



2025 SHORT-TERM FUNDING PRODUCTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TP24-0307F

To Interested Institutions:

The Light Division of the City of Tacoma's (the "City") Department of Public Utilities, which operates as Tacoma Power ("Tacoma Power" or the "Utility"), is issuing this Request for Proposals ("RFP") to solicit proposals for short-term funding product(s) in the form of a direct funded loan or purchase of indexed notes, in an amount up to \$200 million, with drawdown and prepayment flexibility similar to a traditional commercial paper program. In addition to the product mentioned above, Tacoma Power is also interested in receiving proposals that detail other alternative short-term funding products ("Alternative Bank Products").

Tacoma Power currently has approximately \$52 million in FY23/24 projects that were funded on an interim basis with cash. Further, Tacoma Power has approximately \$138 million in capital projects planned for FY25/26. Tacoma Power is developing a financing strategy that considers both Tacoma's need to reimburse itself for prior capital expenditures as well as provides funding for Tacoma's future capital needs.

To further develop its financing strategy, Tacoma Power is issuing two solicitations; the first contained herein ([Specification TP24-0307F](#)) is for short-term funding products as an alternative to a long-term debt issuance. The second is a Request For Information ("RFI"), seeking information from firms interested in serving as a Senior Manager or Co-Manager for a long-term bond issuance option. For both solicitations, Tacoma Power is seeking to both reimburse itself \$52 million for past capital spending and also provide at least \$138 million in funding for new capital projects.

Tacoma expects to pursue either a new short-term funding product or a long-term bond issuance, however this is preliminary and subject to change.

Interested firms should submit a proposal to the Utility's financial advisor, Montague DeRose and Associates ("MDA"), received until **5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) on January 22, 2025** by e-mail only to:

- Frank Perdue: perdue@montaguederose.com
- Josepha Miller: miller@montaguederose.com
- Mike Kremer: kremer@montaguederose.com

Proposals should respond to the attached request. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Frank Perdue
Montague DeRose and Associates,

I. OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

Since 2015, the Light Division of the City of Tacoma's (the "City") Department of Public Utilities, which operates as Tacoma Power ("Tacoma Power" or "Tacoma"), has utilized a revolving line of credit to interim fund its capital improvement program. Tacoma Power most recently executed a Note Purchase Agreement in 2021 with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., to evidence a revolving line of credit in the available principal amount of \$150 million for a period of three years (the "Electric System Subordinate Revenue Note, Series 2021" or "2021 Note"). The 2021 Note was used as a short-term borrowing facility for capital projects and matured on October 1, 2024.

Tacoma Power currently has approximately \$52 million in FY23/24 projects that were funded on an interim basis with cash. Further, Tacoma Power has approximately \$138 million in capital projects planned for FY25/26. Tacoma Power is developing a financing strategy that considers both Tacoma's need to reimburse itself for prior capital expenditures as well as provides funding for Tacoma's future capital needs.

To further develop its financing strategy, through this solicitation, Tacoma Power is requesting proposals from financial institutions interested in providing a direct funded loan or purchase of indexed notes, in an amount up to \$200 million, with drawdown and prepayment flexibility similar to a traditional commercial paper program. Tacoma Power is also interested in receiving proposals that detail other alternative short-term funding products ("Alternative Bank Products") that may be beneficial to the Utility. The proposed product(s) will be issued on a lien subordinate to Tacoma Power's existing bonds.

No contractual relationship will exist between Tacoma Power and firm(s) selected through this RFP process. Costs incurred by firms responding to the RFP will be borne by the respondents.

Note that the provisions found in Sections I - IX will prevail over any conflicting provisions found in the Standard Terms and Conditions of this Request for Proposals.

RFP SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

January 6	Distribution of RFP
January 13	Deadline for questions on RFP (5pm PT)
January 15	Montague DeRose distributes answers to RFP questions
January 22	RFP responses due via email (5pm PT)

This is a tentative schedule only and may be altered at the sole discretion of the Utility.

II. TACOMA POWER BACKGROUND AND OUTSTANDING DEBT

Tacoma Power's disclosure filings, annual reports, monthly financial statements, official statements, financial agreements, credit ratings, budget reports, long-range financial plans, rate and financial policy, etc. may be found at Tacoma Power's investor information website:

<https://www.mytpu.org/about-tpu/investors/tacoma-power-investor-information/>

In November 2022, Tacoma City Council approved system average rate increases of 3.5% effective April 1, 2023 and 3.5% effective April 1, 2024. In December 2024, Tacoma City Council approved system average rate increases of 5.3% effective April 1, 2025 and 5.3% effective April 1, 2026. Further information on system average rate increases can be found in the City of Tacoma's 2025-2026 Budget and Rates Process posted at:

https://www.mytpu.org/payment-billing/rate-information/#pattern_1

Tacoma Power's Long-Range Financial Plans, including the updated 2024 Long-Range Financial Plan, can be found at the following website:

<https://www.mytpu.org/about-tpu/investors/tacoma-power-investor-information/long-range-financial-plans/>

III. PROPOSAL CONTENT

Please provide the following in developing a response to this RFP:

A. Signature Page (Exhibit B)

B. Cover Letter

A one (1) page cover letter should be submitted with the proposal, which includes an authorized point of contact for the firm. Note that the cover letter does not count towards the proposal page limit.

C. Overview of Product

Please provide a brief description of the product being offered to meet Tacoma Power's needs. Detail the documentation (e.g., credit information, financial information, legal opinions, etc.) that the bank requires from Tacoma Power in order to successfully close on a direct funded loan, purchase of indexed notes, or alternative product. Please detail any covenants that you would request to be included in the note purchase agreement or related agreement.

Please describe all other material structural features, including but not limited to:

- Term: Tacoma Power requires a minimum of a three-year term but will consider up to five years.
- Payment frequency
- Draw provisions, such as:
 - Process
 - Limitations on the frequency
 - Minimum size
 - Amount of advance notice required
- Prepayment provisions
- Term out period and conditions
- Renewal options at maturity

For Alternative Bank Products, along with the description of the product, please also

include a summary of the potential benefits and risk factors, and a list of issuers currently using the product. Describe whether the institution intends to hold the securities or offer them to other investors. Please also compare the costs of a short put bond with the typical short-term products being offered. As noted, detail the documentation (e.g., credit information, offering memorandum, legal opinions, etc.) that the institution requires in order to successfully close the transaction. If available, please provide a sample bank document.

D. Fees and Expenses

Using the pricing matrix for a Direct Funded Loan or Note Purchase Agreement (Exhibit A), please give commitment fee indications (utilized/unutilized) assuming Tacoma Power's electric system debt is rated "AA/Aa3/AA-" from Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch, respectively.

If proposing an Alternative Bank Product, please provide a pricing matrix including fee indications, and terms and conditions, assuming Tacoma Power's electric system debt is rated "AA/Aa3/AA-" from Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch, respectively.

Include details regarding general terms, interest cost, all fees and all issuance costs. To the extent that the pricing for your proposed structure fluctuates, please provide such details as of January 6, 2025.

In addition to the ongoing commitment fee indications, please also provide pricing indications and other information for the items 1-5 below, as applicable.

1. Draw fees;
2. Bank base interest rate (should be quoted on a Prime Rate or Fed Funds basis);
3. Default rate;
4. Non-legal fees and expenses (specify nature of expense and whether it is an annual or one-time expense); and
5. Provide your term-out interest rate and repayment terms. For the amortization end date, please specify a minimum of no earlier than three years.

NOTE: Please note that Tacoma Power needs to close the transaction by June 30, 2025 in order to reimburse itself for FY2024 capital spending. Tacoma Power's governmental approval process requires presentation and approval of the proposed transaction at various interim meetings, and for ultimate approval at both the Public Utility Board and Tacoma City Council. The governmental approval process can typically take four to five months. Please confirm that your proposed pricing can be held through June 30, 2025.

