



TOWN OF TAOS

Procurement Department

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Removal and Maintenance of Invasive Plant Species

RFP# 24-25-03

RFP Release Date: May 23, 2025

Proposal Due Date: June 25, 2025

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The purpose of the Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit proposals to establish a contract through competitive negotiations for the procurement of qualified consultants to develop a comprehensive affordable housing and development program.

B. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This project aims to remove invasive plant species and restore desirable cover crops across 25 acres of Town of Taos property in the Cornelio Basin. The primary objective is to improve ecosystem health through strategic water distribution, invasive species mitigation, and cover crop propagation. The project differs from efforts to irrigate milpa and orchards for sustainable crop production. Instead, this project focuses on rehabilitation for ecosystem health, utilizing tools such as a v-ditcher or rounded ditcher to optimize water distribution.

C. SCOPE OF PROCUREMENT

This RFP will/may result in a single award/multiple awards.

This procurement will result in a contractual agreement between two parties; the procurement may ONLY be used by those two parties exclusively.

D. PROCUREMENT MANAGER

The Town of Taos has assigned a Procurement Manager who is responsible for the conduct of this procurement whose name, address, telephone number and e-mail address are listed below:

Name: Lisa Baca-Medina, Procurement Officer

Telephone: O: 575-751-2029

Email: lbaca@taosnm.gov

1. **Any inquiries or requests** regarding this procurement should be submitted to the Procurement Manager. Offerors may contact **ONLY** the Procurement Manager regarding this procurement. Other employees or Evaluation Committee members do not have the authority to respond on behalf of the Town.
2. **Protests of the solicitation or award must be submitted in writing to the Procurement Manager identified in Section II.B.13.** Pursuant to §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and 1.4.1.82 NMAC, **ONLY** protests delivered directly to the Procurement Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals.

E. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Submissions of all proposals must be accomplished via the Town's online vendor portal. Refer to Section III.B.1 for instructions.

F. DEFINITION OF TERMINOLOGY

This section contains definitions of terms used throughout this procurement document, including appropriate abbreviations:

1. **"Town"** means the Town of Taos Purchasing Department or the department sponsoring this Procurement.
2. **"Award"** means the final execution of the contract document.
3. **"Business Hours"** means weekdays (Monday – Friday) 8:00 AM thru 5:00 PM MST/MDT, whichever is in effect on the date given.
4. **"Contract"** means any agreement for the procurement of items of tangible personal property, services or construction.
5. **"Contractor"** means any business having a contract with a state agency or local public body.
6. **"Determination"** means the written documentation of a decision of a procurement officer including findings of fact required to support a decision. A determination becomes part of the procurement file to which it pertains.
7. **"Desirable"** – the terms "may," "can," "should," "preferably," or "prefers" identify a desirable or discretionary item or factor.
8. **"Electronic Submission"** means a successful submittal of Offeror's proposal in the online portal system.
9. **"Evaluation Committee"** means a body appointed to perform the evaluation of Offerors' proposals.
10. **"Evaluation Committee Report"** means a report prepared by the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee to support the Committee's recommendation for contract award. It will contain scores and written evaluations of all responsive Offeror proposals.
11. **"Final Award"** means, in the context of this Request for Proposals and all its attendant documents, that point at which the final required signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been affixed to the contract(s) thus making it fully executed.

12. **“Finalist”** means an Offeror who meets all the mandatory specifications of this Request for Proposals and whose score on evaluation factors is sufficiently high to merit further consideration by the Evaluation Committee, as explained in Section II.B.8.
13. **“Multiple Source Award”** means an award of a contract for one or more items of tangible personal property, services or construction to more than one Offeror.
14. **“Offeror”** is any person, corporation, or partnership who chooses to submit a proposal.
15. **“Procurement Manager”** means any person or designee authorized by a state agency or local public body with the responsibility, authority, and resources to conduct the RFP procurement, make written determinations regarding the RFP procurement, and/or enter into or administer contracts as a result of the RFP procurement.
16. **“Request for Proposals (RFP)”** means all documents, including those attached or incorporated by reference, used for soliciting proposals.
17. **“Responsible Offeror”** means an Offeror who submits a responsive proposal and who has furnished, when required, information and data to prove that his financial resources, production or service facilities, personnel, service reputation and experience are adequate to make satisfactory delivery of the services, or items of tangible personal property described in the proposal.
18. **“Responsive Offer”** means an offer which conforms in all material respects to the requirements set forth in the request for proposals. Material respects of a request for proposals include, but are not limited to price, quality, quantity or delivery requirements.

II. CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE PROCUREMENT

This section of the RFP contains the schedule of events, the descriptions of each event, and the conditions governing this procurement.

A. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The Procurement Manager will make every effort to adhere to the following schedule:

Action	Due Dates
1. Issue RFP	May 23, 2025
2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form	Anytime before deadline to submit written questions
3. Mandatory Site Visit Pre-Proposal Meeting	June 3, 2025 @ 10:00AM
4. Deadline to submit Written Questions	June 13, 2025
5. Response to Written Questions	June 18, 2025
6. <i>Submission of Proposal</i>	June 25, 2025
7.* Proposal Evaluation	June 27, 2025
9. Council Approval of Intent to Award	TBD
10.* Finalize Contractual Agreements	TBD
11.* Contract Awards	TBD
12.* Protest Deadline	+15 days from Award

* Dates indicated in Events 7 through 14 are estimates only, and may be subject to change without necessitating an amendment to the RFP.

B. EXPLANATION OF EVENTS

The following paragraphs describe the activities listed in the Sequence of Events shown in Section II.A., above.

1. Issue RFP

This RFP is being issued by the Town of Taos on the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.

