

# **CASCADE WATER ALLIANCE**

# Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

# Cascade Supply Program Program and Engineering Support

Issue Date: May 12, 2025

Contact Person for Questions		
Questions should be directed at:	Telephone number: (4:	25) 998-5451
Brian Bartle	Email address: bbartle	@cascadewater.org
Program Executive		
Doodling for C	ibmission of Ougstion	•
	ıbmission of Question	
Questions must be submitted via email to the individual named above no later than:		
05/19/2025 at 3:00PM		
Pre-Submission Meeting		
Pre-Submission Meeting Location:	Date:	Time:
Cascade Water Alliance office	May 28 and 29, 2025	Contact Brian to schedule
Place and Deadline for	r Submission of Qualit	fications
Submit Qualifications to: Cascade Water Alliance 11400 SE 8th Street, Suite 400, Bellevue, WA 98004 Attn: Brian Bartle	Date: June 06, 2025	Time: 3:00PM (Pacific Time)



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# I. Announcement of Request for Qualification

Cascade Water Alliance ("Cascade") is soliciting Statements of Qualification ("SOQ") for Program and Engineering Support ("PES") services associated with the Cascade Water Supply Program ("CSP"). Proposers must demonstrate experience and satisfactory performance with engagements of similar scope by key personnel assigned.

This Request for Qualification ("RFQ") will be used to identify qualified firms that may receive a subsequent Request for Proposal ("RFP") for PES services. This RFQ and RFP process is being performed to ensure that Cascade obtains the services of an engineering firm most effectively and efficiently.

The availability of this RFQ was advertised on May 12, 2025, in the *Tacoma News Tribune* and the *Daily Journal of Commerce*. The RFQ and any related documents are available at Cascade's website, <a href="https://www.cascadewater.org">www.cascadewater.org</a>.

#### A. Description of Cascade Water Alliance

Cascade is a municipal corporation organized under the authority of the Joint Municipal Utilities Services Act, chapter 39.106 of the Revised Code of Washington, to provide wholesale water supply to meet its members' current and future water supply needs.

- Members: Members include the following:
  - o City of Bellevue
  - City of Issaquah
  - City of Kirkland
  - City of Redmond
  - City of Tukwila
  - Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District
  - Skyway Water and Sewer District
- Governance: Cascade is governed by a Board of Directors represented by each
  of its members. All board members are elected officials of their respective member
  organizations. Day-to-day management is provided by Cascade's Chief Executive
  Officer.
- Water Supplies and Facilities: Cascade currently utilizes a combination of local groundwater supplies owned and operated by its members and regional water supplies. Cascade operates and maintains certain infrastructure on behalf of its members (e.g., the Bellevue Issaquah Pipeline). In addition, Cascade has wholesale water contracts with the City of Seattle, City of Tacoma, and ownership of the White River/Lake Tapps Reservoir Project, purchased from Puget Sound Energy in 2009 ("Project"). The Project, constructed in 1911, consists of facilities once utilized in hydro-power generation via water diverted from the White River near Buckley, Washington. The Project is comprised of the Lake Tapps Reservoir,



as well as numerous dikes, inlets, fish screens, a diversion dam, and approximately 7.5 miles of pipes, flume, and canal.

# B. Background

The CSP will provide a resilient water supply to our member agencies well into the future. This program is the largest undertaken by Cascade and involves the planning, design, and construction of transmission mains, distribution mains, storage tanks, a chlorination station, and future facilities. The PES contract is intended to support Cascade and the Program Executive with planning and managing the program.

#### C. Scope of Work

Cascade is seeking a consultant to help manage and plan the CSP. This program will connect Cascade's member agencies to Tacoma's water supply system. With an anticipated cost of \$1.0 billion, the CSP is the largest program that Cascade has undertaken. Cascade intends to select one firm based on this selection process to perform the services outlined below. The PES contract is planned to be a master services contract/task-order type contract to provide strategic and tactical programmatic support throughout the program. Anticipated task groupings are below and demonstrate the type of services anticipated. This is not an all-inclusive listing of services expected. The selected consultant/team will be issued work assignment packages that may include one or multiple tasks.