E. Benchmark Index

Please provide a brief description of the Benchmark Index utilized in your proposal and why said index was selected for this proposal. Please also discuss any tradeoffs or benefits Tacoma Power should consider when evaluating the indices being proposed.

F. Terms and Conditions

Please attach a detailed Term Sheet and indicate any requested changes to the proposed terms listed in Section IX.

G. Approval Process

Tacoma Power would prefer that responding firms have initial credit approval before submitting their proposal. What is your firm's process for credit approval? What information will be required before final credit approval can be secured? How long will that process take?

IV. SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection criteria for bank credit providers will include:

- A. Pricing and proposed fees, both utilized and unutilized and upfront, if any;
- B. Terms and Conditions, including termination costs, downgrade pricing, and term out provisions;
- C. Financial strength of the proposer; and
- D. Any other factors Tacoma Power deems appropriate in making its determination.

V. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Responses should be concise, legible and limited to no more than fifteen (15) pages, excluding the Signature Page, Cover Letter and any appendices, and structured to correspond to the proposal contents outlined above. Appendices should be limited to details supporting the questions above and should not include generic firm marketing material. Any information provided to Tacoma Power in response to this RFP is subject to public disclosure.

Submission of the Request for Proposals is by e-mail only. Proposals will be received until **5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) on January 22, 2025**. Please send your RFP response to:

- Frank Perdue: perdue@montaguederose.com
- Josepha Miller: miller@montaguederose.com
- Mike Kremer: kremer@montaguederose.com

VI. SOLICITATION DOCUMENTS AND REGISTRATION

An electronic copy of the complete solicitation documents may be viewed and obtained by accessing the City of Tacoma Services Solicitations website at [Services Solicitations - City of Tacoma](#). Navigate to this solicitation by clicking on the website link and scrolling to this RFP (TP24-0307F).

- To receive notification from the City regarding potential addenda or other updates to the original solicitation document(s), prospective bidders and proposers must register on the Bid Holders list for each solicitation of interest.

If you fail to register, you will not be notified of possible addenda or updates. Bidders are ultimately responsible to investigate and acknowledge all issued project addenda

information.

[Register here for each solicitation of interest.](#)

- Click here to view a current [Bid Holders List](#). Once the solicitation is completed, the list is not maintained and will not be used for notification of future opportunities.

VII. QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION

A. Questions and requests for clarification of these specifications may be submitted in writing via email by 5pm (Pacific Time), January 13, 2025, to:

- Frank Perdue: perdue@montaguederose.com
- Josepha Miller: miller@montaguederose.com
- Mike Kremer: kremer@montaguederose.com

Questions received after this date and time may not be answered.

1. Please indicate the RFP specification number and title (TP24-0307F - 2025 Short-Term Funding Products RFP) in the email subject line.
2. Present your questions in MS Word format or directly in the body of the email message. If applicable, cross reference the specific section of the RFP.
3. Questions will not be accepted by telephone or fax.
4. Questions marked confidential will not be answered.
5. Individual answers will not be provided directly to Respondents.
6. The City reserves the discretion to group similar questions to provide a single answer or not to respond when the requested information is confidential.
7. Neither the City or Montague DeRose and Associates will be responsible for unsuccessful submittal of questions.

B. Written answers to questions will be posted with the Specification on or about **January 15, 2025**, on the Services Solicitations website at [Services Solicitations - City of Tacoma](#).

Navigate to this solicitation by clicking the website link and scroll to this RFP (TP24-0307F). A notice will not be posted with the Specification if no questions are received.

C. To receive notice of the posted answers, you must register as “bid holder” for this solicitation per Section VI. Solicitation Documents and Registration. Notices will not be sent if no questions are received.

D. The answers are not typically considered an addendum. (See Section VIII below.)

VIII. ADDENDA

A. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, addenda will be issued to registered bid holders/planholders and posted on the Services Solicitations website at [Services Solicitations - City of Tacoma](#).

Navigate to this solicitation by clicking the website link and scroll to this RFP (TP24-0307F). Failure to acknowledge addenda may result in a submittal being deemed non-responsive.

B. Answers in response to RFP inquiries (Section VII A. above) are not typically provided as an addendum.

IX. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

For purposes of your institution's proposal, please assume the following terms and conditions:

Lien Provisions	The proposed products will be secured by net revenues and issued on a lien subordinate to Tacoma Power's existing long-term bonds.
Minimum Credit Ratings:	Bank proposers must have long-term ratings at least equivalent to A3 and A- from at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies.
Term:	Fee quotes are requested for terms of three, four and five years or other term clearly specified by proposer, with provisions for renewal.
Interest Rates:	The interest rate proposed should be quoted on a Prime Rate, Fed Funds, or SOFR basis.
Term out period:	The proposed amortization period and payment schedule for bank notes should be indicated but in no event should it be less than three years.
Termination Fee:	Tacoma Power will not agree to a Termination Fee.
Termination of Facility:	Tacoma Power will have the right to terminate the facility at any time with 30 days' written notice.
Increased Costs Provision:	Requests for payments under the Increased Costs Provision must be accompanied by a detailed accounting in the certificate of the Bank claiming actual increased costs; grossed up costs must be on an after-tax basis (unless the increased cost is itself increased taxes); Tacoma Power must have 60 days to pay any invoice for

costs incurred prior to notice thereof; and the Bank must notify Tacoma Power of the increased costs within 90 days of obtaining knowledge of the increased costs.

Opinions:

Tacoma Power's Bond Counsel will deliver an opinion that the Letter of Credit, Liquidity Facility, Revolving Loan or Line, or Alternative Bank Product constitutes a valid and binding obligation of Tacoma Power. If the Bank is a foreign institution, then customary opinions of foreign counsel shall be delivered.

X. RULES AND CONDITIONS

- A. Tacoma Power reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any minor abnormalities in a proposal, to request clarifications or additional information from any institution and to effect any agreement deemed to be in Tacoma Power's best interest with one or more institutions.
- B. Tacoma Power will not reimburse institutions for any costs associated with the preparation or submittal of any proposal nor for any travel and/or per diem expenses incurred in any presentations of such proposal.
- C. Nothing in this RFP, the proposal, or Tacoma Power's acceptance of any proposal in whole or in part shall obligate Tacoma Power to complete negotiation with the related institution. Tacoma Power will not provide an engagement letter to any institution. Tacoma Power reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to end negotiation with an institution at any time up to the consummation of the transaction arising from this RFP without any obligation to pay any fees or expenses to the institution or its counsel.
- D. All material submitted in response to this solicitation will become the property of Tacoma Power and will not be returned.
- E. Proposals will be evaluated based on responses to the information requested herein. Tacoma Power will consider all information provided in response to this request in making its selection.
- F. All proposals will be considered firm proposals, and may not be changed from the date and time of submission through the dates of closing and settlement.
- G. The purchaser will be expected to sign a purchaser letter and issue price certificate in a form acceptable to Bond Counsel for Tacoma Power.
- H. This is not a commitment.

Attachments: Exhibit A – Direct Funded Loan or Note Purchase Pricing Matrix
Exhibit B – Signature Page
Standard Terms and Conditions

Exhibit A

PRICING MATRIX FOR DIRECT FUNDED LOAN OR NOTE PURCHASE AGREEMENT

Name of Bank: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

- a. Assuming Tacoma Power’s electric system debt is rated "AA/Aa3/AA-" from Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s, and Fitch, respectively please provide your proposed Direct Funded Loan or Note Purchase Agreement:

Commitment Amount: \$_____ Million Principal Amount

Term	Upfront Fee (if any)	Unutilized Fee (if any)	Benchmark Index*	Spread to Index (basis points)	Term Out Period	Redemption Provisions	Term Out Rate and/or Default Rate
3 Years							
4 Years							
5 Years							
Other term:							

- b. If your fees would increase due to a downgrade of Tacoma Power’s underlying credit ratings, please provide a fee matrix.
- c. Please provide a brief description of the Benchmark Index utilized in your proposal and why said index was selected for this proposal. Please also discuss any tradeoffs or benefits Tacoma Power should consider when evaluating the indices being proposed.

