

RFP#8341 Landscaping Services Questions and Answers

1. What is the budget for this opportunity
Landscape maintenance budgets at all sites are loosely based on current landscape maintenance contract costs. There is sufficient flexibility in budgets to accommodate scope changes from previous contracted work including mandatory Saturday service and minimum labor requirements at SASD South.
2. What is the amount of the current contract
The scope of work in RFP 8341 does not necessarily reflect the scope of landscape duties currently being performed. The current monthly base landscape maintenance cost for Regional San facilities are as follows:
SRWTP Facility - \$4,624
Freeport Dechlorination Facility - \$516
N19 Arden Sewage Pumping Station - \$103
N53 Van Maren Pump Station - \$182

The currently monthly base landscape maintenance cost for SASD facilities are as follows:
SASD South is \$1804.20
SASD NACY is \$1296.20
3. Do you require us to submit proof of insurance with the bid or only after award?
Insurance documents are requested only from the company with the winning proposal.
4. Please clarify the maximum height of pruning for shrubs and trees.
Pruning is to be performed as detailed in the maintenance bid items for each site. If the bidder has limitations or conditions on the maximum height of pruning, they should be noted in the exceptions section of the proposal submittal.
5. Verify that only irrigation repairs due to landscape operation damage is responsibility of the contractor. All other repairs are billed separately as approved by the Facility Site Representative.
Contractor is responsible for irrigation system checks and head/emitter cleaning and adjustment. With the exception of repairs necessitated by damage related to contractor maintenance activities, irrigation repairs will be billed separately upon request for repair and approval from that location's facility manager.
6. Understanding the reasons for working on Saturdays for the South Yard (air quality, empty parking lots, etc), and your requirement of (6x4) 24 labor-hours minimum per week, would you allow the labor to be split so that the more sensitive work (blowers, parking lot maintenance, etc.) is done on Saturday for less than 24 hours, and the remainder of the work and labor hours (back areas, away from buildings) on a weekday?
SASD will allow a split schedule on a trial basis, but reserves the right to move all work back to Saturday, in the event the landscape services impedes with SASD's daily operations in the yard.
7. I had one additional question regarding fertilization where there is drip irrigation at the various sites. Some agencies are stopping fertilization on drip systems areas after Memorial Day – Labor Day, due to the fact that drip irrigation does not break down the fertilizer granules until there is enough irrigation/moisture or rainfall to do so. Does the Sac County Sewer District, and Regional Sanitation District follow those guidelines too?

SASD and Regional San do not prescribe a particular fertilizer schedule for any of the planting areas other than turf. Bidders should include their recommended approach to fertilizer applications in the planter beds in the task proposal sheets.

8. On page 7 it says that the term is for **three** years with 2 option years after that. On page 43 it says the contract term is for **one** year with 2 option years after that. Please clarify.
Any contract resulting from the RFP shall be for a three-year period commencing with the contract award. The District reserves the right to extend any resulting contract(s) for two additional one-year terms. Renewals for the fourth and fifth year will be per mutual agreement between the District and the contractor.
9. If the contract term is for three years, will you be supplying a new Base Proposal Response sheet (page 45) with spaces for each of the three years' prices, or are increases not allowed for three years?
The Base Proposal sheet is fixed price for three years.
10. Same as Number 2 with the Extra Work Schedule sheet (page 47)
Extra work schedule is fixed for three years.
11. Is it required to bid on ALL sites in order to be considered? Or will you award individual sites per your Team's discretion?
A complete proposal requires bids for all sites.
12. Do you happen to have the turf, planter, and parking lot square footage on file for each site? If so, would you be able to distribute that information to us/the bidders?
We do not have this information available.
13. Would it be OK for us to revisit the 8521 Laguna Station Road, Elk Grove site after tomorrow's bid walk? A few of us are locked into a training event and won't be present for the walk. We'd like to double back to verify the current site conditions and were hoping to be granted access to the property. We will have a Regional Manager present for the bid walk. The sales team is hoping to conduct a follow up visit later this week.
Visitors to 8521 Laguna Station Road must be escorted by a Regional San employee. We will allow a follow up site visit to this location on 6/27 at 0930. Bidders will have 90 minutes on the site. Attendees please RSVP to Tambi Stewart. Meeting location and directions are the same as for the mandatory pre-bid site visit to this location.
14. Will the current maintenance budgets be provided to the bidders in advance of the July 3rd bid submittal deadline?
See responses to questions 1 and 2.
15. For pest control, we do not provide rodent control in house. Are we OK excluding this service and having you contract directly with a pest control company of your choosing? If needed, we are happy to provide some referrals.
If not able to perform this work in house nor by sub-contract, please note this in the exceptions section of your proposal submittal.
16. The RFP states that damage to the landscape by fungus, disease, or pest infestation shall be controlled by the contractor. It then states that the facility site representative is required to approve the use of any pesticide. It does not state whether or not fungus, disease, or pest control are considered additional services subject to approval or need to be included in our contract. Can you please clarify this?