- Task 1: Consultant Project Management. This task will track the consultant team's costs related to managing the contract.
- Task 2: Program Support. This task will include items such as a project execution plan, project phasing, project governance and KPI development, project procurement plan, and other documents as required. Other tasks may include GIS mapping, risk management, website communications, cost estimating and scheduling support, and grant funding applications.
- Task 3: Planning. There are many planning documents needed, including an operations and flow allocation plan that identifies the amount of water and methods of transfer from the CSP to the member agencies' distribution systems. This plan forms the basis for the system requirements and the development of the facilities plan. The facilities plan will develop the requirements for project design. Hydraulic and surge analysis will be a component of this task as well. Other planning documents could include an update to the route study, an operations plan to assess future O&M needs, delivery methodology, condition assessment, geotechnical considerations, seismic design criteria, water quality, and more.
- Task 4: Right of Way. Franchise and right-of-way support services are needed to evaluate potential permanent and temporary real property needs and alternatives. Following environmental and permitting review, and before final



design, assist in acquiring real property rights that are needed for the project. Any legal support will be provided by Cascade.

- Task 5: Permitting. The PES consultant will provide an early plan for what
  permits are necessary to complete the program. Programmatic level permits will
  be completed and submitted through the PES team. Through the design and
  construction phases, this team will support Cascade by reviewing permit
  packages and coordinating submittals.
- Task 6: Communications and Outreach. Cascade will look to the PES consultant to assist in community outreach and engagement efforts, creating maps and figures, and providing assistance with all community outreach efforts.
- Task 7: Design Support. During the planning phases, provide support on the
  creation of design standards and assist with design concerns/issues that arise
  during route selection. Early design elements may include surveys of critical
  areas and crossings, cathodic protection, trenchless installation methods,
  seismic zone crossings, and more. Additionally, provide an approximate 10%
  level of design for certain project elements to use in obtaining ROW and
  easements. Provide design review professionals during the design phase.
- Task 8: Construction Support. Throughout the planning and design phases, Cascade will request constructability reviews by qualified senior staff. As the program progresses, construction management and inspection services may be requested for the transmission, distribution, and associated facilities and connections.
- Task 9: Operations Support. Through planning and design, provide operational insights and optimization strategies. During the construction phase, provide startup support and electronic operations and maintenance manuals.

The selected firm and all subconsultants participating in the PES program management contract will be prohibited from participating in future design contracts related to the CSP, subject to the following exception. Small businesses meeting certification criteria for size, ownership, control, and personal net worth adopted by the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises in accordance with RCW 39.19.030, and who receive less than \$100,000 in fees under the PES contract, may pursue design work related to the CSP. Should an eligible small business subconsultant choose to pursue a CSP design contract, they must notify the prime consultant prior to the pursuit. Cascade will require the subconsultant to be removed from further work under the PES contract at that time. The prime consultant will provide alternative subconsultants for Cascade's review.

The selected firm will work primarily under the management of Cascade's Program Executive, Design Director, and/or Planning Director.



# D. Pre-Submission Meeting (required)

Those interested in responding to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) as a Prime are required to participate in a pre-submission meeting during the time provided. Each firm will be offered a 1.5-hour individual meeting with Cascade staff to review the questions posed by the firm and provide time for discussion. All questions and responses discussed during the pre-submission meetings will be posted (without attribution to individual firms) on Cascade's website after all the pre-submission meetings are completed. Failure to attend the pre-submission meeting will be grounds for disqualification from further consideration.

## II. Submittal and Evaluation Process

Each Proposer's SOQ must be organized into discrete sections corresponding to the evaluation criteria and in the order listed below. The SOQ must abide by the required page limits corresponding to each criterion and must include an index to assist Cascade in reviewing the SOQ. Proposers are further advised that lengthy or wordy submissions are not necessary. Nevertheless, SOQs that do not respond completely or sufficiently to the evaluation criteria in this RFQ may be rejected as non-responsive or will receive correspondingly lower scores for those criteria, which may result in the SOQ not scoring high enough to be considered further.

#### A. Submittal Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

The SOQ must include and will be reviewed and scored by Cascade based on the following weighted evaluation criteria. The SOQ should be separated into sections as described below, with page count and page size as shown. While each section should be considered a stand-alone criterion, referencing to other sections is allowed.