All fees and information requested below must be provided in order for your submittal to be deemed "Responsive."

Cap on Legal Fees:	
Non-Legal Fees and Expenses:	
Bank Interest Rate, specify index if applicable:	
Default Rate:	
Amendment Fee to Bank:	
Any other Fees/Expenses:	

EXHIBIT B

Signature Page (include with your proposal)

Standard Terms and Conditions

SIGNATURE PAGE

**CITY OF TACOMA
POWER DIVISION**

All submittals must be in ink or typewritten, executed by a duly authorized officer or representative of the bidding/proposing entity, and received and time stamped as directed in Section V. Submission Requirements found on page 4 of the Request for Proposals. If the bidder/proposer is a subsidiary or doing business on behalf of another entity, so state, and provide the firm name under which business is hereby transacted.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
TP24-0307F - 2025 Short-Term Funding Products RFP - Tacoma Power**

The undersigned bidder/proposer hereby agrees to execute the proposed contract and furnish all materials, labor, tools, equipment and all other facilities and services in accordance with these specifications.

The bidder/proposer agrees, by submitting a bid/proposal under these specifications, that in the event any litigation should arise concerning the submission of bids/proposals or the award of contract under this specification, Request for Bids, Request for Proposals or Request for Qualifications, the venue of such action or litigation shall be in the Superior Court of the State of Washington, in and for the County of Pierce.

Non-Collusion Declaration

The undersigned bidder/proposer hereby certifies under penalty of perjury that this bid/proposal is genuine and not a sham or collusive bid/proposal, or made in the interests or on behalf of any person or entity not herein named; and that said bidder/proposer has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any contractor or supplier on the above work to put in a sham bid/proposal or any person or entity to refrain from submitting a bid/proposal; and that said bidder/proposer has not, in any manner, sought by collusion to secure to itself an advantage over any other contractor(s) or person(s).

Bidder/Proposer's Registered Name

Signature of Person Authorized to Enter Date
into Contracts for Bidder/Proposer

Address

Printed Name and Title

City, State, Zip

(Area Code) Telephone Number / Fax Number

Authorized Signatory E-Mail Address

State Business License Number
in WA, also known as UBI (Unified Business Identifier) Number

E.I.No. / Federal Social Security Number Used on Quarterly
Federal Tax Return, U.S. Treasury Dept. Form 941

State Contractor's License Number
(See Ch. 18.27, R.C.W.)

E-Mail Address for Communications

Addendum acknowledgement (if applicable) #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____
#5 _____

THIS PAGE MUST BE SIGNED AND RETURNED WITH SUBMITTAL.

**CITY OF TACOMA
STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS
GOVERNS BOTH GOODS AND SERVICES AS APPLICABLE**

In the event of an award by the City, these Terms and Conditions stated herein, Additional Contract Documents if issued, Solicitation if issued, Purchase Orders if issued by City, and Supplier's Submittal, if provided, shall constitute the Contract between City and Supplier for the acquisition of goods, including materials, supplies, and equipment or for the provision of services and deliverables.

Said documents represent the entire Contract between the parties and supersede any prior oral statements, discussions, or understandings between the parties, and/or subsequent Supplier invoices. No modification of the Contract shall be effective unless mutually agreed in writing.

The specific terms and conditions of any Solicitation (Specification, Request for Bids, Request for Proposals, Requests for Qualifications, Requests for Quotations, Request for Information, bid documents, request to enter into negotiations, or other form of solicitation issued by City, including any general, special, or technical provisions associated with such Solicitations) are incorporated herein by reference and supersede these Terms and Conditions where there is conflict or inconsistency.

In the event Additional Contract Documents are negotiated and agreed to in writing between Supplier and City, the specific terms of such Additional Contract Documents are incorporated herein by reference and supersede all other terms and conditions where there is conflict or inconsistency.

These Terms and Conditions, Additional Contract Documents if issued, Solicitation if issued, City purchase order if issued, are controlling over Supplier's Submittal if a Submittal is provided. Submittals if provided are incorporated herein by reference.

1.01 SUPPLIER / CONTRACTOR

As used herein, "Supplier" or "Contractor" shall be the Supplier(s) entering a Contract with City, whether designated as a Supplier, Contractor, Vendor, Proposer, Bidder, Respondent, Seller, Merchant, Service Provider, or otherwise.

1.02 SUBMITTAL

Submittal means Bids, Proposals, Quotes, Qualifications or other information, content, records or documents submitted in response to a City Solicitation.

1.03 FORMS OF SUBMITTAL

Unless stated otherwise, all submittals must be in SAP Ariba and submitted exactly as specified or directed, and all required forms must be used.

1.04 COSTS TO PREPARE SUBMITTAL

The City is not liable for any costs incurred by Supplier for the preparation of materials or a Submittal provided in response to a solicitation, conducting presentations to the City, or any other activities related to responding to the City's Solicitation.

1.05 LICENSES/PERMITS

- A. Suppliers, if applicable, must have a Washington state business license at the time of Submittal and throughout the term of the Contract. Failure to include a Washington state business license may be grounds for rejection of the Submittal or cancellation of contract award. Information regarding Washington state business licenses may be obtained at <http://bls.dor.wa.gov>.
- B. Upon award, it is the responsibility of the Supplier to register with the City of Tacoma's Tax and License Division, 733 South Market Street, Room 21, Tacoma, WA 98402-3768, 253-591-5252, https://www.cityoftacoma.org/government/city_departments/finance/tax_and_license/. Supplier shall obtain a business license as is required by Tacoma Municipal Code Subtitle 6C.20.
- C. During the term of the Contract, Supplier, at its expense, shall obtain and keep in force any and all necessary licenses and permits.

1.06 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE: PROPRIETARY OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

- A. Supplier Submittals, all documents and records comprising the Contract, and all other documents and records provided to the City by Supplier are deemed public records subject to disclosure under the Washington State Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW (Public Records Act). Thus, City may be required, upon request, to disclose the Contract and documents or records related to it unless an exemption under the Public Records Act or other laws applies. In the event CITY receives a request for such disclosure, determines in its legal judgment that no applicable exemption to disclosure applies, and Supplier has complied with the requirements to mark records considered confidential or proprietary as such requirements are stated below, City agrees to provide Supplier 10 days written notice of impending release. Should legal action thereafter be initiated by Supplier to enjoin or otherwise prevent such release, all expense of any such litigation shall be borne by Supplier, including any damages, attorneys' fees or costs awarded by reason of having opposed disclosure. City shall not be liable for any release where notice was provided and Supplier took no action to oppose the release of information.
- B. If Supplier provides City with records or information that Supplier considers confidential or proprietary, Supplier must mark all applicable pages or sections of said record(s) as "Confidential" or "Proprietary." Further, in the case of records or information submitted in response to a Request for Proposals, an index must be provided indicating the affected pages or sections and locations of all such material identified Confidential or Proprietary. Information not included in the required index will not be reviewed for confidentiality or as proprietary before release. If Supplier fails to so mark or index Submittals and related records, then the City, upon request, may release said record(s) without the need to satisfy the requirements of subsection A above; and Supplier expressly waives its right to allege any kind of civil action or claim against the City pertaining to the release of said record(s).
- C. Submission of materials in response to City's Solicitation shall constitute assent by Supplier to the foregoing procedure and Supplier shall have no claim against the City on account of actions taken pursuant to such procedure.

