

State of Nevada
Department of Administration

Purchasing Division

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Carson City, NV 89701



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State of Nevada

Purchasing Division

Request for Qualifications: 3236

For

VERIFIERS FOR NEVADA CONSERVATION CREDIT SYSTEM'S HABITAT QUANTIFICATION TOOL

Release Date: March 2, 2016

Deadline for Submission and Opening Date and Time: March 24, 2016 @ 2:00 PM

Refer to Section 8, RFQ Timeline for the complete RFQ schedule

For additional information, please contact:

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Refer to Section 9 for instructions on submitting an RFQ Response

VENDOR INFORMATION SHEET FOR RFQ 3236

Vendor Must:

- A) Provide all requested information in the space provided next to each numbered question. The information provided in Sections V1 through V6 will be used for development of the contract;
- B) Type or print responses; and
- C) Include this Vendor Information Sheet in Tab III of the Technical SOQ response.

V1	Company Name	
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V2	Street Address	
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V3	City, State, ZIP	
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V4	Telephone Number	
	Area Code:	Number:

V5	Facsimile Number	
	Area Code:	Number:

V6	Toll Free Number	
	Area Code:	Number:

V7	<i>Contact Person for Questions / Contract Negotiations, including address if different than above</i>	
	Name:	
	Title:	
	Address:	
Email Address:		

V8	Telephone Number for Contact Person	
	Area Code:	Number:

V9	Facsimile Number for Contact Person	
	Area Code:	Number:

V10	<i>Name of Individual Authorized to Bind the Organization</i>	
	Name:	Title:

V11	<i>Signature (Individual must be legally authorized to bind the vendor per NRS 333.337)</i>	
	Signature:	Date:

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Vendors' exceptions and/or assumptions should be clearly stated in *Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ*. Vendors' cost exceptions and/or assumptions should be clearly stated in *Attachment I, Cost Proposal Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ*. Exceptions and/or assumptions will be considered during the evaluation process; however, vendors must be specific. Nonspecific exceptions or assumptions may not be considered. The State reserves the right to limit the Scope of Work prior to award, if deemed in the best interest of the State per NRS 333.350(1).

Prospective vendors are advised to review Nevada's ethical standards requirements, including but not limited to, NRS 281A and the Governor's Proclamation, which can be found on the Purchasing Division's website (<http://purchasing.nv.gov>).

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The State of Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program is seeking qualified vendors to implement and verify the Nevada Conservation Credit System (CCS) Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) on an as needed basis. The anticipated start date of the projects is May 10, 2016 with no anticipated end date at this time. The goal of this RFQ is for the State of Nevada to obtain robust, reliable, and affordable experts for 1) vegetative field data collection and 2) GIS desktop analysis for the CCS, assessing sage-grouse habitat function using the standardized methods detailed in the HQT. As a verifier, this may be an independent assessment or performing review of already completed assessments. The State's objective is to establish reliable, replicable calculations to ensure net conservation gain of sage-grouse habitat by consistently assessing sage-grouse habitat function for both industry development and conservation projects, as described in the CCS Manual, HQT Scientific Methods Document, and CCS User's Guide. Vegetative Field Data Collection includes using standard vegetation sampling methods, such as line-intercept and Daubenmire estimates. GIS Desktop Analysis includes using advanced GIS analysis, including tools such as Spatial Analyst. The State of Nevada is seeking vendor responses to run the HQT within mapped sage-grouse habitat within the State of Nevada. The GIS Desktop Analysis can be completed any time of the year but the Vegetative Field Data must be collected during the peak of the growing season (roughly April 15 to June 30, depending on seasonal and site variations).

For more information and to review the manual, HQT or User's Guide please refer to the following links:

<https://www.enviroaccounting.com/NVCreditSystem/ProgramDocument/Index>

<http://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/CCS/ConservationCreditSystem/>

The State Purchasing Division will administer contract(s) resulting from this RFQ.

The State does not guarantee any minimum volume of service.

