
- Question 9:** **This debris – do you guys have a place to get rid of this?**  
Answer: We'll have a place in the back. Right now there's a debris pile and if you're tailings or whatever you want to call it. We'll have a place for you onsite.
- Question 10:** **For example, washing out a culvert, here. Is there a water source that we have available to us?**  
Answer: There are hydrants that you'll have access to.

**Question 11:** When you say “washing out the culvert”, do you mean flush the whole system or only at the end, here?

Answer: Well, you will have to make sure that you have water flowing through.

**Question 12:** I’m saying there’s probably going to be silt all the way through the whole thing.

Answer: Part of that is taking the silt out because it affects the flow.

**Question 13:** How do you want these culverts cleaned out?

Answer: I’m not sure how you would blow these out, whether you would take a backhoe or something and take this out. That’s up to you. This is your core confidence, not mine.

**Question 14:** I just wanted to know what your definition of it was, that was all.

Answer: Did I answer your question?

**Response:** Yes. Thank you.

**Question 15:** Where’s the culvert? Is there supposed to be a culvert, here?

Answer: Yes.

**Question 16:** Do you have a budget for this project?

Answer: The estimate is between ten & twelve thousand. It’s not an engineer’s estimate, it’s just a budget.

**Question 17:** And it’s prevailing wage, right?

Answer: Yes. Exhibit 1 in the bid talks about prevailing wage.

**Question 18:** Is there any way we can get a crew to open those manholes?

Answer: We can set up a day and time to remove the cover so that you can view the drainage pipes that come into and exit the catch basin.

**Question 19:** It would be nice to look inside all those storm-drain manholes and see what’s there.

Answer: I’ll ask a pointed question about that and if we have to come back out here, we’ll come back out.

**If you see a need on some of these culverts, to replace them, sometimes it’s easier to replace a culvert then to try to re-open or re-shape it after it’s been bent. It may be faster and more cost-effective just to pull the old one out and put a new one in.**

**Question 20:** At no additional cost, right? Fit it into the same price?

Answer: No. List it separately as a unit.

**Question 21:** Okay. I thought we were just supposed to put one lump sum.

Answer: It did, but I can change it. You can line it out. I’ll issue a change order that allows you to do that.

**Question 22:** Is USA out here or are you guys going to mark all your stuff?

Answer: Re-grading of the ditches should not come into contact with any utilities that may be buried. It is normally the contractor’s responsibility to have all underground utilities marked prior to any excavation.

**Question 23:** but I know Merced County doesn't mark any of their stuff. Merced County doesn't mark any storm drains, except....

Answer: The shallowest utility would be a water line at 2feet. This should not be affected by any grading.

**Question 24:** Do you have a benchmark to start from out here? We need a benchmark.

Answer: You mean for the drain?

**Question 25:** It should be on here [the plans].

Answer: If it isn't, send me an email.

**Question 26:** These are really looking really – they should drain into that ditch because that's higher over there. Everything's higher over there.

Answer: Don't bother with this one right here.

**Question 27:** On all these ditches, do you want the same slope on the banks?

Answer: Yes.

**Question 28:** For cost effectiveness, we can probably come in here with a backhoe and dig out the bottoms rather than with a grader. It all depends on what you want. What's going to happen is the bank is going to look more like "this" when you're done. It's sort of flat, now and it's probably going to drop it down a little on the sides. Even on stuff like that, you can over dig it a few more inches than what your bridge is and that way your slope goes in there where it's supposed to be. It's up to you.

Answer: It is up to the bidder to determine the most cost effective method to bring the drainage ditches back to grade.

**Question 29:** It would be cost effective it, it would be cheaper, faster.

Answer: I'll ask the question to our architect and our engineer and see what he says.

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

End of questions.

FR/ag