1.07 SUSTAINABILITY

- A. The City has interest in measures used by its contractors to ensure sustainable operations with minimal adverse impact on the environment. The City seeks to do business with vendors that value community and environmental stewardship that help us meet our sustainable purchasing goals.
- B. The City encourages the use of environmentally preferable products or services that help to minimize the environmental and human health impacts of City operations. Suppliers are encouraged to incorporate environmentally preferable products or services into Submittals wherever possible. "Environmentally preferable" means products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance, or disposal of the product or service.
- C. Environmental Standards. The City seeks to ensure that all purchases comply with current environmental standards and product specifications. Where appropriate, third party independent certifiers such as Green Seal and USEPA Standards shall be a minimum specification for products to the City, unless specified otherwise herein.
- D. The City encourages the use of sustainability practices and desires any awarded Suppliers to assist in efforts to address such factors when feasible for:
 - 1. Pollutant releases
 - 2. Toxicity of materials used
 - 3. Waste generation
 - 4. Greenhouse gas emissions, including transportation of materials and services
 - 5. Recycle content
 - 6. Energy consumption
 - 7. Depletion of natural resources
 - 8. Potential impact on human health and the environment

1.08 ALTERATIONS NOT ALLOWED

Except as otherwise specifically provided in a Solicitation, Submittals that are incomplete or conditioned in any way, contain erasures, alternatives or items not called for, or not in conformity with law, may be rejected as being non-responsive. Any attempt to condition a Submittal by inserting exceptions to the Solicitation or any conditions, qualifications or additions that vary its terms may result in rejection of the Submittal. The City may reject any submittal containing a material deviation from the Solicitation.

1.09 CORRECTION OF AMBIGUITIES AND OBVIOUS ERRORS

- A. The City reserves the right to correct obvious errors in Supplier's Submittal. In this regard, if the unit price does not compute to the extended total price, the unit price shall govern.
- B. Supplier shall notify the City of Tacoma Procurement and Payables Division in writing of any ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission or other error in a Solicitation no later than five business days prior to the submittal deadline.
 - 1. For solicitations conducted in SAP Ariba, Supplier shall notify the City of Tacoma Procurement and Payables Division on the message board of the event.
 - 2. For all other solicitations, Supplier shall notify the contract person listed in the Solicitation.
- C. The City will make necessary modifications by addendum.
- D. Supplier is responsible for identifying ambiguities, conflicts, discrepancies, omissions or other errors in the Solicitation prior to providing its Submittal or the ambiguity, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other error is waived. Any Submittal that includes assumed clarifications and/or corrections without the required authentication of the same is subject to rejection.

1.10 WARRANTIES/GUARANTEE

- A. Suppliers warrant that all items, including services, as applicable:
 - 1. Are merchantable.
 - 2. Comply with the City's latest drawings and specifications.
 - 3. Are fit for the City's intended use.
 - 4. Will be performed according to the skill and care required by customarily accepted good practices and procedures followed by service providers rendering the same or similar type of service.
 - 5. Are new and unused unless otherwise stated.
 - 6. Comply with all applicable safety and health standards established for such products by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) and/or Consumer Products Safety Act (CPSA), and all other applicable state and federal laws or agency regulations.
 - 7. Are properly packaged and contain appropriate instructions or warnings, including applicable MSDS sheets.

1.11 PATENTS, TRADEMARKS AND COPYRIGHTS

Suppliers warrant that equipment and/or materials furnished, including software, do not infringe on any patent, trademark or copyright, and agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless, the City in the event of any infringement or claim thereof.

1.12 DELIVERY OF SUBMITTALS TO THE CITY'S PROCUREMENT AND PAYABLES DIVISION

- A. Submittal packages must be received by the City's Procurement and Payables Division in SAP Ariba (unless another form of delivery is stated), prior to the scheduled time and date stated in the Solicitation.
- B. Supplier is solely responsible for timely delivery of its Submittal.
- C. Submittals received after the time stated in the solicitation will not be accepted.
- D. For purposes of determining whether a Submittal has been timely received in SAP Ariba, the City's Procurement and Payables Division will rely on the submittal clock in SAP Ariba.

1.13 SUBMITTAL IS NON-COLLUSIVE

Supplier acknowledges that by its delivery of a Submittal to the City in response to a Solicitation, it represents that the prices in such Submittal are neither directly nor indirectly the result of any formal or informal agreement with another Supplier.

1.14 PARTNERSHIPS

The City will allow firms to partner in order to respond to a Solicitation. Multiple suppliers may team under a Prime Supplier's Submittal in order to provide responses to all sections in a single submission; however, each Supplier's participation must be clearly delineated by section. The Prime Supplier will be considered the responding vendor and the responsible party at contract award. All contract negotiations will be conducted only with the Prime Supplier. All contract payments will be made only to the Prime Supplier. Any agreements between the Prime Supplier and other companies will not be a part of the Contract between the City and the Prime Supplier. The City reserves the right to select more than one Prime Supplier.

1.15 WITHDRAWAL OF SUBMITTALS

- A. Prior to Submittal Deadline. Submittals may be withdrawn (including in SAP Ariba) prior to the scheduled submittal deadline.
- B. After Submittal Deadline. No Submittal can be withdrawn after having been opened before the actual award of the contract, unless the award is delayed more than 90 calendar days beyond the date of opening. If a delay of more than 90 calendar days does occur, Supplier must submit written notice to the City purchasing manager that Supplier is withdrawing its submittal.

1.16 ACCEPTANCE OF SUBMITTALS

- A. If the solicitation announcement so states, submittals, unless previously withdrawn, will be read aloud, irrespective of any irregularities or informalities in such submittal, at the time and place specified in the solicitation announcement.
- B. All submittals must remain open for acceptance by the City for a period of at least 90 calendar days from the submittal deadline.

1.17 RIGHT TO REJECT

- A. The City of Tacoma reserves the right to reject any and all submittals, waive minor deviations or informalities, supplement, amend, reduce or otherwise modify the scope of work or cancel the solicitation, and if necessary, call for new submittals.

1.18 RESERVED RIGHTS

- A. By providing a submittal in response to a City solicitation, Supplier acknowledges and consents to the below City rights and conditions. With regard to this procurement process, the City reserves, holds without limitation, and may exercise, at its sole discretion, the following rights and conditions:
 - 1. To terminate the procurement process or decide not to award a contract as a result thereof by written notice to the Suppliers for any reason whatsoever with or without substitution of another solicitation.
 - 2. To waive any defect, technicality, or any other minor informality or irregularity in any submittal, or any other response from Suppliers.
 - 3. To issue addenda for any purpose including:
 - a. To make minor or major changes or alterations to the evaluation, selection and/or performance schedule(s) for any events associated with a procurement.
 - b. To supplement, amend, reduce, cancel, or otherwise modify a Solicitation, including but not limited to modifications to the description of services and/or products contained in the solicitation, by omitting services/products and/or including services/products.
 - 4. To request clarifications, additional information, and/or revised Submittals from one or more Suppliers.
 - 5. To conduct investigations with respect to the qualifications and experience of Supplier(s), including inspection of facilities and to request additional evidence to support any such information.