2. Acknowledgement of Receipt Form

Potential Offerors may e-mail the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (APPENDIX A), to the Lisa Baca-Medina @ lbaca@taosnm.gov, to have their organization placed on the procurement Distribution List. The form must be returned to the Town by 3:00 pm MST/MDT on the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events.

The procurement distribution list will be used for the distribution of written responses to questions, and/or any amendments to the RFP. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form does not prohibit potential Offerors from submitting a response to this RFP. However, by not returning the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, the potential Offeror's

representative shall not be included on the distribution list, and will be solely responsible for obtaining from the portal responses to written questions and any amendments to the RFP.

3. Mandatory Site Visit

A mandatory site visit for this project will be held on June 3, 2025 at 10:00AM MT. The site visit will take place at the Cornelio Basin and all participants can meet in the parking lot of the Fred Baca Park.

4. Deadline to Submit Written Questions

Potential Offerors may submit written questions to the Procurement Manager as to the intent or clarity of this RFP until October 23, 2024 5:00PM MST/MDT as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events. All written questions must be addressed to the Procurement Manager as declared in Section I.D. Questions shall be clearly labeled and shall cite the Section(s) in the RFP or other document which form the basis of the question.

5. Response to Written Questions

Written responses to the written questions will be provided via e-mail, on or before the date indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, to all potential Offerors who timely submitted an Acknowledgement of Receipt Form (Section II.B.2 and APPENDIX A).

The Questions and Answers will be posted to:

<https://taosnm.cobblestone.software/gateway/>

Submission of Proposal

At this time, only **electronic** proposal submission is allowed. **Do not** submit hard copies to the Procurement Manager.

ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PROCUREMENT MANAGER OR DESIGNEE NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM MST/MDT ON THE DATE INDICATED IN SECTION II.A, SEQUENCE OF EVENTS. **NO LATE PROPOSAL CAN BE ACCEPTED.** The date and time of receipt will be recorded on each proposal. Proposals will be time-stamped in the system when the Offeror submits their proposal.

It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure all documents are completely uploaded and submitted electronically via the online system by the deadline set forth in this RFP. The online system will automatically cease uploading data at the date and time of the deadline. Please ensure that you, as the Offeror, allow adequate time for large uploads and to fully complete your submittal by the deadline. A submission that is not both: (1) fully complete; and (2) received, via the online system by the deadline, will be deemed late. Further, a submission that is not fully complete and received via the online system by the deadline because the response was captured, blocked, filtered, quarantined or otherwise prevented from reaching the proper destination server by any anti-virus or other security software will be deemed late. In

*accordance with statute and rule, **NO LATE PROPOSAL CAN BE ACCEPTED.***

Proposals must be submitted electronically through the Town's electronic procurement system. Refer to Section III.B.1 for instructions. Proposals submitted by other electronic means other than through the Town's electronic e-procurement system, will not be accepted.

A log will be kept of the names of all Offeror organizations that submitted proposals. Pursuant to §13-1-116 NMSA 1978, the contents of proposals shall not be disclosed to competing potential Offerors during the negotiation process. The negotiation process is deemed to be in effect until the contract is awarded pursuant to this Request for Proposals. Awarded in this context means the final required agency signature on the contract(s) resulting from the procurement has been obtained.

6. Proposal Evaluation

An Evaluation Committee will perform the evaluation of proposals. This process will take place as indicated in Section II.A, Sequence of Events, depending upon the number of proposals received. During this time, the Procurement Manager may initiate discussions with Offerors who submit responsive or potentially responsive proposals for the purpose of clarifying aspects of the proposals. However, proposals may be accepted and evaluated without such discussion. Discussions SHALL NOT be initiated by the Offerors.

7. Selection of Finalists

The Evaluation Committee will select and the Procurement Manager will notify the finalist Offerors as per schedule Section II.A, Sequence of Events or as soon as possible thereafter. A schedule for Oral Presentation, if any, will be determined at this time. Finalists will be comprised of up to five (5) Offerors receiving the highest cumulative scores. **The evaluation committee may choose to award without selecting finalists.**

8. Oral Presentations

Finalist Offerors, as selected per Section II.B.8 above, may be required to conduct an oral presentation at a venue to be determined as per schedule Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. If Oral Presentations are held, Finalist Offerors may be required to make their presentations through electronic means (Microsoft Teams, Zoom, etc). The Agency will provide Finalist Offerors with an agenda and applicable details; including an invitation to the event. Whether or not Oral Presentations will be held is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

9. Best and Final Offers

Finalist Offerors may be asked to submit revisions to their proposals for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers by as per schedule Section II. A., Sequence of Events or as soon as possible. Best and final offers may also be clarified and amended at finalist Offeror's oral presentation.

10. Finalize Contractual Agreements

After approval of the Evaluation Committee Report, any contractual agreement(s) resulting from this RFP will be finalized with the most advantageous Offeror(s), taking into consideration the evaluation factors set forth in this RFP, as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. The most advantageous proposal may or may not have received the most points. In the event mutually agreeable terms cannot be reached with the apparent most advantageous Offeror in the timeframe specified, the Town reserves the right to finalize a contractual agreement with the next most advantageous Offeror(s) without undertaking a new procurement process.

11. Contract Awards

Upon receipt of the signed contractual agreement, the Agency Procurement office will award as per Section II.A., Sequence of Events, or as soon as possible thereafter. The award is subject to appropriate Department and Town Council approval.

