



DESCHUTES VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS)

Opal Springs Hydroelectric Facility FERC Relicensing Support Services

FERC License No. 5891

Issued By: Deschutes Valley Water District

Project Location: Madras, Oregon

RFP Issue Date: August 21, 2026

Proposal Due Date: October 2, 2026

Contact Person: Joel Gehrett, General Manager

Email: procurement@dvwd.org

Phone: 541-475-3849

1. INTRODUCTION

The Deschutes Valley Water District ("District") invites qualified consulting firms or consultant teams to submit Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) to provide professional consulting services associated with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Opal Springs Hydroelectric Generation Facility (FERC License No. 5891) located near Madras, Oregon.

The District intends to utilize a Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process consistent with Oregon public procurement requirements applicable to engineering and related professional services. Pricing information shall not be considered during initial consultant selection and contract award recommendations. The selected consultant will support the District through all phases of the FERC relicensing process, including regulatory strategy, environmental review and coordination, stakeholder engagement, technical studies, application preparation, permitting support, and ongoing regulatory coordination.

2. DISTRICT BACKGROUND

Deschutes Valley Water District is a public water utility serving customers in Jefferson County and surrounding areas of Central Oregon. The District owns and operates the Opal Springs Hydroelectric Generation Facility, which provides renewable hydroelectric power generation associated with the District's water infrastructure operations. The District is initiating a comprehensive relicensing effort for the facility under FERC requirements. The project will require coordination among federal, state, tribal, and local agencies as well as stakeholders with interests in water resources, fisheries, habitat, recreation, cultural resources, and energy production.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this project include:

- Successfully obtain a renewed FERC license for continued operation of the Opal Springs Hydroelectric Generation Facility.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local regulatory requirements.
- Develop technically sound and defensible environmental and engineering documentation.
- Maintain operational reliability and long-term sustainability of the hydroelectric facility.
- Engage stakeholders through a transparent and collaborative process.
- Minimize regulatory risk, project delays, and future compliance liabilities.

4. POTENTIAL SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected consultant shall provide comprehensive professional services related to the FERC relicensing effort. The District anticipates the scope may include, but is not limited to, the following:

A. Licensing Strategy and Regulatory Coordination

- Evaluate relicensing pathways and regulatory strategies.
- Develop and maintain relicensing schedules and critical milestones.
- Coordinate directly with FERC staff.
- Prepare notices, filings, and required documentation.
- Support scoping meetings and agency consultations.
- Coordinate with state and federal permitting agencies.

B. Environmental and Technical Studies

- Develop study plans and protocols.
- Conduct or manage required environmental studies.
- Perform hydrologic, hydraulic, and operational analyses.
- Conduct fisheries, aquatic habitat, and water quality assessments.
- Evaluate recreation, cultural, and land use considerations.
- Coordinate tribal consultation support.
- Prepare technical memoranda and study reports.

C. Engineering and Operations Support

- Evaluate existing hydroelectric infrastructure and operations.
- Assess operational impacts associated with relicensing conditions.
- Support dam safety and hydraulic evaluations as required.

- Identify capital improvement or mitigation requirements.
- Coordinate engineering integration with licensing requirements.

D. Stakeholder and Public Engagement

- Facilitate stakeholder meetings and workshops.
- Support public outreach and communications.
- Assist with interagency coordination.
- Develop presentation materials and communication tools.

E. Licensing Documentation and Application Preparation

- Prepare and submit required FERC relicensing documents.
- Develop environmental reports and supporting analyses.
- Prepare draft and final license application materials.
- Support responses to comments, data requests, and regulatory review.
- Provide expert support during negotiations and settlement discussions.

F. Optional Services

The District may elect to authorize additional services including:

- Legal coordination support.
- Grant or funding assistance.
- Construction or mitigation implementation support.
- Post-license compliance monitoring.
- GIS and data management services.

5. CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS

The District seeks firms with demonstrated experience and expertise in the following areas:

- FERC hydroelectric relicensing.
- Hydroelectric generation facility operations.
- Environmental permitting and compliance.
- Water resources engineering.
- Fisheries and aquatic sciences.
- NEPA and related environmental review processes.
- Stakeholder and tribal coordination.
- Oregon regulatory and permitting requirements.
- Public utility or public agency project experience.

Preference may be given to firms demonstrating successful completion of similar hydroelectric relicensing projects in the Pacific Northwest or comparable regulatory environments.

6. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

A. Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS)

This procurement is being conducted as a Qualifications-Based Selection process in accordance with applicable Oregon public contracting laws governing engineering and related professional services.

Consultants shall not submit cost or pricing information with their initial proposal submissions unless specifically requested by the District at a later stage of the procurement process.

Following evaluation of qualifications, the District may:

1. Shortlist one or more firms for interviews;
2. Rank firms based on qualifications;
3. Enter negotiations with the highest-ranked firm regarding scope, schedule, and compensation; and
4. If negotiations are unsuccessful, terminate negotiations and proceed to the next highest-ranked firm.

The District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive informalities, modify the solicitation, or cancel the procurement at any time when determined to be in the District's best interest.

B. Anticipated Procurement Schedule

Milestone	Date
RFP Issued	August 21, 2026
Questions Due	September 11, 2026

Responses Issued	September 18, 2026
Proposal Due Date	October 2, 2026
Notice of Intent to Award	October 16, 2026
Contract Negotiations	October, November 2026
Anticipated Notice to Proceed	November, December 2026

The District reserves the right to modify the procurement schedule.

7. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals should be concise while sufficiently detailed to permit evaluation of the consultant's qualifications and capabilities and should include the following:

A. Professional Qualifications of Project Team. Provide a firm overview and qualifications for providing the project objectives. List key team members who will be assigned to the project, their roles and responsibilities, and their qualifications and experience.

B. Experience. Provide descriptions of similar projects completed within the past ten (10) years including: Project name and location, client/owner, scope of services, project outcomes, relevance to this project, along with reference contact information.

C. Method of Approach. Describe your understanding of the project and regulatory environment and your proposed project management approach taking into consideration any licensing strategy. Explain your coordination and communication approach and how quality assurance/quality control procedures and schedule are managed. Include a general schedule of project deadlines and milestones. And, highlight any anticipated challenges and risk management strategies.

D. Required Certifications and Disclosures. Include:

- Certification regarding non-discrimination compliance.
- Statement regarding conflicts of interest.
- Insurance capability statement.
- Litigation or claims history relevant to professional services.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated using qualifications-based criteria, which may include:

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points
Relevant FERC Relicensing Experience	25
Qualifications of Project Team	25
Understanding of Project and Technical Approach	25
Experience with Oregon and Pacific Northwest Regulatory Environment	10
Public Agency and Stakeholder Coordination Experience	10
References and Past Performance	5
Total Possible Points	100

The District may conduct interviews with one or more shortlisted firms as part of the evaluation process.

9. CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

Following completion of the qualifications evaluation process, the District intends to negotiate a professional services agreement with the highest-ranked consultant.

Negotiations may include:

- Final scope of services;
- Staffing;
- Schedule;
- Deliverables;
- Compensation structure;
- Insurance requirements; and
- Contract terms and conditions.

If negotiations are unsuccessful, the District may terminate negotiations and initiate negotiations with the next highest-ranked consultant.

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The selected consultant shall maintain insurance coverage meeting District requirements. Specific coverage and minimum coverage limits will be identified during contract negotiations.
- The selected consultant shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and permitting requirements.
- Public Record: Proposals submitted in response to this RFP may be subject to disclosure under Oregon Public Records Law. Consultants requesting exemption from disclosure for proprietary or confidential information must clearly identify such information and provide the legal basis for exemption.
- Questions regarding this RFP should be addressed to: Joel Gehrett, General Manager, via email at procurement@dvwd.org by September 11, 2026.
- The District reserves the right to: Reject any or all proposals; Waive minor informalities or irregularities; Request clarification or additional information; Cancel or modify the solicitation; Issue supplemental solicitations; Negotiate with one or more firms; Accept the proposal deemed in the District's best interest; and Conduct investigations regarding proposer qualifications.

11. SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals shall be submitted electronically in PDF format unless otherwise specified.

Submission Requirements

- Maximum recommended length: 30 pages excluding resumes and appendices.
- Clearly label all proposal materials.
- Submit proposals no later than the stated due date and time.
- Late submissions may be rejected.

Submit proposals to: procurement@dvwd.org by October 2, 2026

The Deschutes Valley Water District appreciates your interest in supporting the Opal Springs Hydroelectric Generation Facility FERC relicensing effort. The District seeks a highly qualified consultant team capable of guiding a technically rigorous, collaborative, and successful relicensing process that supports the long-term reliability and sustainability of this important regional renewable energy resource.