6. To eliminate any Supplier that submits an incomplete or inadequate response, or is non-responsive to the requirements of a Solicitation, or is otherwise deemed to be unqualified during any stage of the procurement process.
7. To select and interview a single finalist or multiple finalists to further the City's evaluation of Submittals provided in response to a Solicitation. The City may, in its sole and exclusive discretion as to what is in the City's best interest, elect not to conduct interviews of any or all Suppliers in connection with a solicitation process.
8. Except in the case of Requests for Bids, to negotiate any rate/fee offered by a Supplier. The City shall have the sole right to make the final rate/fee offer during contract negotiations. If the selected Supplier does not accept the City's final offer, the City may, in its sole discretion discontinue contract negotiations and commence negotiations with another Supplier, except as otherwise provided in Chapter 39.80, RCW.
9. To select and enter into a Contract with one or more Suppliers whose Submittal best satisfies the interests of the City and is most responsive, in the sole judgment of the City, to the requirements of a Solicitation.
10. To award by line item or group of line items.
11. To not award one or more items.
12. To issue additional or subsequent solicitations.
13. To seek partnerships between one or more Suppliers.
14. Request additional related products and services from the selected Supplier(s) as necessary throughout the term of the Contract.
15. Negotiate costs or fees in the event of new legislation or regulatory changes, or issuance of related compliance guidance, technology enhancements, and innovative solutions.
16. In the event the City receives questions concerning a Solicitation from one or more Suppliers prior to the deadline for response, the City reserves the right to provide such questions, and the City's responses, if any, to all Suppliers.
17. If an award is made and, prior to entering into a contract, subsequent information indicates that such award is not in the best interest of the City, the City may rescind the award without prior notice to Supplier and either award to another Supplier or reject all submittals or cancel this solicitation.
18. To cancel award of a contract at any time before execution of the Contract by both parties if cancellation is deemed to be in the City's best interest. In providing a submittal, Suppliers agree that the City is not liable for any costs or damages for the cancellation of an award. Supplier assumes the sole risk and responsibility for all expenses connected with the preparation of its submittal.
19. To add additional City departments or divisions to the Contract or develop a separate Contract with the Supplier subject to all terms, conditions and pricing of the original Contract
20. To take any other action affecting a Solicitation or a procurement process that is determined to be in the City's best interests.

1.19 SUBMITTAL CLARIFICATION

Suppliers may be asked to clarify their Submittal. This action shall not be construed as negotiations or any indication of intentions to award. If called upon, Supplier must respond to such requests within two business days or the timeframe set forth by the City in its request for clarification. Supplier's failure to respond to such a request may result in rejection of its Submittal.

1.20 EVALUATION OF SUBMITTALS

- A. The City of Tacoma reserves the right to award to the lowest and best responsible Supplier(s) delivering a Submittal in compliance with the Solicitation, provided such Submittals are reasonable and are in the best interest of the City to accept. The City may use a number of criteria for determining award, including evaluation factors set forth in Municipal Code Section 1.06.262. Suppliers who are inexperienced or who fail to properly perform other contracts may have their submittal rejected for such cause.

1. Evaluation Factors. In addition to the factors set forth in Municipal Code Section 1.06.262, the following may be used by the City in determining the lowest and best responsible Submittal:
 - a. Compliance with a Solicitation and with applicable City requirements, including by not limited to, the City's Ethics Code and its Small Business Enterprise and Local Employment and Apprenticeship programs.
 - b. Submittal prices, listed separately if requested, as well as a lump sum total (if the unit price does not compute to the extended total price, the unit price shall govern).
 - c. The total cost to the City, including all applicable taxes, may be the basis for contract award.
 - d. Time of delivery and/or completion of performance (delivery date(s) offered).
 - e. Warranty terms.
 - f. Quality of performance of previous contracts or services, including safety requirements and past compliance with the City's Ethics Code.
 - g. Previous and existing compliance with laws and ordinances relating to contracts or services.
 - h. Sufficiency of financial resources.
 - i. Quality, availability, and adaptability of the supplies or services to the particular use required.
 - j. Ability to provide future maintenance and service on a timely basis.
 - k. Location of nearest factory authorized warranty repair facility or parts dealership.
 - l. Ability, capacity, experience, stability, reputation, integrity, character, judgment, technical qualifications, and skill to perform the contract or provide the services required.
2. Prompt Payment Discount. Payment discount periods of 20 calendar days or more, if offered in the submittal, will be considered in determining the apparent lowest responsible submittal. Discounts will be analyzed in context of their overall cumulative effect.
 - a. ePayable/Credit Card Acceptance. Submittals offering ePayable/Credit card acceptance may be compared against submittals offering a prompt payment discount to evaluate the overall cumulative effect of the discount against the advantage to the City of the ePayable/Credit card acceptance, and may be considered in determining the apparent lowest responsible submittal.
3. All other elements or factors, whether or not specifically provided for in a Solicitation, which would affect the final cost to, and the benefits to be derived by, the City, may be considered in determining the award of a Contract. The final award decision will be based on the best interests of the City.

1.21 CONTRACT OBLIGATION

- A. The Submittal contents of the successful Supplier will become contractual obligations if a Contract ensues.
- B. In the event the City of Tacoma determines to award a Contract, the selected Supplier(s) may be requested to execute Additional Contract Documents.
- C. Supplier shall register with the City of Tacoma on the SAP Ariba Network and be enabled for transactions upon request by the City.
- D. Suppliers may propose amendments to City's Contract documents or to these Terms and Conditions, but the City retains the right to accept or reject proposed amendments.
- E. No costs chargeable for work under the proposed Contract may be incurred before mutual acceptance and execution as directed.

1.22 AWARD

The City reserves the right to award Contracts for any or all items to one or more Suppliers in the best interests of the City.

1.23 SUPPLIER'S REFUSAL TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT

Any Supplier who refuses to enter into a Contract after it has been awarded to the Supplier will be in breach of the agreement to enter the Contract, and Supplier's certified or cashier's check or bid bond, if any, shall be forfeited.

1.24 LEGAL HOLIDAYS

- A. The City of Tacoma observes the following holidays, which shall apply to performance of all contracts:

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King's Birthday	3rd Monday in January

Washington's Birthday	3rd Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	1st Monday in September
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	4th Thursday of November
Day after Thanksgiving	4th Friday of November
Christmas Day	December 25

- B. When any of these holidays occur on Saturday or Sunday, the preceding Friday or the following Monday, respectively, is a legal holiday for the City of Tacoma.

1.25 CONTRACT TERM

All services shall be satisfactorily completed and all deliverables provided by the termination date stated, and the Contract shall expire on said date unless mutually extended in writing by the parties.

1.26 EXTENSION OF CONTRACT

Contracts shall be subject to extension at City's sole discretion.

1.27 TERMINATION AND SUSPENSION

- A. Supplies. The City reserves the right to terminate a Contract at any time upon prior written notice to Supplier. Upon the effective date of termination specified in such notice, and payment by the City, all conforming supplies, materials, or equipment previously furnished hereunder shall become its property.
- B. Services. The City may terminate a Contract at any time, with or without cause, by giving 10 business days written notice to Supplier. In the event of termination, all finished and unfinished work prepared by Supplier pursuant to the Contract shall be provided to the City. In the event City terminates the Contract due to the City's own reasons and without cause due to Supplier's actions or omissions, the City shall pay Supplier the amount due for actual work and services necessarily performed under the Contract up to the effective date of termination, not to exceed the total compensation set forth in the Contract.
- C. Suspension. For either services or supplies, the City may suspend a Contract, at its sole discretion, upon three business days' written notice to Supplier. Such notice shall indicate the anticipated period of suspension. Any reimbursement for expenses incurred due to the suspension shall be limited to Supplier's actual expenses and shall be subject to verification. Supplier shall resume performance of services under the Contract without delay when the suspension period ends.
- D. Termination or suspension of a Contract by City shall not constitute a waiver of any claims or remaining rights the City may have against Supplier relative to performance under a Contract.

