TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA WETLAND SOLAR ENERGY INSTALLATION PROJECT

NOTICE INVITING BID 16-02 RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

The Salton Sea Authority received two sets of questions pertaining to this invitation to bid. The Authority's responses are provided below.

<u>Set 1</u>.

1) The cover letter states to sign and complete pages BS-1 to BS-3 and schedule. I do not find a page BS-3 in the bid package you attached.

RESPONSE: The cover letter should state to complete pages BS-1 to BS-2 and schedule.

2) On the load calcs (page ATT-12), it states in a footnote that "*Excluded are large load demanding units such as refrigerators and air conditioning units." Do you want us to size the solar system to generate enough electricity to cover the demands of the refrigerators and air conditioning units??

RESPONSE: No, this is clarification that future improvements to the building at the site will not be powered by the solar system.

3) Again on the load calcs page (ATT-12), in the "Miscellaneous Load Basis:" section (the lower section), the loads for the computers, lighting and television are listed, along with the "HOURS". The last column in this section is "KILOWATTS", however "WATTS" multiplied by "HOURS" should be "KILOWATT-HOURS". However, the total from this lower section is again multiplied by "HOURS" in the upper section. Something is incorrect here. The easiest way to determine how to correct this is to answer this question: The last line in the lower section is "Television 100 4 0.4"..... Are you stating that there is only ONE 100-W television and that it is on FOUR hours per day?? Or, are there FOUR 100-W televisions??

RESPONSE: Final column to read, kilowatt-hours. The assumption was one 100-W television used for 4 hours per day.

4) On "ATTACHMENT A: SPECIFICATIONS", page ATT-2, it states that the solar system shall be designed to "enable automatic and operator enabled switch over to service off of the utility (Imperial Irrigation District) by night or as selected by the operator. The automatic transition between the two means of service shall be time of day based." This sounds like you want a battery back-up system for off-grid operation. Can you please explain this requirement in detail??

RESPONSE: The solar power system needs to serve the pump and other electrical demand during the day. The electrical utility, Imperial Irrigation District will serve the pump and other electrical demand during the night. Battery backup is not required.

There needs to be switch in service at a designated time since it cannot be assumed that someone will be on-site each day to manually switch. The electrical system needs to be set up so that solar powers by day with the utility as a back-up. Then when solar does not provide sufficient power, or at a designated time, the switch is made to the utility. The mention of time of day basis, is just a recommendation for how to achieve the same number of hours per day with a variable number of daylight hours throughout the year.

5) Finally, the cover letter states that "metals used in attachments [ground mount materials] must match to prevent corrosion and grounding issues." I understand the concern, but do not fully appreciate to what extent you would like us to carry this. For instance, nearly all solar PV modules (and certainly all that are listed in the bid package) have aluminum frames.... most mounting rails are aluminum as well.... however, the hexbolts that are commonly used in the clamps to hold the modules to the rails are stainless-steel. Also, the actual ground mount structure is usually constructed of galvanized steel pipe. We can use structural aluminum pipe instead, but it will increase the cost (e.g., the cost of sch-40 aluminum pipe is roughly 3-4 times that of galvanized and may require additional concrete footings/piers). Also, keep in mind that fasteners will still be stainless-steel.... or do you want us to try to specify aluminum fasteners?

RESPONSE: It is acceptable to proceed as indicated, with aluminum frames, galvanized steel ground mount structure and stainless steel fasteners.

<u>Set 2</u>.

1) It appears the adjacent building has solar panels/modules on the roof, with plenty of roof area for additional modules. Is this your building? Is there a reason this is not a consideration??

RESPONSE: We are not certain if that roof will be available. It also was considered to be too small of an area for the solar system footprint. We invite you to propose a roof mount system as an alternate to your base bid.

2) Can you identify the approx location of the electrical equipment shown on page ATT-10 on the overhead photo shown on page ATT-9?? (Can you also open the cabinet and take a picture of the inside?)

RESPONSE: See image on Page QA-3 for location of electrical cabinet. A photo inside the cabinet is not currently available.



3) The construction area is identified as approx 40' x 180'. Our preliminary estimate shows a footprint of approx 27' x 66'. Do you want the entire 40' x 180' "Construction Area" fenced, or just the area covered by the solar system (about 40' x 80' to allow some work space around the system)??

RESPONSE: The base bid should include fencing around the solar footprint plus an allowance for workspace. If the budget allows, the Authority may authorize additional funding for a larger fenced area to accommodate future expansion of the solar array.