The State reserves the right to accept vendor proposals for qualifications on an ongoing basis. Any future awards will be written based upon termination dates concurrent with contracts awarded as a result of the original RFQ.

2. ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this RFQ, the following acronyms/definitions will be used:

Acronym	Description
<i>Assumption</i>	An idea or belief that something will happen or occur without proof. An idea or belief taken for granted without proof of occurrence.
<i>Awarded Vendor</i>	The organization/individual that is awarded and has an approved contract with the State of Nevada for the services identified in this RFQ.
<i>BOE</i>	State of Nevada Board of Examiners
<i>CCS</i>	Conservation Credit System
<i>Confidential Information</i>	Any information relating to the amount or source of any income, profits, losses or expenditures of a person, including data relating to cost or price submitted in support of a bid or proposal. The term does not include the amount of a bid or proposal. Refer NRS 333.020(5) (b).
<i>Contract Approval Date</i>	The date the State of Nevada Board of Examiners officially approves and accepts all contract language, terms and conditions as negotiated between the State and the successful vendor.
<i>Contract Award Date</i>	The date when vendors are notified that a contract has been successfully negotiated, executed and is awaiting approval of the Board of Examiners.
<i>Contractor</i>	The company or organization that has an approved contract with the State of Nevada for services identified in this RFQ. The contractor has full responsibility for coordinating and controlling all aspects of the contract, including support to be provided by any subcontractor(s). The contractor will be the sole point of contact with the State relative to contract performance.
<i>Cross Reference</i>	A reference from one document/section to another document/section containing related material.
<i>Customer</i>	Department, Division or Agency of the State of Nevada.
<i>Division/Agency</i>	The Division/Agency requesting services as identified in this RFQ.
<i>Evaluation Committee</i>	An independent committee comprised of a majority of State officers or employees established to evaluate and score RFQ responses pursuant to NRS 333.335.
<i>Exception</i>	A formal objection taken to any statement/requirement identified within the RFQ.
<i>GIS</i>	Geographic Information Systems
<i>Goods</i>	The term “goods” as used in this RFQ has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS

Acronym	Description
	§104.2105(1) and includes, without limitation, “supplies”, “materials”, “equipment”, and “commodities”, as those terms are used in NRS Chapter 333.
HQT	Habitat Quantification Tool
Key Personnel	Vendor staff responsible for oversight of work during the life of the project and for deliverables.
LCB	Legislative Counsel Bureau
LOI	Letter of Intent - notification of the State’s intent to award a contract to a vendor, pending successful negotiations; all information remains confidential until the issuance of the formal notice of award.
May	Indicates something that is recommended but not mandatory. If the vendor fails to provide recommended information, the State may, at its sole option, ask the vendor to provide the information or evaluate the RFQ responses without the information.
Must	Indicates a mandatory requirement. Failure to meet a mandatory requirement may result in the rejection of an RFQ response as non-responsive.
NAC	Nevada Administrative Code –All applicable NAC documentation may be reviewed via the internet at: www.leg.state.nv.us .
NOA	Notice of Award – formal notification of the State’s decision to award a contract, pending Board of Examiners’ approval of said contract, any non-confidential information becomes available upon written request.
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes – All applicable NRS documentation may be reviewed via the internet at: www.leg.state.nv.us .
PFC	Proper Functioning Condition
Pacific Time (PT)	Unless otherwise stated, all references to time in this RFQ and any subsequent contract are understood to be Pacific Time.
Proprietary Information	Any trade secret or confidential business information that is contained in a bid or proposal submitted on a particular contract. (Refer to NRS 333.020 (5) (a).
Public Record	All books and public records of a governmental entity, the contents of which are not otherwise declared by law to be confidential must be open to inspection by any person and may be fully copied or an abstract or memorandum may be prepared from those public books and public records. (Refer to NRS 333.333 and NRS 600A.030 [5]).