1.28 DEFAULT/BREACH

In the event of material default or breach by Supplier on any of the conditions of a Contract, Supplier agrees that the City may, at its election, procure the goods or services from other sources, and may deduct from the unpaid balance due Supplier, or collect against the bond or security (if any), or may invoice and recover from Supplier all costs paid in excess of the price(s) set forth in the Contract.

- A. Supplies. The City at any time by written change order or other form of written contract amendment may make reasonable changes in the place of delivery, installation, or inspection, the method of shipment or packing, identification and ancillary matters that Supplier may accommodate without substantial additional expense.
- B. Services. The City shall have the right to make changes within the general scope of services and/or deliverables upon execution in writing of a change order or other written form of contract amendment. If the changes will result in additional work effort by Supplier the City agrees to reasonably compensate Supplier for such additional effort up to the maximum amount specified in the Contract or as otherwise provided by Tacoma Municipal Code. Any new services accepted by the City may be added to the Contract and/or substituted for discontinued services. New services shall meet or exceed all requirements of original award.
- C. Expansion Clause. A Contract may be further expanded in writing to include other related services or products normally offered by Supplier, as long as the price of such additional services or products have a profit margin equal to or less than that in place at the time of original submittal. Such additions and prices will be established in writing. New items not meeting these criteria will not be added to the Contract. Supplier profit margins are not to increase as a result any such expansion.

1.29 SCOPE OF SERVICES

Supplier agrees to diligently and completely perform the services required by a Contract.

1.30 SERVICES DO NOT INCLUDE PUBLIC WORK

Unless otherwise stated, the services and/or work contracted for herein exclude public work and improvements as defined in RCW 39.04, as that statute may hereafter be amended.

1.31 PREVAILING WAGES

- A. If federal, state, local, or any applicable law requires Supplier to pay prevailing wages in connection with a Contract, and Supplier is so notified by the City, then Supplier shall pay applicable prevailing wages.
- B. If applicable, a Schedule of Prevailing Wage Rates for the locality or localities where the Contract will be performed is attached and made of part of the Contract by this reference. If prevailing wages do apply to the Contract, Supplier and its subcontractors shall:
 - 1. Be bound by the provisions of Chapter 39.12 RCW, as amended, relating to prevailing wages and usual fringe benefits,
 - 2. Ensure that no worker, laborer or mechanic employed in the performance of any part of the Contract shall be paid less than the prevailing rate of wage specified on that Schedule, and
 - 3. Immediately upon award of the Contract, contact the Department of Labor and Industries, Prevailing Wages section, Olympia, Washington, to obtain full information, forms and procedures relating to these matters. Per such procedures, a Statement of Intent to Pay Prevailing Wages must be submitted by Contractor and its subcontractors to the City, in the manner requested by the City, prior to any payment by the City hereunder, and an Affidavit of Wages Paid must be received or verified by the City prior to final Contract payment.

1.32 CONTRACT PRICING

- A. Submitted prices shall include costs of submittal preparation, servicing of the account, all contractual requirements during contract period such as transportation, permits, insurance costs, bonds, labor, wages, materials, tools, components, equipment, and appurtenances necessary to complete the work, which shall conform to the best practice known to the trade in design, quality, material, and workmanship.
- B. Surcharges of any type will not be paid.
- C. If applicable, related additional products and corresponding services of benefit to the City not specifically required in a solicitation, but which Supplier offers to provide, may be included with the submittal. Supplier may request to add new products if the City approves them and Supplier can demonstrate the pricing is from the same pricing structure/profit margin.
- D. Unless specifically stated otherwise, only firm prices will be accepted and all prices shall remain firm during the term of a Contract.
- E. Price increases may at City's discretion be passed along during a contract period if the increase is mandated by statute, or the result of a tariff.
- F. By submitting prices, Supplier warrants prices equal to or better than the equivalent prices, terms, and benefits offered by Supplier to any other government unit or commercial customer.
- G. Should Supplier, during the term of a Contract, enter into any other contract, agreement or arrangement that provides lower prices, more favorable terms or greater benefits to any other government unit or commercial customer, the Contract with the City shall thereupon be deemed amended to provide the same price or prices, terms and benefits to the City. This provision applies to comparable products and purchase volumes by the City that are not less than the purchase volumes of the government unit or commercial customer that has received the lower prices, greater benefits, or more favorable terms.
- H. If at any time during the term of the Contract, Supplier reduces prices to other buyers purchasing approximately the same quantities stated on the Contract, Supplier will immediately notify the City purchasing manager of such fact, and the price(s) for future orders under the Contract shall be reduced accordingly.
- I. The City is entitled to any promotional pricing during the Contract period.
- J. Price decreases shall be immediately passed on to the City.

- K. The City reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantities of any item awarded pursuant to the Contract and pay according to the unit prices quoted in the submittal with no adjustments for anticipated profit.

1.33 APPROVED EQUALS WHEN ALTERNATES ARE ALLOWED

- A. Unless an item is indicated as "no substitute," special brands, when named, are intended to describe the standard of quality, performance, or use desired. Equal items will be considered by the City, provided that Supplier specifies the brand and model, and provides all descriptive literature, independent test results, specification sheets, schematic drawings, photographs, product samples, local servicing, parts availability, etc., to enable the City to evaluate the proposed equal. Performance testing in the field may be required.
- B. The decision of the City as to what items are equal shall be final and conclusive. If the City elects to purchase a brand represented by Supplier to be an "equal," the City's acceptance of the item is conditioned on the City's inspection and testing after receipt. If, in the sole judgment of the City, the item is determined not to be an equal, the item shall be returned at Supplier's expense.
- C. When a brand name or level of quality is not stated in Supplier's submittal, it is understood Supplier's submittal shall exactly confirm with those required in the Contract. If more than one brand name is stated in a Solicitation, Supplier(s) must indicate the brand and model/part number to be supplied.

1.34 RISK OF LOSS, SHIPPING AND DELIVERY

- A. Shipping. Prices must be quoted FOB destination (the place of destination as defined in RCW 62A.2-319, as that statute may hereafter be amended), with freight prepaid and allowed (shipping costs included in unit prices), and risk of loss remaining with Supplier until delivery is tendered.
- B. Delivery. Delivery will be to the designated addresses set forth in a Solicitation or as otherwise stated in the Contract. Deliveries shall be between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday only, except Legal Holidays. Failure to make timely delivery shall be cause for termination of the contract or order and return of all or part of the items at Supplier's expense except in the case of force majeure.

1.35 DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS AND PROVISION OF SERVICES – IDLING PROHIBITED

- A. The City of Tacoma has a commitment to reduction of unnecessary fuel emissions and improving air quality by reducing unnecessary air pollution from idling vehicles. Limiting car and truck idling supports cleaner air, healthier work environments, the efficient use of city resources, the public's enjoyment of City properties and programs, conservation of natural resources, and good stewardship practices.
- B. Vehicles and/or diesel fuel trucks shall not idle at the time and location of the delivery to the City of Tacoma for more than three minutes. The City requires contractors to utilize practices that reduce fuel consumption and emission discharge, including turning off trucks and vehicles during delivery of products to the City. Exceptions to this requirement include when associated power is necessary to make a delivery or provide the service, when the engine is used to provide power to another device, and when a running engine is required for proper warm-up and cool-down of the engine.