Evaluation Criteria (Page Limit, Page Size)	Maximum Points
1) <u>Cover Letter (2, 8.5x11):</u> Please submit a cover letter that summarizes your experience in providing the services described in this RFQ, addressing, at a minimum, the following:	5
<ul> <li>a) A high-level summary of your firm's relevant qualifications.</li> <li>b) The size of your firm and discuss your firm's capability to manage a program of this size.</li> <li>c) Your firm's current workload and how this would impact your ability to perform the work as described by this RFQ.</li> </ul>	
d) The name and contact information of the individual in your firm that Cascade should contact regarding questions about your SOQ. The contact information should include the following: name of individual, title (Mr., Ms., etc.), firm name, address (city, state, zip code), telephone number, and e-mail address.	



	<ul><li>e) Name, title, and signature of the individual in your firm authorized to sign this contract and future amendments.</li><li>f) Acknowledgement that you have received any addenda issued to the RFQ, as posted on Cascade's website.</li></ul>	
2)	<u>Background of the Firm (2, 8.5x11):</u> Provide a brief description and history of your firm (the number of years it has been in business, areas of specialization(s), number of employees, location of offices, and other applicable services offered). Include similar information for any subconsultants included in your SOQ. See Section J regarding the diversity of the team.	10
3)	Organization Chart (1, 11x17): Provide an organizational chart showing the anticipated staff needed to deliver the project. Identify the key staff. The organization chart shall indicate the firm of the person, and their anticipated availability for the first 2 years of the program.	10
4)	Relevant Experience of the Team (6, 8.5x11; 1, 11x17): The project manager and task leads are critical to the delivery of the program. Provide a write-up demonstrating the relevant experience of the project manager and task leads. Describe relevant background, experience, and qualifications. Identify the location of all key staff (city and state). Identify any other key staff for your team to successfully deliver the program and include them in the write-up. Provide current workload/list of projects, percent of time on the existing project, and projected availability for the next 2 years for all key staff. The final page of this section should be the completed 11x17 Team Experience Matrix included herein as Appendix 1.  Note there is a preference for local staff at the leadership level. Cascade will be requesting weekly meetings in the Cascade office for the project manager and task leads with active on-going work. No travel expenses will be included for these meetings.	30
5)	Project History (6, 8.5x11; 1, 11x17): Describe relevant projects completed by the proposed team, similar in scope and budget to the anticipated program. The first page (11x17) of this section should be the completed project experience chart included herein as Appendix 2. The remaining pages should document up to six projects that demonstrate the firm's experience with linear/pipeline projects, program management, and/or other similar program components. Include with each project: project summary, beginning year, end year/anticipated end year, beginning budget, final budget, staff from this SOQ that participated in the example project and their role, and a client reference with contact information.	25



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6) Sample of work (1 page): Provide a written sample of previous work on a planning study, preferably a pipeline routing study or pipeline facility plan. The document should be co-authored by members of the proposed team. Provide a signed letter or email acknowledgement from the client that you are authorized to share the report with Cascade, which must specify if the report is considered confidential (Section III.E. of this RFQ applies). This report and letter will NOT count toward your page count and should be included as a separate file/submittal in an appendix. One page should be included in the bound proposal documenting who on the team worked on the writing sample document, their role on that project, and their role on this program.	10
7) Standard Contract Language (pages not counted): Cascade intends to utilize its Consultant Agreement for this project. The Agreement is included as an attachment to this RFQ. Each firm must affirm in its SOQ that the terms and conditions of this Agreement are acceptable, or if the firm takes exception to any of the proposed language in the Agreement, the firm must specifically describe the reasons for the exceptions and propose in its SOQ alternative language for review and consideration by Cascade. This should be provided as a separate section of the SOQ and will not count toward the page count.	0
8) References (1 page): Provide three (3) references of clients who are familiar with the work of the proposed project manager. Cited references should include project name, project start date, project end date, reference name, title, project role, and current contact telephone number. References may be the same as those used above.  Cascade reserves the right to conduct reference checks as part of evaluating SOQs, as well as in evaluating the suitability of the firm for a particular work assignment. In the event that information obtained from the reference checks reveals concerns about the firm's past performance or their ability to successfully perform work required by Cascade, Cascade may, at its sole discretion, not select a firm. In conducting reference checks, Cascade may include itself as a reference if the firm has performed work for Cascade, even if the firm did not identify Cascade as a reference. Likewise, Cascade reserves the right to check references for the firm from other clients, even if they were not identified by the firm as references in the SOQ submitted	0
9) Resumes (not counted): Provide single-page resumes for project manager and task leaders, as well as any other key staff identified.	0