Acronym	Description
<i>R&R Scorecard</i>	Resistance and Resilience Scorecard a modified version of the Miller et al published scorecard used to assess a sites resistance and resilience.
<i>Redacted</i>	The process of removing confidential or proprietary information from a document prior to release of information to others.
<i>RFQ</i>	Request for Qualification - a written statement which sets forth the requirements and qualifications of a contract to be awarded by competitive selection.
<i>RFQ Response</i>	Vendor's response to all requirements as stated within the RFQ.
<i>Shall</i>	Indicates a mandatory requirement. Failure to meet a mandatory requirement may result in the rejection of an RFQ response as non-responsive.
<i>Should</i>	Indicates something that is recommended but not mandatory. If the vendor fails to provide recommended information, the State may, at its sole option, ask the vendor to provide the information or evaluate the RFQ response without the information.
<i>SOQ</i>	Statement of Qualifications.
<i>State</i>	The State of Nevada and any agency identified herein.
<i>Subcontractor</i>	Third party, not directly employed by the contractor, who will provide services identified in this RFQ. This does not include third parties who provide support or incidental services to the contractor.
<i>Trade Secret</i>	Information, including, without limitation, a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, product, system, process, design, prototype, procedure, computer programming instruction or code that: derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by the public or any other person who can obtain commercial or economic value from its disclosure or use; and is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.
<i>User</i>	Department, Division, Agency or County of the State of Nevada.
<i>Vendor</i>	Organization/individual submitting a response to this RFQ.
<i>Will</i>	Indicates a mandatory requirement. Failure to meet a mandatory requirement may result in the rejection of an RFQ response as non-responsive.

2.1 STATE OBSERVED HOLIDAYS

The State observes the holidays noted in the following table. When January 1st, July 4th, November 11th or December 25th falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as the legal holiday. If these days fall on Sunday, the following Monday is the observed holiday.

Holiday	Day Observed
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	Third Monday in January
Presidents' Day	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Nevada Day	Last Friday in October
Veterans' Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Family Day	Friday following the Fourth Thursday in November
Christmas Day	December 25

3. REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

3.1 RFQ PROCESS

The process by which RFQ Responses will be considered for award under this RFQ consists of two (2) distinct stages.

3.1.1 First Stage

The first stage is a determination of whether or not the vendor qualifies under the set of General Minimum Qualifications (*refer to Section 3.2*). If a vendor is determined to not meet any one of the General Minimum Qualifications, the RFQ response in its entirety will not be considered for award.

3.1.2 Second Stage

If the vendor meets all of the General Minimum Qualifications, the SOQ will be evaluated to determine if it meets the Technical Minimum Qualifications (*refer to Section 3.3*). RFQ responses that do not contain the required information will not be considered for award. Each RFQ response will be reviewed independently in the Technical Minimum Qualification section.

3.2 GENERAL MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Vendors need to be capable either within their companies or through sub-contracting to do both the data collection and the GIS analysis. Vendors do not have to work throughout the State but must indicate the areas they are available to work within the mapped sage-grouse area (*Attachment J, Biologically Significant Units (BSU) Map*).

- 3.2.1 All vendors responding to this RFQ must hold a valid Class C Driver's License and Nevada Business License.
- 3.2.2 Though not required at the time of proposal submission, the vendor will be required to complete the State of Nevada's CSS Verification Training in order to become a State-Certified Verifier, prior to the execution of a contract with the State.

3.3 TECHNICAL MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

It is **mandatory** that each component listed below in the Technical Minimum Qualifications be addressed. Failure to address each component will result in disqualification of the RFQ response.

Vendors proposing to receive an award through this RFQ must provide a detailed description of their SOQ, which must include, at a minimum, the following information.

It is mandatory that vendors meet the Vegetative Field Data Collection or GIS Desktop Analysis components listed below. Vendors may submit a response to the Vegetative Field Data Collection section, GIS Desktop Analysis section or both sections. Vendors that have staff that meet both will be favored in the process. Failure to address each component will result in disqualification of the RFQ response.