12. Protest Deadline

Any protest by an Offeror must be timely submitted and in conformance with §13-1-172 NMSA 1978 and applicable procurement regulations. ONLY protests delivered directly to the Procurement Manager in writing and in a timely fashion will be considered to have been submitted properly and in accordance with statute, rule and this Request for Proposals. The 15-calendar day protest period shall begin on the day following the notice of award of contract(s) and will end at 5:00 pm MST/MDT on the 15th day. Protests must be written and must include the name and address of the protestor and the request for proposal number. It must also contain a statement of the grounds for protest including appropriate supporting exhibits and it must specify the ruling requested from the party listed below. The protest must be directed to the Procurement Manager: Bailey Andrea
PROTESTS RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

C. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Acceptance of Conditions Governing the Procurement

Offerors must indicate their acceptance to be bound by the Conditions Governing the Procurement, Section II.C, and Evaluation, Section V, by completing and signing the Letter of Transmittal form, pursuant to the requirements in Section II.C.30, located in APPENDIX C.

2. Incurring Cost

Any cost incurred by the potential Offeror in preparation, transmittal, and/or presentation of any proposal or material submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne solely by the Offeror. Any cost incurred by the Offeror for set up and demonstration of the proposed equipment and/or system shall be borne solely by the Offeror.

3. Prime Contractor Responsibility

Any contractual agreement that may result from this RFP shall specify that the prime contractor is solely responsible for fulfillment of all requirements of the contractual

agreement with the Agency which may derive from this RFP. The Agency entering into a contractual agreement with a vendor will make payments to only the prime contractor.

4. Subcontractors/Consent

The use of subcontractors is allowed. The prime contractor shall be wholly responsible for the entire performance of the contractual agreement whether or not subcontractors are used. Additionally, the prime contractor must receive approval, in writing, from the agency awarding any resultant contract, before any subcontractor is used during the term of this agreement.

5. Amended Proposals

An Offeror may submit an amended proposal before the deadline for receipt of proposals. Such amended proposals must be complete replacements for a previously submitted proposal and must be clearly identified as such in the transmittal letter. **Agency personnel will not merge, collate, or assemble proposal materials.**

6. Offeror's Rights to Withdraw Proposal

Offerors will be allowed to withdraw their proposals at any time prior to the deadline for receipt of proposals. The Offeror must submit a written withdrawal request addressed to the Procurement Manager and signed by the Offeror's duly authorized representative.

The approval or denial of withdrawal requests received after the deadline for receipt of the proposals is governed by the applicable procurement regulations, 1.4.1.5 & 1.4.1.36 NMAC.

7. Proposal Offer Firm

Responses to this RFP, including proposal prices for services, will be considered firm for one-hundred twenty (120) days after the due date for receipt of proposals or ninety (90) days after the due date for the receipt of a best and final offer, if the Offeror is invited or required to submit one.

8. Disclosure of Proposal Contents

The contents of all submitted proposals will be kept confidential until the final award has been completed by the Agency. At that time, all proposals and documents pertaining to the proposals will be available for public inspection, *except* for proprietary or confidential material as follows:

- a. ***Proprietary and Confidential information is restricted to:***
 1. confidential financial information concerning the Offeror's organization; and
 2. information that qualifies as a trade secret in accordance with the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, §§57-3A-1 through 57-3A-7 NMSA 1978.
- b. An additional but separate redacted version of Offeror's proposal, as outlined and identified in Section III.B.2.a, shall be submitted containing the blacked-out proprietary or confidential information, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror's proposal.

IMPORTANT: The price of products offered or the cost of services proposed **SHALL NOT** be designated as proprietary or confidential information.

If a request is received for disclosure of proprietary or confidential materials, the Agency shall examine the request and make a written determination that specifies which portions of the proposal should be disclosed. Unless the Offeror takes legal action to prevent the disclosure, the proposal will be so disclosed. The proposal shall be open to public inspection subject to any continuing prohibition on the disclosure of proprietary or confidential information.

9. No Obligation

This RFP in no manner obligates the Town of Taos to the use of any Offeror's services until a valid written contract is awarded and approved by appropriate authorities.

10. Termination

This RFP may be canceled at any time and any and all proposals may be rejected in whole or in part when the Agency determines such action to be in the best interest of the State of New Mexico.

11. Sufficient Appropriation

Any contract awarded as a result of this RFP process may be terminated if sufficient appropriations or authorizations do not exist. Such terminations will be affected by sending written notice to the contractor. The Agency's decision as to whether sufficient appropriations and authorizations are available will be accepted by the contractor as final.

12. Legal Review

The Agency requires that all Offerors agree to be bound by the General Requirements contained in this RFP. Any Offeror's concerns must be promptly submitted in writing to the attention of the Procurement Manager.

13. Governing Law

This RFP and any agreement with an Offeror which may result from this procurement shall be governed by the laws of the State of New Mexico.

14. Basis for Proposal

Only information supplied in writing by the Procurement Manager or contained in this RFP shall be used as the basis for the preparation of Offeror proposals.

15. Contract Terms and Conditions

The contract between an agency and a contractor will follow the format specified by the Agency. However, the contracting agency reserves the right to negotiate provisions in addition to those contained in this RFP with any Offeror. The contents of this RFP, as revised and/or supplemented, and the successful Offeror's proposal will be incorporated into and become part of any resultant contract.

16. Offeror's Terms and Conditions

Offerors must submit with the proposal a complete set of any additional terms and conditions they expect to have included in a contract negotiated with the Agency.

17. Contract Deviations

Any additional terms and conditions, which may be the subject of negotiation (such terms and conditions having been proposed during the procurement process, that is, the RFP process prior to selection as successful Offeror), will be discussed only between the Agency and the Offeror selected and shall not be deemed an opportunity to amend the Offeror's proposal.

18. Offeror Qualifications

The Evaluation Committee may make such investigations as necessary to determine the ability of the potential Offeror to adhere to the requirements specified within this RFP. The Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal of any potential Offeror who is not a Responsible Offeror or fails to submit a Responsive Offer as defined in §13-1-83 and §13-1-85 NMSA 1978.