Alphabetize resumes by last name. Resume shall include name, degrees, certifications, firm, location (city and state), and relevant projects (for projects included in Section 4/Project History, just list project name).	
10) Member Agency Score: A representative from participating member agencies will review and assign a ranking to the SOQs. The member agency rankings will be combined and used to rank the SOQs from first to last. Points will be allocated such that the top-ranking firm will receive 10 points, second place 8 points, third place 6, etc. If more than five SOQs are received, the sixth-place firm and below will not receive any points.	10
Total Points	100

## B. Format Requirements

- Statements of Qualifications and their sealed packaging (boxes or envelopes) should be clearly marked with the name and address of the firm and should be marked with the name of this RFQ as indicated on page 1 of the RFQ.
- Submit three (3) printed copies of the SOQ in 3-ring binders, with tabs for each section identified above. Tabs may not have any text/photos/tag lines/etc., except for the section name/title/number. The sample report does not need to be printed and/or included in the binder.
- The bound SOQs should be in an 8 1/2" by 11" format, using a minimum 12-point type size. The only exceptions are the 11" by 17" pages mentioned above, which shall be single-sided.
- Cascade strongly encourages the use of recycled and recyclable materials in the submission of SOQs.
- Firms are encouraged to "double side" the printing of their SOQs; however, for the purposes of any page limitations of the SOQ outlined in the RFQ, one side of a printed page is considered one page. Cascade will not review or evaluate pages in an SOQ that are in excess of any RFQ page number limitation for a specific section of the SOQ.
- Include one USB-C thumb drive with a combined PDF of the SOQ and individual files for each section identified above. The combined PDF shall be indexed and tabbed for easy review. The sample report shall be a separate file on the thumb drive; if the report is considered confidential, the file name of the report should include the word CONFIDENTIAL.



#### C. Evaluation Process

The evaluation process will include this RFQ/SOQ phase, a RFP/Proposal phase, and an interview phase. Cascade will not provide debrief interviews or release the SOQs or records created by the evaluation committee until Cascade's Board has made a decision to execute the PES contract with the selected firm.

The SOQs will be reviewed by an evaluation committee, which will identify up to three (3) Proposers whose qualifications, in the sole judgment of Cascade: best meet the requirements set forth in this RFQ; are the most advantageous to Cascade based on the evaluation criteria set forth herein; and are in the best interest of Cascade.

Grounds for rejecting SOQs as non-responsive include failure to attend a pre-bid meeting, late submittals, missing information or addenda, qualifications that do not meet the minimum requirements, or do not address all areas identified by Cascade.

Cascade will notify up to three (3) Proposers that they are the highest-rated firms. Those firms will move forward in the evaluation process and will automatically receive the RFP. All remaining Proposers will be notified that they are not among the highest-rated firms that will automatically receive the RFP; however, within 24 hours of such notification, any Proposer may request further consideration during the proposal stage and will also receive the RFP from Cascade and be allowed to submit a RFP.

Points assigned to each Proposer's SOQ will be posted on Cascade's website on the same day that Proposers receive notification as to whether they will automatically receive the RFP. While SOQs solicited during the RFQ phase may be referenced by the evaluation committee, points assigned during the RFQ phase will not be aggregated with points assigned during the RFP or interview phase.

# III. General Information and Instructions To Proposers

By submitting a response to this RFQ, the Proposer certifies that the SOQ and any additional materials are genuine and not a sham or collusive, and not made in the interest of any person not named, and that the Proposer has not induced or solicited others to submit a sham SOQ, or to refrain from submitting an SOQ.