VEGETATIVE FIELD DATA COLLECTION

- 3.3.1 The State is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide Vegetative Field Data Collection for the CCS HQT as described in the CCS User's Guide. All equipment and supplies will be owned and maintained by the awarded vendor(s).
- 3.3.2 All vendors should have crew team leads with the following qualifications:
 - 3.3.2.1 Education: at minimum a Bachelor's degree in natural resource management, ecology, forestry, wildlife management, environmental science or equivalent work experience.
 - 3.3.2.2 At least two (2) years' experience in Great Basin plant identification, familiarity and experience with plant identification in Northern Nevada is preferred.
 - 3.3.2.3 At least two (2) years' experience with standard quantitative vegetative field data collection methods, such as line-intercept and Daubenmire plots. Additional experience with qualitative methods such as PFC and Resistance and Resilience Scorecards is also desirable, though no required.
 - 3.3.2.4 At least one (1) years' experience using GPS unit and software.
- 3.3.3 Any experience with the following field data collection methods should be included (experience with similar methods will also be considered):

- 3.3.3.1 Line-intercept;
- 3.3.3.2 Daubenmire plots;
- 3.3.3.3 Photo-points;
- 3.3.3.4 Resistance and Resilience Scorecard (Miller et al 2014);
- 3.3.3.5 Wildland fire risk assessments; and
- 3.3.3.6 PFC.

GIS DESKTOP ANALYSIS

- 3.3.4 The State is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide GIS Desktop Analysis for the CCS HQT as described in the CCS User’s Guide. All equipment and supplies will be owned and maintained by the awarded vendor(s).
- 3.3.5 All vendors should have staff or sub-contractor(s) with the following qualifications:
 - 3.3.5.1 Education – A minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in GIS, natural resources management, ecology, forestry, wildlife management, environmental science or equivalent is required.
 - 3.3.5.2 At least two (2) years’ experience using ESRI ArcGIS software to conduct advanced spatial analysis. Experience using the Spatial Analysts Tool is preferred, though not required.

4. COMPANY BACKGROUND AND REFERENCES

4.1 VENDOR INFORMATION

4.1.1 Vendors must provide a company profile in the table format below.

Question	Response
Company name:	
Ownership (sole proprietor, partnership, etc.):	
State of incorporation:	
Date of incorporation:	
# of years in business:	
List of top officers:	
Location of company headquarters:	
Location(s) of the company offices:	
Location(s) of the office that will provide the services described in this RFQ:	
Number of employees locally with the expertise to support the requirements identified in this RFQ:	
Number of employees nationally with the	

Question	Response
expertise to support the requirements in this RFQ:	
Location(s) from which employees will be assigned for this project:	

4.1.2 **Please be advised**, pursuant to NRS 80.010, a corporation organized pursuant to the laws of another state must register with the State of Nevada, Secretary of State’s Office as a foreign corporation before a contract can be executed between the State of Nevada and the awarded vendor, unless specifically exempted by NRS 80.015.

4.1.3 The selected vendor, prior to doing business in the State of Nevada, must be appropriately licensed by the State of Nevada, Secretary of State’s Office pursuant to NRS76. Information regarding the Nevada Business License can be located at <http://nvsos.gov>.

Question	Response
Nevada Business License Number:	
Legal Entity Name:	

Is “Legal Entity Name” the same name as vendor is doing business as?

Yes		No	
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If “No”, provide explanation.

4.1.4 Vendors are cautioned that some services may contain licensing requirement(s). Vendors shall be proactive in verification of these requirements prior to proposal submittal. Proposals that do not contain the requisite licensure may be deemed non-responsive.

4.1.5 Has the vendor ever been engaged under contract by any State of Nevada agency?

Yes		No	
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If “Yes”, complete the following table for each State agency for whom the work was performed. Table can be duplicated for each contract being identified.

Question	Response
Name of State agency:	
State agency contact name:	
Dates when services were performed:	
Type of duties performed:	
Total dollar value of the contract:	

4.1.6 Are you now or have you been within the last two (2) years an employee of the State of Nevada, or any of its agencies, departments, or divisions?

Yes		No	
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If “Yes”, please explain when the employee is planning to render services, while on annual leave, compensatory time, or on their own time?