Controlling damage to the landscape by fungus, disease, and/or pests is to be performed by the contractor as an extra work item. Approach and cost are subject to approval by the facility site representative.

17. The RFP is asking for monthly irrigation checks of all heads and controllers. It then states caution should be exercised to avoid getting cars or people wet. Does this mean that all irrigation checks must be completed on Saturdays? Our main concern is avoiding getting parked cars wet. Additionally, running monthly “wet checks” will increase the overall water use and bill for each property. Is this a mandatory service to be done? Or can we implement an alternative management approach that be more cost-effective?

Regional San and SASD are amenable to alternative approaches to irrigation checks, however these alternatives must be sufficient to identify coverage issues prior to significant impacts to plant health.

18. The RFP asks to trim around sprinkler heads as needed. Pop-ups are designed to pop up through the grass. Failure to pop up is more an issue of the grass thatching than anything else. As long as grass is routinely dethatched, this shouldn't be an issue. Trimming around each sprinkler head will prove to be labor-intensive and increase overall maintenance costs. Additionally, it can contribute to potential trip hazards. Please clarify if this can be omitted from the scope of work.

Per RFP, trimming around irrigation heads will be done as necessary to provide proper coverage and operation. If trimming is not necessary to ensure proper coverage and operation, it does not need to be done.

19. The RFP is asking for a 1x a year turf fertilization. In our experience, turf needs a minimum of 3 applications to be sustainable and healthy. Ideally we'd recommend 4 applications. If we are responsible for the turf's overall health, should we go ahead and bid based on our recommendations? Or should we only budget for the one application and then propose any additional applications as needed? With only one fertilization per year, we will not be able to warrantee the turf's health.

Approach and cost are both among the factors that will be evaluated in the review of proposals. Items called out in the Maintenance Bid items are minimum requirements and do not preclude bidders from identifying additional measures in the task proposal sheets.

20. The RFP states that we are to control broadleaf weeds in turf. Given the current volume of broadleaf weeds present, will we be able to propose initial clean-ups for all affected turf areas?

Yes. The new contractor can propose an approach and cost for correcting any initial deficiencies encountered at the commencement of the new contract.

21. The RFP states that the contractor is responsible to replace any dead sections of grass. Will there be a job start walk done with your team to identify the currently dead sections of grass in need of replacement? Will those areas then be proposed for approval to be replaced at an additional cost?

See response to question 20.

22. For the North Area Corporation Yard, is the expectation to blow the entire parking lot each week? Or to only clean up the landscape debris we create each week? The exception being in the fall we will clean-up all leaves.

It is expected that all paved parking areas will be cleaned of accumulated cuttings, trimmings, and leaf debris on a weekly basis. Blowing the entire paved surface area will not be required on a weekly basis but may be required on occasion if large amounts of dirt and debris are present throughout the parking area. Work may be performed on Saturdays but Saturday work is not mandatory at this facility.

23. For the Fenceline areas throughout each property, will we be OK proposing initial clean-ups? The maintenance around much of the fences is deferred.

See response to question 20.

24. Any bonds? – Bid, payment, or performance?

No bonds are required.

25. Rodent control – If this becomes a problem can we sub it out and bill for it?

See responses to questions 15 and 16.

26. Are there measures in each subsequent years or is this negotiable as a percentage?

Only year four and five will be negotiable.

27. All controller are our responsibility except for SRWTP, correct?

This is correct with the exception that two stand-alone controllers at the SRWTP will be the contractor's responsibility. As noted in addendum X, the contractor will responsible for setting and programming irrigation schedules at the Bufferlands Office and Project Management Office (PMO).