19. Right to Waive Minor Irregularities

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to waive minor irregularities. The Evaluation Committee also reserves the right to waive mandatory requirements, provided that all of the otherwise responsive proposals failed to meet the same mandatory requirements and the failure to do so does not otherwise materially affect the procurement. This right is at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

20. Change in Contractor Representatives

The Agency reserves the right to require a change in contractor representatives if the assigned representative(s) is (are) not, in the opinion of the Agency, adequately meeting the needs of the Agency.

21. Notice of Penalties

The Procurement Code, §§13-1-28 through 13-1-199 NMSA 1978, imposes civil, and misdemeanor and felony criminal penalties for its violation. In addition, the New Mexico criminal statutes impose felony penalties for bribes, gratuities and kickbacks.

22. Agency Rights

The Agency in agreement with the Evaluation Committee reserves the right to accept all or a portion of a potential Offeror's proposal.

23. Right to Publish

Throughout the duration of this procurement process and contract term, Offerors and contractors must secure from the agency written approval prior to the release of any information that pertains to the potential work or activities covered by this procurement and/or agency contracts deriving from this procurement. Failure to adhere to this

requirement may result in disqualification of the Offeror's proposal or removal from the contract.

24. Ownership of Proposals

All documents submitted in response to the RFP shall become property of the Town of Taos. If the RFP is cancelled, all responses received shall be destroyed by the Agency.

25. Confidentiality

Any confidential information provided to, or developed by, the contractor in the performance of the contract resulting from this RFP shall be kept confidential and shall not be made available to any individual or organization by the contractor without the prior written approval of the Agency.

The Contractor(s) agrees to protect the confidentiality of all confidential information and not to publish or disclose such information to any third party without the procuring Agency's written permission.

26. Electronic mail address required

A large part of the communication regarding this procurement will be conducted by electronic mail (e-mail). Offeror must have a valid e-mail address to receive this correspondence. (See also Section II.B.5, Response to Written Questions).

27. Use of Electronic Versions of this RFP

This RFP is being made available by electronic means. In the event of conflict between a version of the RFP in the Offeror's possession and the version maintained by the agency, the Offeror acknowledges that the version maintained by the agency shall govern. Please refer to: <https://taosnm.cobblestone.software/gateway/>

28. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

Offeror must complete, sign, and return the Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form (APPENDIX B) as a part of their proposal. This requirement applies regardless whether a covered contribution was made or not made for the positions of Mayor or Town Council Members. **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

29. Letter of Transmittal

Offeror's proposal must be accompanied by a Letter of Transmittal Form (APPENDIX C), which must be **signed** by the individual authorized to contractually obligate the company, identified in #2 below.

Provide the following information:

1. Identify the submitting business entity; Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, Federal Tax ID Number (TIN), and New Mexico Business Tax ID Number(BTIN, formerly CRS);

2. Identify the Name, Title, Telephone, and E-mail address of the person authorized by the Offeror's organization to (A) contractually obligate the business entity providing the Offer, (B) negotiate a contract on behalf of the organization; and/or (C) provide clarifications or answer questions regarding the Offeror's proposal content *(A response to B and/or C is only necessary if the responses differs from the individual identified in A)*;
3. Identify any subcontractor/s that may be utilized in the performance of any resultant contract award;
4. Identify any other entity/-ies (such as State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a subcontractor identified in #3) that may be used in the performance of this awarded contract; and
5. The individual identified in #2 above, must sign and date the form, attesting to the veracity of the information provided, and acknowledging (a) the organization's acceptance of the Conditions Governing the Procurement stated in Section II.C.1, (b) the organizations acceptance of the Section V Evaluation Factors, and (c) receipt of any and all amendments to the RFP.

Failure to submit a signed Letter of Transmittal Form (Appendix E) will result in Offeror's disqualification.

30. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences

To ensure adequate consideration and application of §13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), **Offeror must submit a copy of its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference with its proposal.**

Certificates for preferences must be obtained through the New Mexico Department of Taxation & Revenue <http://www.tax.newmexico.gov/Businesses/in-state-veteran-preference-certification.aspx>.

In accordance with §13-1-21(H) NMSA 1978, an agency shall not award any combination of New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences.

The New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences shall not apply if the expenditures for this RFP includes federal funds.

III. RESPONSE FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION

A. NUMBER OF RESPONSES

Offerors shall submit only one proposal in response to this RFP.

B. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

ONLY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION VIA THE TOWN'S ELECTRONIC SYSTEM IS PERMITTED

(<https://taosnm.cobblestone.software/gateway/>)

Any proposal that does not adhere to the requirements of this **Section II.B** and **Section III.C Proposal Content and Organization** may be deemed non-responsive and rejected on that basis.

1. Electronic Submission Requirements

- a. **Register on the Vendor Portal well in advance of the submission deadline** - In order to submit a response to this RFP, Offeror must be fully registered in the portal system. ***It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure the registration process is completed in enough time to upload its proposal documents by the deadline set forth in this RFP.*** The registration tab may be accessed via the following link on the left hand column under "Create Account": <https://taosnm.cobblestone.software/gateway/>
 - b. **Follow all submission instructions** - Proposals must be submitted in the manner outlined in Sections III.B.2 and III.B.3, and organized in accordance with Section III.C. Technical and Cost portions of Offerors proposal must be submitted as **separate uploads**, and must be prominently identified as "Technical Proposal," or "Cost Proposal," on the front page of each upload.
 - c. **Complete proposal upload prior to submission deadline** - ***It is the Offeror's responsibility to ensure all documents are completely uploaded and submitted electronically via the vendor portal system by the deadline set forth in this RFP.***
 - d. **Upload a single Technical file and a single Cost file.** The Offeror need only submit one single electronic copy of each portion of its proposal (one Technical and one Cost), as outlined in Sections III.B.2 and III.B.3.
 - e. **Technical Support**
 - i. For assistance with completing the registration process, uploading a proposal, or other technical support issues, call 575-751-2029 or email lbaca@taosnm.gov.
2. **Technical Proposal** – One (1) ELECTRONIC upload must be organized in accordance with **Section III.C.1. Proposal Format**. All information for the Technical Proposal must be combined into a single file/document for uploading. ***The Technical Proposal SHALL NOT contain any Cost information.***
- a. **Confidential Information**: If Offeror's proposal contains confidential information, as defined in Section I.F.5 and detailed in Section II.C.8, Offeror **must** submit **two (2) separate ELECTRONIC technical files** :
 - i. One (1) ELECTRONIC version of the requisite proposals identified in Section III.B.2, above, as an **unredacted** version for evaluation purposes; **and**
 - ii. One (1) **redacted** ELECTRONIC for the public file, in order to facilitate eventual public inspection of the non-confidential version of Offeror's