If you employ (a) any person who is a current employee of an agency of the State of Nevada, or (b) any person who has been an employee of an agency of the State of Nevada within the past two (2) years, and if such person will be performing or producing the services which you will be contracted to provide under this contract, you must disclose the identity of each such person in your response to this RFQ, and specify the services that each person will be expected to perform.

4.1.7 Disclosure of any significant prior or ongoing contract failures, contract breaches, civil or criminal litigation in which the vendor has been alleged to be liable or held liable in a matter involving a contract with the State of Nevada or any other governmental entity. Any pending claim or litigation occurring within the past six (6) years which may adversely affect the vendor’s ability to perform or fulfill its obligations if a contract is awarded as a result of this RFQ must also be disclosed. Does any of the above apply to your company?

Yes		No	
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If “Yes”, please provide the following information. Table can be duplicated for each issue being identified.

Question	Response	
Date of alleged contract failure or breach:		
Parties involved:		
Description of the contract failure, contract breach, or litigation, including the products or services involved:		
Amount in controversy:		
Resolution or current status of the dispute:		
If the matter has resulted in a court case:	Court	Case Number
Status of the litigation:		

4.1.8 Vendors must review the insurance requirements specified in **Attachment E, Insurance Schedule for RFQ 3236**. Does your organization currently have or will your organization be able to provide the insurance requirements as specified in **Attachment E**.

Yes		No	
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Any exceptions and/or assumptions to the insurance requirements **must** be identified on **Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ**. Exceptions and/or assumptions will be taken into consideration as part of the evaluation process; however, vendors must be specific. If vendors do not specify any exceptions and/or assumptions at time of their RFQ response submission, the State will not consider any additional exceptions and/or assumptions during negotiations.

Upon contract award, the successful vendor **must** provide the Certificate of Insurance identifying the coverages as specified in **Attachment E, Insurance Schedule for RFQ 3236**.

- 4.1.9 Company background/history and why vendor is qualified to provide the services described in this RFQ. Limit response to no more than five (5) pages.
- 4.1.10 Length of time vendor has been providing services described in this RFQ to the public and/or private sector. Please provide a brief description.
- 4.1.11 Financial information and documentation to be included in **Part III, Confidential Financial Information** of vendor’s response in accordance with **Section 9.5, Part III – Confidential Financial Information**.
 - 4.1.11.1 Dun and Bradstreet Number
 - 4.1.11.2 Federal Tax Identification Number

4.2 SUBCONTRACTOR INFORMATION

- 4.2.1 Does this RFQ response include the use of subcontractors?

Yes		No	
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If “Yes”, vendor must:

- 4.2.1.1 Identify specific subcontractors and the specific requirements of this RFQ for which each proposed subcontractor will perform services.
- 4.2.1.2 If any tasks are to be completed by subcontractor(s), vendors must:
 - A. Describe the relevant contractual arrangements;
 - B. Describe how the work of any subcontractor(s) will be supervised, channels of communication will be maintained and compliance with contract terms assured; and
 - C. Describe your previous experience with subcontractor(s).

- 4.2.1.3 Vendors must describe the methodology, processes and tools utilized for:
 - A. Selecting and qualifying appropriate subcontractors for the project/contract;
 - B. Ensuring subcontractor compliance with the overall performance objectives for the project; and
 - C. Ensuring that subcontractor deliverables meet the quality objectives of the project/contract; and
 - D. Providing proof of payment to any subcontractor(s) used for this project/contract, if requested by the State. Proposal should include a plan by which, at the State’s request, the State will be notified of such payments.
- 4.2.1.4 Provide the same information for any proposed subcontractors as requested in **Section 4.1, Vendor Information**.
- 4.2.1.5 Business references as specified in **Section 4.3, Business References** must be provided for any proposed subcontractors.
- 4.2.1.6 Vendor shall not allow any subcontractor to commence work until all insurance required of the subcontractor is provided to the vendor.
- 4.2.1.7 Vendor must notify the using agency of the intended use of any subcontractors not identified within their original proposal and provide the information originally requested in the RFQ in **Section 4.2, Subcontractor Information**. The vendor must receive agency approval prior to subcontractor commencing work.