#### A. Time and Place for Submittal

The SOQ must be submitted to Cascade Water Alliance, 11400 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 400, Bellevue, WA 98004, Attn: Brian Bartle no later than the deadline listed on page 1 of the RFQ. Faxed or e-mailed submittals will not be accepted.



Firms are responsible for ensuring receipt of the SOQ at the designated place and by the deadline stated above. Submittals received after the deadline will not be accepted. Cascade will not be liable for delays in delivery of SOQs due to handling by the U.S. Postal Service, courier services, overnight carriers, or any other type of delivery service. Statements of Qualifications may be delivered in person or by a delivery service. No oral, fax, electronic (e.g. e-mail), or telephonic SOQs will be accepted. Firms are responsible for ensuring that Cascade receives the SOQ at the designated location by the deadline set forth above.

## B. Anticipated Schedule (Dates subject to change by Cascade)

Date	Description
See page 1 of RFQ	Issue Date of RFQ
See page 1 of RFQ	Deadline for Submission of Questions
See page 1 of RFQ	Pre-Submission Meeting (Please contact Brian to
	schedule your individual meeting)
May 30, 2025	Deadline for Cascade's Response to Questions Asked
See page 1 of RFQ	Statement of Qualifications Submittal Date (Due Date)
June 27, 2025	Anticipated Notification of RFP
July 25, 2025	Anticipated Proposal Submittal Date (Due Date)
September 08-12, 2025	Dates of possible interviews
September 15, 2025	Anticipated Notification of Selection
September – October 2025	Scope Development
October 2025	Recommendation to Cascade's Board for Award
	(Anticipated)
November 2025	Cascade's and Successful Firm's Execution of Contract
	(Anticipated)
December 2025	Commencement of Services Under the Contract
	(Anticipated)

#### C. Contact with Cascade

All questions or requests for clarification must be made only to the Designated Cascade Contact Person identified on page 1 of this RFQ, and must be submitted no later than the deadline listed on page 1 of this RFQ. Other than the Designated Cascade Contact Person, Proposers shall not directly or indirectly contact any Cascade Board Member, Member Agency Staff, or employee of Cascade in connection with this RFQ, the selection process, or the contract contemplated herein. Contact with anyone referenced above other than the Designated Cascade Contact Person may result in the firm being disqualified from further consideration.

#### D. Addenda

Cascade will issue addenda to this RFQ to respond to any questions received by Cascade and/or to modify the terms of the RFQ. All addenda will be posted on

Cascade Water Alliance

RFQ for CSP – Program and Engineering Support

Cascade's website at <a href="www.cascadewater.org">www.cascadewater.org</a>. It is the responsibility of the Proposers to check the website for any addenda to this RFQ before submitting their SOQ.

# E. Cost of Preparation

Cascade will not reimburse Proposers for any costs involved in the preparation and submittal of a response to this RFQ.

#### F. Contract

The successful Proposer will be asked to provide Cascade with a schedule of hourly rates on a time spent basis plus reimbursement for direct non-salary expenses, such as reproduction expenses, travel costs, long-distance telephone costs, and outside consultants. The schedule of hourly rates and expenses, if acceptable to Cascade, will be incorporated into a contract between the successful Proposer and Cascade. The contract will be subject to a "not to exceed" amount acceptable to both parties. The schedule of hourly rates and expenses should not be included in Proposer's submittal.

The selected consultant will be required to attend a performance review attended by the Cascade CEO and the selected firm's Regional Manager/Area Manager/Managing Principal on a 2-year recurring interval. Failure to attend the performance review meeting will be grounds for termination of the contract.

Cascade intends to utilize its Consultant Agreement for this project. The Agreement is included as an attachment to this RFQ. Cascade Board action may be required to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to execute the contract. Cascade reserves the option, based on any dissatisfaction with the successful Proposer's performance, to solicit proposals from other firms.

#### G. Insurance

Prior to the execution of a Contract for services under this RFQ, the successful firm will be required to provide acceptable evidence of insurance coverage consistent with the insurance requirements outlined in the Consultant Agreement.

#### H. Rights Reserved by Cascade

This RFQ does not obligate Cascade to accept or contract for any expressed or implied services. Cascade reserves the following rights:

- 1. To waive as an informality any irregularities in SOQs and/or to reject any or all SOQs.
- 2. To extend the date for submittal of responses and to change or modify the RFQ schedule at any time.