proposal. Redacted versions **must** be clearly marked as “REDACTED” or “CONFIDENTIAL” on the first page of the electronic file;

3. **Cost Proposal** – One (1) ELECTRONIC upload of the proposal containing **ONLY** the Cost Proposal. All information for the cost proposal **must be combined into a single file/document for uploading.**

C. PROPOSAL CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION

All proposals must be submitted as follows:

Direct reference to pre-prepared or promotional material may be used if referenced and clearly marked. Promotional material must be minimal. Within each section of the proposal, Offerors must organize and address the RFP requirements in the order indicated below. All forms provided in this RFP must be thoroughly completed and included in the appropriate section of Offeror’s proposal. **Any and all discussion of proposed costs, rates or expenses must occur ONLY in the Cost Proposal.**

Technical Proposal – DO NOT INCLUDE ANY COST INFORMATION IN THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.

1. Table of Contents
2. Proposal Summary
3. Response to Specifications **(except Cost information which shall be included ONLY in Cost Proposal)**
 - a. Organizational Experience
 - b. Organizational References
 - c. Performance Surety Bond (if applicable)
 - d. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences (if applicable)
4. Other Supporting Material (if applicable)
5. Response to Contract Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.15)
6. Offeror’s Additional Terms and Conditions (from Section II.C.16)
7. Signed Letter of Transmittal
8. Signed Campaign Contribution Form

Cost Proposal:

1. Submit a separate cost proposal for fee schedule for services.
A Proposal Summary may be included in Offeror’s Technical Proposal, to provide the Evaluation Committee with an overview of the proposal; however, this material **will not** be used in the evaluation process unless specifically referenced from other portions of the Offeror’s proposal. **DO NOT INCLUDE COST INFORMATION IN THE PROPOSAL SUMMARY.**

IV. SPECIFICATIONS

A. DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK

The contractor will undertake the following tasks to achieve the project goals. The contractor is encouraged to propose innovative approaches where applicable.

Project Location: Cornelio Basin (Vigil y Romo Ditch) Taos, New Mexico and the SMU Ft. Burgwin Campus, Taos, NM.

Project Goals:

1. Enhance surface water delivery efficiency as measured by comparing water delivery map.
2. Reduce invasive plant infestations as measured by comparing infestation maps.
3. Expand cover crop seeding and germination success as measured by comparing propagation maps.

General Requirements

- **Water Distribution Tasks:** Modify ditches, venitas, and gate placements to improve even water distribution for establishing and sustaining desirable cover crops. Adjustments will be made based on changing conditions and potential weather complications. **Irrigation. The contractor is responsible for irrigating to maximize water dispersal to yield maximum success of cover crops given limitations of water availability in the Vigil y Romo Ditch.**
- **Cover Crop Seed and No Till Drill:** Planting schedule will require knowledge of drought resistance seeds and collaboration with seed experts (Taos Soil and Water Conservation District, Taos County Extension Service, etc.) The contractor may be required to test soil and report results to assure the soil conditions are suitable for successful cover crop propagation. Each zone will require its own cover crop seeding practices listed in tasks below.
- **Community Youth Services:** The contractor must subcontract services that allow community youth involvement in tasks where their services can be utilized.
- **Project Coordination:** Contractor will work with the appointed representative to coordinate activities and inspect for project task completion. The representative will oversee the project, coordinating all activities with the contractor and addressing issues including the filing of quarterly and year end reports and project completion reports.
- Clean all equipment, tires & boots, etc. on a daily basis if necessary, to prevent the inadvertent spread of invasive seeds.
- Abandoned Prairie Dog holes may be encountered in all ditching activities. The contractor may have to fill and compact these holes in establishing and refurbishing ditches.

Specific Zone Tasks

Zone 1: Northeast Section (5.37 Acres)

- **Invasive Species Control:** Mow 5.37 acres. Hand mitigate Scotch Thistle on 0.25 acres,
- **Water Management:** Realign ditches, level approximately 50% of the area (2.7 acres), and berm as needed.
- **Cover Crop Seeding:** Seed twice yearly using 75% Winter Rye and 25% Hairy Vetch, pending contractor's guidance. Consider adding Arriba and Barton Wheatgrass, Indian Rice grass, and Meadow Brome.
- **Irrigation:** Implement irrigation practices to support cover crop establishment.