1.36 PACKING SLIPS AND INVOICES

- A. Each invoice shall show City of Tacoma purchase order number, release number if applicable, quantity, unit of measure, item description, unit price and extended price for each line if applicable, services and deliverables provided if applicable. Line totals shall be summed to give a grand total to which sales tax shall be added, if applicable.
 - 1. For transactions conducted in SAP Ariba, invoices shall be submitted through Ariba.
 - 2. For invoices paid by ACH or by check, unless stated otherwise, invoices shall be electronically submitted by email with corresponding PO number listed in the subject line to accountspayable@cityoftacoma.org.
 - 3. For invoices paid by credit card, invoices shall also display the last name of the cardholder and last four digits (only) of the card number (e.g., Jones/6311). Unless stated otherwise, invoices shall be electronically submitted by email with corresponding PO number listed in the subject line to (do not combine different POs into one invoice or charge) to pcardadmin@cityoftacoma.org.
- B. Any terms, provisions or language in Supplier's invoice(s) that conflict with the terms of the Contract are superseded and shall not apply to the Contract unless expressly accepted in writing by the City.
- C. Packing slips and shipping notices shall be sent to the specific City Division or Department receiving the item(s) at the address stated in City's Solicitation or as otherwise stated in the Contract and include

complete description of items, contents of items if crated or cased, quantity, shipping point, carrier, bill of lading number and City of Tacoma purchase order.

- D. Supplier shall package orders, preferably in environmental friendly packaging such as reduced packaging and recyclable packing materials.

1.37 COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

The Washington State Interlocal Cooperation Act RCW 39.34 provides that other governmental agencies may purchase goods and services based on the Contract with the City in accordance with the terms and prices of the Contract if all parties are agreeable. Each public agency shall formulate a separate contract with Supplier, incorporating the terms and conditions of the Contract with the City of Tacoma. The City shall incur no liability in connection with such contracts or purchases by other public agencies thereunder. It will be Supplier's responsibility to inform such public agencies of the Contract with the City. Supplier shall invoice such public agencies as separate entities.

1.38 TAXES

- A. Unless otherwise stated, applicable federal, state, City, and local taxes shall be included in the submittal and in contract as indicated below. As used herein, the term "taxes" shall include any and all taxes, assessments, fees, charges, interest, penalties, and/or fines imposed by applicable laws and regulations in connection with the procurement of goods and/or services hereunder.
 - 1. Federal Excise Tax. The City of Tacoma is exempt from federal excise tax. The City will furnish a Federal Excise Tax Exemption certificate, if required. If Supplier fails to include any applicable tax in its submittal, then Supplier shall be solely responsible for the payment of said tax.
 - 2. State and Local Sales Tax. The City of Tacoma is subject to Washington state sales tax. It is Supplier's obligation to state the correct sales tax percentage and include the applicable Washington state, city and local sales tax as a separate line item(s) in the submittal.
 - 3. City of Tacoma Business and Occupation Tax. It is Supplier's obligation to include City of Tacoma Business and Occupation tax in the unit and/or lump sum prices submitted; it shall not be shown separately on the submittal. Per Sub-Title 6A of the City of Tacoma Municipal Code, transactions with the City of Tacoma may be subject to the City's Business and Occupation Tax.
- B. Any or All Other Taxes. Any or all other taxes are the responsibility of Supplier unless otherwise required by law. Except for state sales tax, Supplier acknowledges that it is responsible for the payment of all taxes applicable to the Contract and Supplier agrees to comply with all applicable laws regarding the reporting of income, maintenance of records, and all other requirements and obligations imposed pursuant to applicable law.
- C. If the City is assessed, made liable, or responsible in any manner for taxes contrary to the provisions of the Contract, Supplier agrees to hold the City harmless from such costs, including attorney's fees. In the event Supplier fails to pay any taxes, assessments, penalties, or fees imposed by any governmental body, including a court of law, other than those taxes the City is required to pay, then Supplier authorizes the City to deduct and withhold or pay over to the appropriate governmental body those unpaid amounts upon demand by the governmental body. It is agreed that this provision shall apply to taxes and fees imposed by City ordinance. Any such payments shall be deducted from Supplier's total compensation.

1.39 COMPENSATION

- A. The City shall compensate Supplier in accordance with the Contract. Said compensation shall be the total compensation for Supplier's performance hereunder including, but not limited to, all work, services, deliverables, materials, supplies, equipment, subcontractor's fees and all reimbursable travel and miscellaneous or incidental expenses to be incurred by Supplier. Unless stated otherwise the total stated compensation may not be changed without a written change order or other form of contract amendment.
- B. Payment(s) made in accordance with the Contract shall fully compensate Supplier for all risk, loss, damages or expense of whatever nature, and acceptance of payment shall constitute a waiver of all claims submitted by Supplier.

1.40 PAYMENT TERMS

- A. Payment shall be made through the City's ordinary payment process, and shall be considered timely if made within 30 days of receipt of a properly completed invoice. All payments shall be subject to adjustment for any amounts, upon audit or otherwise, determined to have been improperly invoiced.

The City may withhold payment to Supplier for any services or deliverables not performed as required hereunder until such time as Supplier modifies such services or deliverables to the satisfaction of the City.

- B. Invoices will not be processed for payment, nor will the period of cash discount commence, until all invoiced items are received and satisfactory performance of the Contract has been attained. Upon CITY'S request, Supplier shall submit necessary and appropriate documentation, as determined by the CITY, for all invoiced services and deliverables. If an adjustment in payment is necessary due to damage or dispute, the cash discount period shall commence on the date final approval for payment is authorized.

1.41 PAYMENT METHOD – EPAYABLES – CREDIT CARD ACCEPTANCE – EFT/ACH ACCEPTANCE

A. Payment methods include:

- 1. EPayables (Payment Plus). This is payment made via a virtual, single use VISA card number provided by the City's commercial card provider. Suppliers accepting this option will receive "due immediately" payment terms. Two options for acceptance are available to suppliers. Both are accompanied by an emailed advice containing complete payment details:
 - a. Straight-through processing (buyer initiated). Immediate, exact payments directly deposited to supplier accounts by the City's provider bank; the supplier does not need to know card account details.
 - b. Supplier retrieves card account through the secure, on-line portal provided via email notifications sent by the City's commercial card provider.
- 2. Credit card. Tacoma's VISA procurement card program is supported by standard bank credit suppliers and requires that merchants abide by the VISA merchant operating rules. It provides "due immediately" payment terms.
 - a. Suppliers must be PCI-DSS compliant (secure credit card data management) and federal FACTA (sensitive card data display) compliant.
 - b. Suppliers must be set up by their card processing equipment provider (merchant acquirer) as a minimum of a Level II merchant with the ability to pass along tax, shipping and merchant references information.
- 3. Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) by Automated Clearing House (ACH). Standard terms are net 30 for this payment method.
- 4. Check or other cash equivalent. Standard terms are net 30 for this payment method.

B. The City's preferred method of payment is by ePayables (Payment Plus) followed by credit card (aka procurement card). Suppliers may be required to have the capability of accepting the City's ePayables or credit card methods of payment. **The City of Tacoma will not accept price changes or pay additional fees when ePayables (Payment Plus) or credit card is used.**

C. The City, in its sole discretion, will determine the method of payment for goods and/or services as part of the Contract.

1.42 NOTICES

Unless otherwise specified, except for routine operational communications, which may be delivered personally or transmitted by electronic mail, all notices required by the Contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given if delivered personally or mailed first-class mail, postage prepaid, to Supplier's registered agent and to the applicable City department representative.

1.43 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS

A. Supplier is considered an independent contractor who shall at all times perform his/her duties and responsibilities and carry out all services as an independent contractor and shall never represent or construe his/her status to be that of an agent or employee of the City, nor shall Supplier be eligible for any employee benefits. No payroll or employment taxes or contributions of any kind shall be withheld or paid by the City with respect to payments to Supplier. Supplier shall be solely responsible for all said payroll or employment taxes and/or contributions including, but not limited to, FICA, FUTA, federal income tax, state personal income tax, state disability insurance tax and state unemployment insurance tax. If the City is assessed, made liable or responsible in any manner for such taxes or contributions, Supplier agrees to indemnify and hold the City harmless from all costs incurred, including attorney fees.

