



Request for Proposal
for
Annual Audit Services -
Fiscal Years 2023/2024, 2024/2025, 2025/2026
for the San Luis Obispo County
Integrated Waste Management Authority

RFP Released:

Friday, April 26, 2024

RFP Submission Deadline:

Monday, May 27, 2024 by 12:00 PM

San Luis Obispo County IWMA
870 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805.782.8530

[W: www.iwma.com](http://www.iwma.com)

[E: jlane@iwma.com](mailto:jlane@iwma.com)

SECTION I - INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

A. Introduction

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) invites qualified certified public accounting firms to perform professional auditing services for three fiscal years, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

These audits are to be performed in accordance with the California State Controllers' minimum audit requirements for special districts, Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS) including the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133 Audit of State and Local Governments and Non-profit Organizations, as well as IWMA Policy F-9 (Appendix A).

All proposals must be received by or before **Monday, May 27, 2024 by 12:00 PM**. The preferred method for proposal submission is electronic via ilane@iwma.com. However, if you wish to submit a paper copy, please submit it in a sealed envelope to:

SLO County IWMA
Attn: Jordan L., Deputy Director
870 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Background

The IWMA is a government entity formed through a Joint Powers Agreement governed by a nine-person Board of county-wide elected officials. The IWMA Board of Directors consists of seven incorporated City Council representatives, one County representative, and one Special District representative. The Board of Directors oversees the IWMA office and its mission to provide coordinated efforts to comply with state waste and recycling policy on behalf of San Luis Obispo County member agencies through practical, cost-effective programs, education, and technical support.

The IWMA is the regional leader for all matters related to solid waste regulation. The agency administers diversion programs and prepares, maintains, adopts, and implements Integrated Waste Management Plans and other state-mandated requirements on behalf of Member Agencies. The IWMA also manages outreach and education efforts, hazardous/universal waste collection, and safe material handling on behalf of Member Agencies. The IWMA Board contracts with the Executive Director who oversees all other staff in planning and implementing regional solid waste, recycling, and hazardous waste programs.

More information about the IWMA can be found on our website, <https://www.iwma.com/>.

In compliance with the IWMA's Policy F-9, the agency is seeking a request for proposals to perform auditing services for three fiscal years: FY 2023/2024, 2024/2025, 2025/2026.

SECTION II – AUDITING STANDARDS AND BUDGET

1. Auditing Standards

These audits are to be performed in accordance with GAAS set forth for financial audits in the Government Accountability Office, the provisions of the federal Single Audit Act of 1984, and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, Audit of States, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations and IWMA Policy F-9 (Appendix A). The financial statements are to be prepared in accordance with the latest Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) pronouncements, as required.

2. Estimated Budget

The estimated budget for the annual audit shall not exceed \$32,000, inclusive of direct costs, and contingency funding. Proposals shall include an overall cost estimate broken down by staffing hours and tasks. Hourly rates shall be provided for all personnel on the project. The budget shall only be adjusted in accordance with the IWMA Board-approved budget-setting policy.

SECTION III - SCOPE OF SERVICES AND PERFORMANCE PERIOD

1. Scope of Services

The selected firm will perform annual financial and compliance audits of the IWMA's financial transactions, statements, and records in accordance with GAAS for purposes of rendering an opinion as to the fairness of the presentation of these statements. In addition, the audit shall include enhanced testing to ensure that IWMA policies and procedures are followed by IWMA management and staff.

As part of the RFP process, the IWMA will provide the selected firm:

- IWMA financial statements for FYs 2023/2024, 2024/2025, 2025/2026
- Relative IWMA Policies and Procedures

The selected firm must complete the tasks related to Basic Financial Statements:

- Perform an audit in accordance with GAAS as set forth by the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts, and in accordance with "Minimum Audit Requirements and Reporting Guidelines for California Special Districts" as required by the State Controller's Office.
- Express an opinion on the financial statements as to whether they present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the District and the changes in financial position and cash flows in conformity with GAAP and issue an independent auditors' report stating this opinion.
- Provide general consultation as required during the year on financial accounting and reporting matters.

- Test internal control over financial reporting, and compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and those issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and issue an independent auditors' report on their consideration.
- Apply enhanced testing procedures and interview management and staff to ensure the validity of procedures.
- Prepare adjusting journal entries for applicable GASB reporting requirements.
- Communicate in a letter to management any reportable conditions found during the audit. A reportable condition shall be defined as a significant deficiency in the design or operation of the internal control structure, which could adversely affect the organization's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.
- A report which identifies significant audit findings, difficulties encountered in performing the audit, identify any corrected and uncorrected misstatements, disagreements with management, management representations, control deficiencies, significant deficiencies, and material weakness, if any, and your recommendations for improvements in accounting and administrative controls.
- Immediately report any irregularities or illegal acts, including indications of such acts, to the IWMA Executive Director and the San Luis Obispo County Auditor-Controller in writing.
- At the IWMA's discretion, the auditor will provide a final presentation to the Board of Directors at the regular Board meeting following the conclusion of each audit.
- Retain audit working papers for 3 years at the auditor's expense, unless the retention period is extended by the Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector. Respond to inquiries and permit review of papers by Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector and successor audit firm regarding continuing accounting significance.
- Provide general consultation, as required, on financial reporting matters throughout the year.
- Prepare and submit State Controller's Special Districts' Financial Transaction Report pursuant to Government Code Section 53891. Prepare and submit Employee Compensation information to the State Controller's Government Compensation in California dashboard in accordance with AB 2040.
- If applicable, perform a single audit on the expenditures of federal grants in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and render the appropriate audit reports on Internal Control over Financial Reporting based upon the audit of the Authority's financial statements in accordance with government Auditing Standards.

- Provide a report of new auditing standards or reporting requirements that will impact the IWMA's accounting procedures and audit preparation for the following year.

2. Period of Performance:

The annual audit and associated tasks listed above will be performed for the following three (3) fiscal years:

- 1) July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
- 2) July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
- 3) July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

SECTION IV - TIMELINE AND SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

The following represents the tentative schedule for this RFP. Any change in the scheduled dates for the Pre-Proposal Conference, Deadline for Final Questions, Proposal Submission Deadline, or Interviews will be advertised in the form of an addendum to this RFP. The schedule for other milestones dates may be adjusted without notice.

A. Timeline

DATE - 2024	EVENT
Friday, April 26	RFP release date
Tuesday, May 14	Pre-proposal phone conference at 1:30 PM (PST)
Wednesday, May 22	Deadline to submit written questions due by 12:00 PM (PST)
Monday, May 27	Proposals due by 12:00 PM (PST)
Monday, June 3	Preliminary screening process complete, including reference checks
Wednesday, June 12	Board consideration and approval of staff recommended firm (including proposer presentation, if requested)
Wednesday, June 26	Negotiate and finalize contract
Friday, June 28	IWMA Board President signs contract (if applicable)

B. Proposal Format and Content Requirements

All proposals must include, and will be evaluated on, the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of Firm and Personnel (25%)

- Description of the firm and personnel assigned to this contract
- Authorized representative of the proposer
- Statement of qualifications and experience
- Summary of previous experience with public agencies

2. Sample Work Plan (25%)

- Detailed scope of services that reflects the firm's understanding of the IWMA's requirements.
- Based on prior experience and familiarity with Government Auditing Standards, provide a sample timeline of audit including milestones, document preparation by IWMA staff, final reporting dates, etc.
- Providing sample of past audit is preferred, but not required.

3. Local and/or State Government Client References (25%)

Provide three contracts performed by your firm that demonstrate your ability to provide the services included within the scope of specifications. Please include contact information for references and permission to contact those references. Additional professional references may be provided.

4. Budget, Retainer, and/or Rates (25%)

Include an estimate of a rate or retainer for all proposed services that would be the basis for invoices during the life of the contract with the IWMA. All hourly rates, fees, and reimbursable costs must be clearly stated. Anticipated costs per rate should be identified. Billing preferences should also be clearly stated as retainer or hourly rate.

5. Identify Existing and Potential Conflicts of Interest

List all current public clients in San Luis Obispo County for which the firm provides service. To the extent they are reasonably foreseeable, please indicate any actual or potential conflicts of interest that might arise from the firm's partnership with the IWMA. Please outline the manner in which conflicts would be resolved, mitigated, or avoided. Contractors may be dismissed from the applicant pool if conflict of interest interferes with final work product.

6. Disclosure of Litigation

Contractor must include in its Proposal a complete disclosure of any civil or criminal litigation or indictment involving the Contractor. Contractor must also disclose any civil or criminal litigation or indictment involving any of its joint ventures, strategic partners, prime Contractor team members, and subcontractors. This disclosure requirement is a continuing obligation, and any litigation commenced after a Contractor has submitted a Proposal under this RFP must be disclosed to the IWMA in writing within five (5) days after the litigation has commenced.

7. Additional Information

Include the location of the firm and the availability of appropriate professionals as needed. Identify any other related qualifications and information not specified in this RFP which the firm may consider essential and relevant to the IWMA.

C. Questions

All questions (requests for interpretations or corrections) pertaining to the content of this RFP must be made in writing to jlane@iwma.com with the email subject line of: **QUESTIONS – Annual Audit by Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 12:00 PM (PST)**. Requests submitted after said date may not be considered. Questions will receive a response within three (3) calendar days. Questions and responses will be posted (anonymously) on the IWMA website: <https://www.iwma.com/open-bids-rfps>. The IWMA reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of comments/questions that will be posted on the IWMA website.

D. Submittal Instructions

If you or your firm is interested and qualified, please submit one (1) electronic copy of your proposal, in Adobe (pdf), to jlane@iwma.com with the email subject line of:

PROPOSAL – Annual Audit, by Monday, May 27, 2024 at 12:00 PM (PST).

SECTION IV - RFP PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

A. Criteria Weight

The proposals shall be reviewed based on the criteria and scale in Section B. The goal is to contract with a firm that is qualified and cost-effective. Proposals will be ranked by IWMA staff and at least one external stakeholder. Proposals will be reviewed upon receipt and the most qualified firms may be requested to make a presentation to the IWMA Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors.

B. Final Selection

IWMA Staff will formulate its recommendation for award of the Contract and forward its selection to the Board of Directors for approval. The final contract will be signed by the IWMA Board President.

C. Contract Award and Execution

The IWMA reserves the right to enter a contract without further discussion of the submitted proposal. Therefore, the proposal should be initially submitted on the most favorable terms the proposer can offer. The IWMA reserves the right to withdraw the RFP in whole or in part, at any time and for any reason. Submission of a proposal confers no rights upon a proposer and does not obligate the IWMA in any manner. The IWMA reserves the right to award no contract and solicit additional offers later.

The contract awarded for this request will be written by the IWMA.

Each proposer, by submitting a proposal, agrees that if the IWMA accepts its proposal, such proposer will furnish all items and services upon the terms and conditions in this RFP and subsequent contract. Proposals that do not meet the mandatory requirements set forth in this RFP will not be considered. Proposers may be disqualified, and the proposal may be rejected by the IWMA for any of, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- Failure to properly respond to the Request for Proposal (RFP).
- Evidence of collusion among the proposers submitting the proposals.
- Failure to comply with the specification requirements of the RFP.

Terms, conditions, prices, methodology, or other features of the proposal may be subject to negotiation and subsequent revision. As part of the negotiations, the proposer may be required to submit additional financial information and other data to allow for a detailed evaluation of the feasibility, reasonableness, and acceptability of the proposal.

The RFP document and the successful proposal, as amended by agreement between

the IWMA and the successful proposer, including e-mail or written correspondence relative to the RFP, may become part of the contract documents. Additionally, the IWMA may verify the successful proposer's representations that appear in the proposal. Failure of the successful proposer to perform as represented may result in the elimination of the successful proposer from competition or in contract cancellation or termination.

The requirements listed in this RFP are not negotiable and will remain unchanged unless the IWMA determines that a change in such requirements is in the best interest of the IWMA.

The IWMA expressly reserves the right, in its sole judgment, to accept or reject any or all proposals, with or without cause, modify, alter, waive any technicalities or provisions, or to accept the proposal which, in its sole judgment, is determined to be the best evaluated offer resulting from negotiation and taking into consideration other evaluation factors set forth in the RFP. The successful proposer will be expected to enter a contract with the IWMA. If the successful proposer fails to sign a contract within fourteen (14) calendar days, unless the IWMA grants an extension, following the delivery of the contract documents, the IWMA may elect to negotiate a contract with the next-highest ranked proposer.

The IWMA shall not be bound, or in any way obligated, until both parties have executed a contract. The selected proposer may not incur any chargeable costs prior to final contract execution. The foregoing should not be interpreted to prohibit either party from proposing additional contract terms and conditions during the negotiation of the final Contract.

The supplies and services are to be provided in compliance with all applicable state and federal standards, rules, and regulations. The IWMA reserves the right to request additional written and/or oral information from proposers at any time before contract award, to obtain clarification of their responses.

SECTION V - GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. IWMA Rights & Options

1. All proposals must be submitted to the IWMA email address: jlane@iwma.com with the email subject line of: **PROPOSAL – Annual Audit** in Adobe (pdf) format by **Monday, May 27, 2024 at 12:00 PM (PST)**.
2. All costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals and related documentation will be borne solely by the proposer.
3. This RFP does not constitute an offer of employment or contract for services.

4. The IWMA may, in its sole and absolute discretion, accept or reject all proposals, in whole or in part, with or without cause, in response to this RFP and to make more than one award, or no award, or postpone or cancel, at any time, this RFP process, if the IWMA determines such action to be in its best interests.
5. The IWMA reserves the right to remedy technical errors, modify the published scope of services and approve or disapprove the use of all sub-consultants.
6. The issuance of this RFP does not constitute an agreement by the IWMA that any subsequent selection process will occur, or that any contract will be entered into by the IWMA. Proposals and other materials will not be returned.
7. The IWMA has the right to use any or all ideas or concepts presented in any proposal or interview without restriction and without communication to all applicants.
8. All documents submitted to the IWMA in response to this RFP will become the exclusive property of the IWMA.
9. All proposals shall remain firm for one hundred twenty (120) days, following the closing date for receipt of proposals.
10. The IWMA reserves the right to award the contract to the firm who presents the proposal which, in the judgment of the IWMA, best accomplishes the desired results.
11. The term of the contract will be for auditing services of three fiscal years starting on **July 1, 2024**. Any request by the firm to increase pricing may not exceed national or regional CPI and must align with the IWMA's budget cycle.
12. Any contract awarded pursuant to this RFP will incorporate the requirements and specifications contained in this RFP. All information presented in a proposal will be considered binding upon selection of the successful proposer, unless otherwise modified and agreed to by the IWMA during subsequent negotiations.
13. Under the provisions of the California Public Records Act (the "Act"), Government Code section 6250 et seq., all "public records" (as defined in

the Act) of a local agency, such as the IWMA, must be available for inspection and copying upon the request of any person. Under the Act, the IWMA may be obligated to provide a copy of all responses to this RFP, if such requests are made after the contract is awarded. One exception to this required disclosure is information which fits within the definition of a confidential trade secret [Government Code section 6254(k)] or contains other technical, financial, or other data whose public disclosure could cause injury to the proposer's competitive position. If any proposer believes that information contained in its response to this RFP should be protected from disclosure, the proposer MUST specifically identify the pages of the response that contains the information by properly marking the applicable pages and inserting the following notice in the front of its response:

NOTICE: *The data on pages _ of this response identified by an asterisk (*) contain technical or financial information, which are trade secrets, or information for which disclosure would result in substantial injury to the proposer's competitive position. Proposer requests that such data be used only for the evaluation of the response but understands that the disclosure will be limited to the extent the IWMA considers proper under the law. If an agreement is entered into with the proposer, the IWMA shall have the right to use or disclose the data as provided in the agreement, unless otherwise obligated by law.*

14. The IWMA will not honor any attempt by proposer to designate its entire proposal as proprietary. If there is any dispute, lawsuit, claim or demand as to whether information within the response to the RFP is protected from disclosure under the Act, proposer shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the IWMA in any action arising out of such dispute, lawsuit, claim, or demand.
15. The proposer warrants that no official or employee of the IWMA has an interest, has been employed or retained to solicit or aid in the procuring of any contract resulting from this RFP, if any, and further warrants that such person will not be employed in the performance of the contract without immediate written notice to the IWMA.
16. Firms submitting proposals shall warrant that their offer is made without any previous understanding, agreement, or connection with any person, firm or corporation submitting a separate proposal for the same service and is in all respects fair, without outside control, collusion, fraud, or otherwise illegal action. This condition shall not apply to proposals which are submitted by firms who have partnered with others to submit a cooperative

proposal that clearly identifies a primary contractor and the associated sub-contractors.

17. Proposers shall comply with all laws and regulations governing nondiscrimination in employment, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Fair Employment and Housing Act (California Government Code, § 12900, et seq.), and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder (2 California Code of Regulations, § 7285, et seq.).

Nondiscrimination: The proposer, regarding the work performed by them during the Contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color or national origin or other legally protected criteria in employment or the selection and retention of any potential subcontractors.

18. Unforeseen additional items and/or services may be required. The IWMA therefore reserves the right to negotiate with the successful proposer for additional items and/or services beyond what is described in the final contract.

B. Changes to the RFP

This RFP is posted on the IWMA's website: <https://www.iwma.com/open-bids-rfps>. Any changes, additions, or deletions to this RFP will be in the form of written addenda issued by the IWMA. Any addenda will be posted on the website. Prospective proposers must check the website for addenda or other relevant added information during the response period. The IWMA is not responsible for the failure of any prospective proposer to receive such addenda. All addenda so issued shall become a part of this RFP. Any proposer who has already submitted their proposal and desires to make corrections may remove and replace their proposal up to the date and time for which this RFP closes.

C. Communications

All communications concerning this RFP shall be directed to jlane@iwma.com with the email subject line of **Annual Audit RFP**. All other communication is not binding and shall in no way modify the RFP or the obligations of the IWMA.

After the solicitation has closed, proposers can view the RFP on the IWMA website where any available award information will be posted and updated within the solicitation. Any questions and requests for information must be addressed to jlane@iwma.com with the email subject line of: **QUESTIONS - Annual Audit RFP**.

D. Insurance

The selected proposer will be required to provide insurance coverage in the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) Commercial General Liability Insurance, and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) of Professional Liability Insurance.

INSURANCE REQUIRED	COVERAGE LIMITS
Commercial General Liability & Property Damage	\$1,000,000 Per Occurrence
Professional Liability	\$1,000,000 Per Occurrence \$2,000,000 Aggregate
Auto Liability / Property Damage / Bodily Injury	\$1,000,000 Per Occurrence
Workman's Compensation & Disability Benefits	\$1,000,000 Per Occurrence

The selected proposer shall provide, within five (5) days after the contract for services is executed by all parties, a certificate of liability insurance naming the IWMA and its employees and officers as additionally insured. This shall be maintained in full force and effect for the duration of the contract and must be in an amount and format satisfactory to the IWMA.

E. Exceptions and Deviations

Any exceptions to or deviations from the requirements set forth in this RFP must be declared in the proposal submitted by the proposer. Such exceptions or deviations must be segregated as a separate element of the proposal under the heading "Exceptions and Deviations". The IWMA may waive any immaterial deviation or defect in a proposal.

F. Award

The IWMA reserves the right to make awards within One Hundred Twenty, (120) days after the date of the RFP closing.