Zone 2: Southeast Section (4.8 Acres)

- **Invasive Species Control:** Mow 4.8 acres and mitigate bindweed (3.2 acres) with competitive seeding, and/or other means.
- **Water Management:** Realign and reestablish 250 feet of Mother Ditch in the SE corner to reduce flooding of roads to junction of Mother Ditch and Alternate Mother Ditch at gate 9 and 210 feet from the junction of Mother Ditch and Alternate Mother Ditch to Mother Ditch Gate 1. Level approximately 66% of the area (3.2 acres).
- **Cover Crop Seeding:** Following Prairie Dog mitigation, seed twice yearly with 75% Winter Rye and 25% Hairy Vetch pending contractor's guidance.
- **Irrigation:** Implement irrigation practices to support cover crop establishment.
- **Ditch Work:** Realign Mother Ditch from the southeastern Elm Tree adjacent to Whitten Road to Gate 9 of the Alternate Mother Ditch app. 250 ft. This includes ditch realignment to preserve an acceptable grade and maximize water dispersal. Leveling and grade establishment may be necessary to provide even water flow to dispersal gates.

Zone 3: Southwest Section (4.05 Acres)

- **Invasive Species Control:** Mow the entire zone. and hand mitigate Scotch Thistle on 1 acre. Avoid disking Hoary Cress areas.
- **Water Management:** Establish 175 feet of Mother Ditch with V Ditcher from Mother Ditch Gate 1 to the terminus of the Mother Ditch as illustrated on the map (SE of the northernmost red-roofed house). Level and plow 2.25 acres.
- **Cover Crop Seeding:** Seed twice yearly using 75% Winter Rye and 25% Hairy Vetch. Consider indigenous seeds and the same grass species as Zone 1.
- **Irrigation:** Implement irrigation practices to support cover crop establishment.
- **Ditch Work:** Establish 175 feet of Mother Ditch with V Ditcher from Mother Ditch Gate 1 to the terminus of the Mother Ditch as illustrated on the map (SE of the northernmost red-roofed house)

Zone 4: Northwest Section (2.9 Acres)

- **Invasive Species Control:** Mow 2.9 acres. and hand mitigate Scotch Thistle on 1.4 acres, synchronizing with existing ecosystems.
- **Water Management:** No leveling or plowing. Create laterals & venitas as appropriate.
- **Cover Crop Seeding:** Following Prairie Dog mitigation, seed indigenous plants and pollinator-friendly flowers twice yearly.
- **Irrigation:** Implement irrigation practices to support cover crop establishment.

Zone 5: West of Berm, East of Medio, North of Castleton, South of Rio Fernando (5.2 Acres)

- **Invasive Species Control:** Mow the area using a tractor where feasible. Hand mitigate Scotch Thistle in approximately half the zone (2.6 acres), especially on the berm, unless specialized equipment such as a “spider” is used.
- **Water Management:** No irrigation, leveling or plowing.
- **Cover Crop Seeding:** Seed twice yearly with 75% Winter Rye and 25% Hairy Vetch or contractor’s guidance.

Diversion Gate Specifications: Specifications for diversion gates are as follows, however should contractor be able to produce a different type of gate that allows for the same function, specifications may be modified to fit best solution.

- **Metal V-shaped**
- **(6) 55 inch**
- **(34) 24 inch**

Optional Tasks:

- **Goat Mitigation**

Performance Metrics:

1. Improved surface water delivery efficiency, verified through comparative mapping.
2. Reduction of invasive plant infestations, verified through comparative mapping.
3. Successful cover crop propagation, verified through comparative mapping.

Submittal Requirements: Contractors must specify tasks, tools, and innovative approaches to achieve the project goals. Proposals should address compliance with Town of Taos policies, including IPM, and detail methodologies for invasive species removal, water distribution, and cover crop seeding.

Additionally, contractors must provide proof of sufficient insurance to allow for torching practices used in weed mitigation. The following insurance requirements must be met to ensure compliance for burning within the Town of Taos:

1. **General Liability Insurance:**
 - Minimum coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate.
 - The policy must include coverage for controlled burns or similar activities.
2. **Fire Damage Liability:**
 - Minimum coverage of \$500,000 per occurrence.
3. **Worker's Compensation Insurance:**
 - Coverage as required by New Mexico state law, including for any subcontractors.
4. **Additional Insured:**
 - The Town of Taos must be listed as an additional insured.
5. **Certificates of Insurance:**
 - Must be submitted with the proposal and remain valid for the project's duration.

Failure to provide appropriate proof of insurance may result in disqualification from the selection process.

Weather and Disputes Clause:

1. **Weather Delays:** In the event of adverse weather conditions that delay the project, the contractor must notify the appointed Inspector within 24 hours. The contractor and Inspector will jointly assess the impact on the project timeline and adjust the schedule accordingly. Any schedule modifications must be documented in writing and approved by Town of Taos and the appointed Inspector.
2. **Lack of Runoff Water:** If insufficient runoff water impacts ditch irrigation and water distribution tasks, the contractor must notify the Inspector immediately. Alternative approaches to achieve water distribution objectives will be collaboratively determined and implemented. This may include scheduling adjustments or temporary task reallocation.
3. **Dispute Resolution:** Any disputes arising from weather-related delays or insufficient runoff water will first be addressed through direct coordination between the contractor and the appointed Inspector. If a resolution cannot be reached, the matter will be escalated to the Contracting Officer for final determination. All disputes must be documented, including details of the issue and actions taken to resolve it.

Attachments:

1. Maps documenting conditions for water delivery, invasive plant infestations, and cover crop propagation.

B. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

1. Organizational Experience

Offeror **must**:

- a) provide a detailed description of relevant corporate experience with state government and private sector. The experience of all proposed subcontractors must be described. The narrative **must** thoroughly describe how the Offeror has supplied expertise for similar contracts and must include the extent of their experience, expertise and knowledge as a provider of affordable housing services.
- b) provide a brief bio of all key personnel Offeror proposes to use in performance of the resulting contract, should Offeror be awarded. Offeror must include key personnel education, work experience, and relevant/applicable certifications/licenses.

2. Organizational References

Offeror must provide a list of a minimum of three (3) external references from similar projects/programs performed for private, state or large local government clients within the last three (3) years.