- B. Unless otherwise specified in writing, Supplier shall provide at its sole expense all materials, working space, and other necessities and instruments to perform its duties under the Contract. Supplier, at its sole expense, shall obtain and keep in force any and all applicable licenses, permits and tax certificates necessary to perform the Contract.

1.44 NONDISCRIMINATION

Supplier agrees to take all steps necessary to comply with all federal, state, and City laws and policies regarding non-discrimination and equal employment opportunities. Supplier shall not discriminate in any employment action because of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical handicap. In the event of non-compliance by Supplier with any of the non-discrimination provisions of the Contract, the City shall be deemed to have cause to terminate the Contract, in whole or in part.

1.45 FEDERAL, STATE, AND MUNICIPAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Supplier shall comply with all federal, state, municipal, and/or local laws and regulations in the performance of all terms and conditions of the Contract. Supplier shall be solely responsible for all violations of the law from any cause in connection with its performance of work under the Contract.

1.46 FEDERAL AID PROJECTS

The City of Tacoma in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, part 21, nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises as defined at 49 CFR, part 26, will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex in consideration for an award.

1.47 REPORTS, RIGHT TO AUDIT, PERSONNEL

- A. Reports. Supplier shall, at such times and in such form as the City may reasonably require, furnish the City with periodic status reports pertaining to the services undertaken or goods provided pursuant to the Contract.
- B. Right to Audit. Upon City's request, Supplier shall make available to City all accounts, records and documents related to the scope of work for City's inspection, auditing, or evaluation during normal business hours as reasonably needed by City to assess performance, compliance and/or quality assurance under the Contract or in satisfaction of City's public disclosure obligations as applicable.
- C. Personnel. If before, during, or after the execution of a Contract, Supplier has represented or represents to the City that certain personnel would or will be responsible for performing services pursuant to the Contract, then Supplier is obligated to ensure that said personnel perform said Contract services to the maximum extent permitted by law. Substantial organizational or personnel changes within Supplier's firm are expected to be communicated to City immediately. Failure to do so could result in termination of the Contract. This provision shall only be waived by written authorization by the City, and on a case-by-case basis.

1.48 INSURANCE

- A. During the course and performance of a Contract, Supplier will provide proof and maintain the insurance coverage in the amounts and in the manner specified in the City of Tacoma Insurance Requirements as is applicable to the services, products, and deliverables provided under the Contract. The City of Tacoma Insurance Requirements document, if issued, is fully incorporated into the Contract by reference.
- B. Failure by City to identify a deficiency in the insurance documentation provided by Contractor or failure of City to demand verification of coverage or compliance by Contractor with these insurance requirements shall not be construed as a waiver of Contractor's obligation to maintain such insurance.

1.49 INDEMNIFICATION – HOLD HARMLESS

- A. Supplier agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City of Tacoma, its officers, agents and employees, from and against any and all liability which may accrue to or be sustained by the City of Tacoma for any claim, suit or legal action made or brought against the City for the death of or injury to persons (including Supplier's or subcontractor's employees), or damage to property involving Supplier or subcontractor(s) and their employees or agents, or for any other cause arising out of and in

connection with or incident to the performance of the Contract, except for injuries or damages caused by the sole negligence of the City. In this regard, Supplier recognizes it is waiving immunity under Industrial Insurance Law, Title 51 RCW. This indemnification includes attorney's fees and the cost of establishing the right to indemnification hereunder in favor of the City of Tacoma. By Supplier's acceptance of this order, he/she agrees that this subsection has been mutually negotiated.

B. These indemnifications shall survive the termination of a Contract.

1.50 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officer, employee, or agent of the City, nor any member of the immediate family of any such officer, employee or agent as defined by City ordinance, shall have any personal financial interest, direct or indirect, in a Contract, either in fact or in appearance. Supplier shall comply with all federal, state, and City conflict of interest laws, statutes, and regulations. Supplier represents that Supplier presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, in the program to which the Contract pertains that would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of Supplier's services and obligations hereunder. Supplier further covenants that, in performance of a Contract, no person having any such interest shall be employed. Supplier also agrees that its violation of the City's Code of Ethics contained in Chapter 1.46 of the Tacoma Municipal Code shall constitute a breach of Contract subjecting the Contract to termination.

1.51 CITY OWNERSHIP OF WORK/RIGHTS IN DATA/PUBLICATIONS

A. To the extent that Supplier creates any work subject to the protections of the Copyright Act (Title 17 U.S.C.) in its performance of a Contract, Supplier agrees to the following: The work has been specially ordered and commissioned by the City. Supplier agrees that the work is a "work made for hire" for copyright purposes, with all copyrights in the work owned by City. To the extent that the work does not qualify as a work made for hire under applicable law, and to the extent that the work includes material subject to copyright, Supplier hereby assigns to City, its successors and assigns, all right, title and interest in and to the work, including but not limited to, all copyrights, patent, trade secret and other proprietary rights, and all rights, title and interest in and to any inventions and designs embodied in the work or developed during the course of Supplier's creation of the work.

B. Supplier shall be solely responsible for obtaining releases and/or licenses for the reproduction, distribution, creation of derivative works, performance, display, or other use of copyrighted materials. Should Supplier fail to obtain said releases and/or licenses, Supplier shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City for any claim resulting there from.

1.52 DUTY OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Supplier acknowledges that unauthorized disclosure of information or documentation concerning the Scope of Work hereunder may cause substantial economic loss or harm to the City. Except for disclosure of information and documents to Supplier's employees, agents, or subcontractors who have a substantial need to know such information in connection with Supplier's performance of obligations under the Contract, Supplier shall not without prior written authorization by the City allow the release, dissemination, distribution, sharing, or other publication or disclosure of information or documentation obtained, discovered, shared or produced pursuant to a Contract.

1.53 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event of a dispute pertaining to a Contract, the parties agree to attempt to negotiate in good faith an acceptable resolution. If a resolution cannot be negotiated, then the parties agree to submit the dispute to voluntary non-binding mediation before pursuing other remedies. This provision does not limit the City's right to terminate.

1.54 GOVERNING LAW AND VENUE

A. Washington law shall govern the interpretation of the Contract. The state or federal courts located in Pierce County Washington shall be the sole venue of any mediation, arbitration, or litigation arising out of the Contract.

B. Respondents providing submittals from outside the legal jurisdiction of the United States of America will be subject to Tacoma's City Attorney's Office (CAO) opinion as to the viability of possible litigation pursuant to a contract resulting from this Specification. If it is the opinion of the CAO that any possible litigation would be beyond reasonable cost and/or enforcement, the submittal may be excluded from evaluation.

1.55 ASSIGNMENT

Supplier shall not assign, subcontract, delegate or transfer any obligation, interest or claim to or under the Contract without the prior written consent of the City.

1.56 WAIVER

A waiver or failure by either party to enforce any provision of the contract shall not be construed as a continuing waiver of such provisions, nor shall the same constitute a waiver of any other provision of the Contract.

1.57 SEVERABILITY AND SURVIVAL

If any term, condition or provision herein or incorporated by reference is declared void or unenforceable or limited in its application or effect, such event shall not affect any other provisions hereof and all other provisions shall remain fully enforceable. The provisions of the Contract, which by their sense and context are reasonably intended to survive the completion, expiration or cancellation of the Contract, shall survive termination of the Contract.

1.58 NO CITY LIABILITY

Neither the City, its officials, staff, agents, employees, representatives, or consultants will be liable for any claims or damages resulting from any aspect of this procurement process.

1.59 SIGNATURES

A signed copy of Submittals, Contract documents, including but not limited to contract amendments, contract exhibits, task orders, statements of work and other such Contract related documents, delivered by email or other means of electronic transmission including by using a third party service, which service is provided primarily for the electronic execution of electronic records, shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy.