DESCHUTES VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

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: November 12, 2026
Proposal Due Date: December 11, 2026
Contact Person: Joel Gehrett, General Manager
Email: procurement@dvwd.org
Phone: 541-475-3849

1. INTRODUCTION
Deschutes Valley Water District (District) invites proposals from qualified consulting teams to provide comprehensive professional consulting services for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Opal Springs Hydroelectric Generation Facility near Madras, Oregon. The District seeks a consultant with demonstrated experience in hydroelectric relicensing, environmental permitting, engineering, regulatory coordination, and stakeholder engagement.

The purpose of this RFP is to identify and select a consultant team that provides the best overall value to the District, considering technical expertise, project approach, personnel, schedule, and proposed compensation. The procurement will be conducted in accordance with applicable Oregon public contracting requirements, including ORS Chapter 279C and the District's applicable public contracting rules.

For services subject to ORS 279C.110, the District intends to use the local contracting agency selection procedure authorized under ORS 279C.110(5), including the prescribed qualifications evaluation and subsequent pricing evaluation.

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 existing FERC operating license expires in October, 2032, with the formal relicensing process anticipated to begin in 2027 with an NOI filing deadline of October 31, 2027. 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.

The District intends to retain a consultant capable of managing the relicensing process from initial planning and regulatory coordination through preparation and submission of the license application and subsequent FERC review.

3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES
The primary objectives of this project include:
- Successfully obtaining a renewed FERC operating license.
- Maintaining the long-term operational and financial viability of the facility.
- Minimizing unnecessary regulatory requirements and associated costs.
- Developing technically sound and defensible environmental and engineering documentation.
- Engage stakeholders through a transparent and collaborative process.
- Establishing a realistic project schedule and managing the relicensing budget.
- Identifying potential operational, environmental, and infrastructure improvements associated with relicensing.

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 reports and supporting documentation.

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

The District intends to use a competitive RFP process that considers technical qualifications, project approach, and proposed compensation.

Anticipated Procurement Schedule

Milestone	Date
RFP Issued	November 12, 2026

Questions Due	November 30, 2026
Responses Issued	December 4, 2026
Proposal Due Date	December 11, 2026
Notice of Intent to Award	December 15, 2026
Contract Negotiations	December 2026
Anticipated Notice to Proceed	January 2027

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. Proposed Compensation

- Proposed hourly rates by individual or labor classification.
- Proposed compensation structure and assumptions.
- Detailed cost proposal for the Notice of Intent (NOI) filing including the Pre-Application Document (PAD).
- Estimated total project cost (±30% estimate) based on method of approach.

E. 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

The following criteria will guide the proposal evaluation:

Evaluation Criteria	**Maximum Points**
Relevant FERC Relicensing Experience	25
Understanding of Project and Technical Approach	25
Experience with Oregon and Pacific Northwest Regulatory Environment	15
Public Agency and Stakeholder Coordination Experience	15
Proposed Compensation	10
References and Past Performance	10
Evaluation Total	**100**

The District reserves the right to conduct interviews with shortlisted firms.

9. CONTRACT NEGOTIATION

Following completion of the 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 December 11, 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.