Offeror shall include the following Business Reference information as part of its proposals:

- a) Client name;
- b) Project description;
- c) Project dates (starting and ending);
- d) Technical environment (i.e., Software applications, Internet capabilities, Data communications, Network, Hardware);
- e) Client project manager name, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address.

C. BUSINESS SPECIFICATIONS

1. Performance Surety Bond

Performance Surety Bonds are not required for this RFP.

2. Letter of Transmittal Form

The Offeror's proposal **must** be accompanied by the Letter of Transmittal Form located in APPENDIX C. The form **must** be completed and must be signed by the person authorized to obligate the company. **Failure to submit a signed form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

3. Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

The Offeror must complete an unaltered Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form and submit a signed copy with the Offeror's proposal. This must be accomplished whether or not an applicable contribution has been made. (See APPENDIX B). **Failure to complete and return the signed, unaltered form will result in Offeror's disqualification.**

4. Oral Presentation

If oral presentations are held, finalist Offeror(s) may be required to explain, demonstrate, detail, and/or clarify any aspect of its submitted proposal, to which the Evaluation Committee may ask questions and/or seek clarifications. Pursuant to Section II.B.9, Oral Presentations may held at the sole discretion of the Evaluation Committee.

5. Cost

Offerors must submit a cost proposal separate from the technical proposal.

6. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences

To ensure application of § 13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended), an Offeror **MUST** submit a copy, in this section, of its valid New Mexico/Native Resident Preference Certificate or its valid New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate, as issued by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department.

V. EVALUATION

A. EVALUATION POINT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of evaluation factors with point values assigned to each. These weighted factors will be used in the evaluation of individual potential Offeror proposals by sub-category.

Evaluation Factors <i>(Correspond to Sections IV.B and IV.C)</i>		Points Available
B. Technical Specifications (1000 Total Points)		
B. 1.	Organizational Experience	600
B. 2.	Organizational References	100
B. 3.	Understanding of Scope of Work	200
C. Business Specifications		
C.3.	Letter Of Transmittal	Pass/Fail
C.4.	Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form	Pass/Fail
C.5.	Cost Proposal	100
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE		1000
C.7.	New Mexico / Native American Resident Preference	To be calculated upon review

B. EVALUATION FACTORS

1. B.1 Organizational Experience

Points will be awarded based on the thoroughness and clarity of Offeror's response in this Section. The Evaluation Committee will also weigh the relevancy and extent of Offeror's experience, expertise and knowledge; and of personnel education, experience and certifications/licenses. In addition, points will be awarded based on Offeror's candid and well-thought-out response to successes and failures, as well as the ability of the Offeror to learn from its failures and grow from its successes.

2. B.2 Organizational References

Points will be awarded based upon references that show positive service history, successful execution of services and evidence of satisfaction by each reference. References indicating significantly similar services/scopes of work and comments provided by a submitted reference will add weight and value to a recommendation during the evaluation process. Lack of a response will receive zero (0) points.

The Evaluation Committee may contact any or all business references for validation of information submitted. If this step is taken, the Procurement Manager and the Evaluation Committee must all be together on a conference call with the submitted reference so that the Procurement Manager and all members of the Evaluation Committee receive the same information. Additionally, the Agency reserves the right to consider any and all information available to it (outside of the Organizational Reference information required herein), in its evaluation of Offeror responsibility per Section II.C.18.

3. B.3 Understanding of Scope of Work

Points will be awarded based on the depth and clarity of the offeror's response. Proposals that demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the project's objectives, detailed breakdowns of tasks, and clear alignment with the outlined deliverables will receive the highest points. Proposals that partially address the scope or lack specificity in key areas may receive moderate points. Submissions that fail to adequately demonstrate an understanding of the SOW, or omit critical details, will receive lower scores. Points will also be awarded based on the contractor's ability to anticipate challenges and propose viable solutions within the scope.

4. C.2 Performance Bond

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

5. C.3 Letter of Transmittal

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

6. C.4 Campaign Contribution Disclosure Form

Pass/Fail only. No points assigned.

7. C.7. New Mexico/Native American Resident Preferences

Percentages will be determined based upon the point-based system outlined in § 13-1-21 NMSA 1978 (as amended).

A. New Mexico Resident Business Preference / Native American Resident Preference

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Preference Certificate, the points awarded will be calculated as 8% of the total points available in this RFP.

B. New Mexico/Native American Resident Veteran Preference

If an Offeror has provided a copy of its New Mexico Resident Veteran Preference Certificate or Native American Resident Veteran Preference Certificate the points awarded will be calculated as 10% of the total points available in this RFP.

C. EVALUATION PROCESS

1. All Offeror proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the requirements and specifications stated within the RFP. Proposals deemed non-responsive will be eliminated from further consideration.
2. The Procurement Manager may contact the Offeror for clarification of the response as specified in Section II. B.7.
3. Responsive proposals will be evaluated on the factors in Section IV, which have been assigned a point value in Section V. The responsible Offerors with the highest scores may be selected as finalist Offerors, based upon the proposals submitted. In accordance with §13-1-117 NMSA 1978, the responsible Offerors whose proposals are most advantageous to the Town taking into consideration the Evaluation Factors in Section V will be recommended for award (as specified in Section II.B.12). Please note, however, that a serious deficiency in the response to any one factor may be grounds for rejection regardless of overall score.

APPENDIX A

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP 24-25-03
Removal and Maintenance of Invasive Plant Species

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT FORM

This optional Acknowledgement of Receipt Form establishes a distribution list to be used for the distribution of written responses to questions, and/or any amendments to the RFP. Failure to return the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form does not prohibit potential Offerors from submitting a response to this RFP. However, by not returning the Acknowledgement of Receipt Form, the potential Offeror's representative shall not be included on the distribution list, and will be solely responsible for obtaining from the Procurement Library (Section I.G.) responses to written questions and any amendments to the RFP.

The information below will be used for all correspondence related to the Request for Proposal. Only one contact per Offeror is permitted.

ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

TITLE: _____ PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

Submit Acknowledgement of Receipt Form to:

To: Lisa Baca-Medina
E-mail: lbaca@taosnm.gov
Subject Line: RFP 24-25-03

APPENDIX B

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM

Pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 13-1-191.1 (2006), any person seeking to enter into a contract with any state agency or local public body for professional services, a design and build project delivery system, or the design and installation of measures the primary purpose of which is to conserve natural resources must file this form with that state agency or local public body. This form must be filed even if the contract qualifies as a small purchase or a sole source contract.

The prospective contractor must disclose whether they, a family member or a representative of the prospective contractor has made a campaign contribution to an applicable public official of the state or a local public body during the two years prior to the date on which the contractor submits a proposal or, in the case of a sole source or small purchase contract, the two years prior to the date the contractor signs the contract, if the aggregate total of contributions given by the prospective contractor, a family member or a representative of the prospective contractor to the public official exceeds two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) over the two year period.

Furthermore, the state agency or local public body shall void an executed contract or cancel a solicitation or proposed award for a proposed contract if: 1) a prospective contractor, a family member of the prospective contractor, or a representative of the prospective contractor gives a campaign contribution or other thing of value to an applicable public official or the applicable public official's employees during the pendency of the procurement process or 2) a prospective contractor fails to submit a fully completed disclosure statement pursuant to the law.

THIS FORM MUST BE FILED BY ANY PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTOR WHETHER OR NOT THEY, THEIR FAMILY MEMBER, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVE HAS MADE ANY CONTRIBUTIONS SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE.

The following definitions apply:

“Applicable public official” means a person elected to an office or a person appointed to complete a term of an elected office, who has the authority to award or influence the award of the contract for which the prospective contractor is submitting a competitive sealed proposal or who has the authority to negotiate a sole source or small purchase contract that may be awarded without submission of a sealed competitive proposal.

“Campaign Contribution” means a gift, subscription, loan, advance or deposit of money or other thing of value, including the estimated value of an in-kind contribution, that is made to or received by an applicable public official or any person authorized to raise, collect or expend contributions on that official's behalf for the purpose of electing the official to either statewide or local office. “Campaign Contribution” includes the payment of a debt incurred in an election campaign, but does not include the value of services provided without compensation or Page 2 of 3 DFA Disclosure form/April, 2006 unreimbursed travel or other personal expenses of individuals who volunteer a portion or all of their time on behalf of a candidate or political

committee, nor does it include the administrative or solicitation expenses of a political committee that are paid by an organization that sponsors the committee.

“**Family member**” means spouse, father, mother, child, father-in-law, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law or son-in-law.

“**Pendency of the procurement process**” means the time period commencing with the public notice of the request for proposals and ending with the award of the contract or the cancellation of the request for proposals.

“**Person**” means any corporation, partnership, individual, joint venture, association or any other private legal entity.

“**Prospective contractor**” means a person who is subject to the competitive sealed proposal process set forth in the Procurement Code or is not required to submit a competitive sealed proposal because that person qualifies for a sole source or a small purchase contract.

“**Representative of a prospective contractor**” means an officer or director of a corporation, a member or manager of a limited liability corporation, a partner of a partnership or a trustee of a trust of the prospective contractor.

DISCLOSURE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

MAYOR:

Pascualito M. Maestas

COUNCIL MEMEBERS:

Darien D. Fernandez

Marietta S. Fambro

Corilia I. Ortega

Genevieve Oswald

Contribution made by: _____

Relation to Prospective Contractor: _____

Name of Applicable Public Official: _____

Date of Contribution(s) made: _____

Amount(s) of Contribution(s): _____

Name of Contribution(s): _____

Purpose of Contribution(s): _____

Signature

Date

Title (position)

OR

NO CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE AGGREGATE TOTAL OVER TWO HUNDRED FIFTY

DOLLARS (\$250) WERE MADE to an applicable official by me, a family member or representative.

Signature

Date

Title (position)

APPENDIX C

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL FORM

Please complete this form in its entirety. Failure to sign and/or submit this form will result in the disqualification of Offeror's proposal.

RFP#:24-25-03

1. Identify the following information for the submitting organization:

Offeror Name	
Mailing Address	
Telephone	
FED TIN#	
NM BTIN#	

2. Identify the individual(s) authorized by the organization to (A) contractually obligate, (B) negotiate, and/or (C) clarify/respond to queries on behalf of this Offeror:

	A Contractually Obligate	B Negotiate*	C Clarify/Respond to Queries*
Name			
Title			
E-mail			
Telephone			

* If the individual identified in Column A also performs the functions identified in Columns B & C, then no response is required for those Columns. If separate individuals perform the functions in Columns B and/or C, they must be identified.

-

3. Will any subcontractor/s be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (Select one):

☐ No.

☐ Yes. Identify subcontractor/s: _____

4. Will any other entity/-ies (such as a State Agency, reseller, etc., that is not a subcontractor identified in #3 above) be used in the performance of any resultant contract? (Select one)

☐ No.

☐ Yes. Identify entity/-ies: _____

By signing the form below, the Authorized Signatory attests to the accuracy and veracity of the information provided on this form, and explicitly acknowledges the following:

- On behalf of the submitting-organization identified in item #1, above, I accept the Conditions Governing the Procurement, as required in Section II.C.1. of this RFP;
- I concur that submission of our proposal constitutes acceptance of the Evaluation Factors contained in Section V of this RFP; and
- I acknowledge receipt of any and all amendments to this RFP, if any.

Sign: _____

Date: _____

(Must be signed by the individual identified in item #2.A, above.)