- 3. To request additional information and data from any or all firms.
- 4. To supplement, amend, or otherwise modify the RFQ through addenda issued.
- 5. To cancel this RFQ with or without the substitution of another RFQ.
- 6. To reissue the RFQ.
- 7. To make such reviews and investigations, as it considers necessary and appropriate for evaluation of the SOQs.
- 8. To reject any SOQ in the event that Cascade's analysis of the firm's financial status and capacity indicates, in Cascade's judgment, that the firm is not able to successfully perform the work.
- 9. To cancel the RFQ process in the event only one SOQ is received by the deadline.
- 10. To establish a revised deadline for submission of SOQs in the event only one SOQ is received by the deadline.

#### I. Public Disclosure

- 1. <u>Property of Cascade:</u> Statements of Qualifications submitted to Cascade shall become the property of Cascade and shall not be returned to the firm.
- 2. <u>Statements of Qualifications are Public Records:</u> Pursuant to Chapter 42.56 RCW, SOQs submitted under this RFQ shall be considered public records and with limited exceptions will be available for inspection and copying by the public. Except to the extent protected by state and/or federal laws, SOQs shall be considered public documents and available for review and copying by the public after an award of contract is made by Cascade.
- 3. <u>Public Records Exemption:</u> Any proprietary information included in the SOQ that the firm wishes to remain confidential (to the extent allowed under the laws of the State of Washington) should be clearly identified as "Confidential" in the SOQ. In addition, the firm must provide the legal basis for the exemption to Cascade.
- 4. <u>Statements of Qualifications Not Marked as Confidential:</u> If an SOQ does not clearly identify the confidential portions, Cascade will not notify the firm that its SOQ will be made available for inspection and copying.
- 5. <u>Process for Disclosing Information:</u> If a request is made for disclosure of material or any portion marked "Confidential" by the firm, Cascade will notify the firm of the request and allow the firm ten (10) business days to take appropriate action pursuant to RCW 42.56.540. If the firm fails or neglects to take such action within said period, Cascade may release the portions of the SOQ deemed subject to disclosure.
- 6. <u>Indemnification by Firm:</u> To the extent that Cascade withholds from disclosure all or any portion of firm's documents at firm's request, firm shall agree to fully indemnify, defend and hold harmless Cascade from all damages, penalties,



- attorneys' fees and costs Cascade incurs related to withholding information from public disclosure.
- 7. <u>No Claim Against Cascade:</u> By submitting an SOQ, the firm consents to the procedure outlined in this section and shall have no claim against Cascade because of actions taken under this procedure.

#### J. Diversity

Cascade is committed to providing the maximum practicable opportunity for participation by small businesses, minority business enterprises, women business enterprises, and veteran-owned businesses in its contracts through direct contracts with Cascade or sub-consulting. We strongly encourage the use of local businesses, however, no minimum level of participation by such firms will be required as a condition for entering into a contract. Should you intend to use small and minority businesses as part of your team, please indicate on your proposed organization chart the anticipated level of commitment you intend to meet if selected.

# K. Basic Eligibility

The successful firm must be licensed to do business in the State of Washington and must have a state Unified Business Identifier (UBI) number. In addition, the successful firm must not be debarred, suspended, or otherwise ineligible to contract with Cascade.

#### L. Approval of Sub-Consultants

Cascade retains the right of final approval of any sub-consultant of the selected firm who must inform all sub-consultants of this provision.

#### M. Other Contracts

During the original term and all subsequent renewal terms of the contract resulting from this RFQ, Cascade expressly reserves the right, through any other sources available, to pursue and implement alternative means of soliciting and awarding similar or related services as described in this RFQ.

#### N. Funding Availability

By responding to this RFQ, the firm acknowledges that for any contract signed as a result of this RFQ, the authority to proceed with the work is contingent upon the availability of funding.



# **Attachments:**

- **Appendix 1**: Team Experience Matrix, 11x17
- Appendix 2: Project Experience Chart, 11x17
- Consultant Agreement

**END OF RFQ INSTRUCTIONS** 