4.3 BUSINESS REFERENCES

- 4.3.1 Vendors should provide a minimum of three (3) business references from similar projects performed for private, state and/or large local government clients within the last two (2) years.
- 4.3.2 Vendors must provide the following information for every business reference provided by the vendor and/or subcontractor:

The “Company Name” must be the name of the proposing vendor or the vendor’s proposed subcontractor.

Reference #:	
Company Name:	
<i>Identify role company will have for this RFQ project (Check appropriate role below):</i>	
<i>VENDOR</i>	<i>SUBCONTRACTOR</i>

Project Name:	
Primary Contact Information	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip	
Phone, including area code:	
Facsimile, including area code:	
Email address:	
Alternate Contact Information	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip	
Phone, including area code:	
Facsimile, including area code:	
Email address:	
Project Information	
Brief description of the project/contract and description of services performed, including technical environment (i.e., software applications, data communications, etc.) if applicable:	
Original Project/Contract Start Date:	
Original Project/Contract End Date:	
Original Project/Contract Value:	
Final Project/Contract Date:	
Was project/contract completed in time originally allotted, and if not, why not?	
Was project/contract completed within or under the original budget/cost proposal, and if not, why not?	

- 4.3.3 Vendors must also submit *Attachment F, Reference Questionnaire* to the business references that are identified in *Section 4.3.2*.
- 4.3.4 The company identified as the business references must submit the Reference Questionnaire directly to the Purchasing Division.
- 4.3.5 It is the vendor's responsibility to ensure that completed forms are received by the Purchasing Division on or before the deadline as specified in *Section 8, RFQ Timeline* for inclusion in the evaluation process. Reference Questionnaires not received, or not complete, may adversely affect the vendor's score in the evaluation process.
- 4.3.6 The State reserves the right to contact and verify any and all references listed regarding the quality and degree of satisfaction for such performance.

4.4 VENDOR STAFF RESUMES

A resume must be completed for each proposed key personnel responsible for performance under any contract resulting from this RFQ per ***Attachment G, Proposed Staff Resume.***

5. COST

Vendors must provide detailed fixed prices for all costs associated with the responsibilities and related services. Clearly specify the nature of all expenses anticipated (refer to ***Attachment H, Cost Schedule.***)

6. FINANCIAL

6.1 PAYMENT

6.1.1 Upon review and acceptance by the State, payments for invoices are normally made within 45 – 60 days of receipt, providing all required information, documents and/or attachments have been received.

6.1.2 Pursuant to NRS 227.185 and NRS 333.450, the State shall pay claims for supplies, materials, equipment and services purchased under the provisions of this RFQ electronically, unless determined by the State Controller that the electronic payment would cause the payee to suffer undue hardship or extreme inconvenience.

6.2 BILLING

6.2.1 The State does not issue payment prior to receipt of goods or services.

6.2.2 The vendor must bill the State as outlined in the approved contract and/or payment schedule.

6.2.3 Vendors may propose an alternative payment option. Alternative payment options must be listed on ***Attachment I, Cost Proposal Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of the RFQ.*** Alternative payment options will be considered if deemed in the best interest of the State, project or service solicited herein.

7. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Purchasing Division will accept questions and/or comments in writing regarding this RFQ as noted below:

7.1 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

7.1.1 The RFQ Question Submittal Form is located on the Solicitation Opportunities webpage at <http://purchasing.nv.gov>. Select the Solicitation Status, Questions dropdown and then scroll to the RFQ number and the “Question” link.

7.1.2 The deadline for submitting questions is as specified in ***Section 8, RFQ Timeline.***

7.1.3 All questions and/or comments will be addressed in writing and responses emailed or faxed to prospective vendors on or about the date specified in **Section 8, RFQ Timeline**.

8. RFQ TIMELINE

The following represents the proposed timeline for this project. All times stated are Pacific Time (PT). These dates represent a tentative schedule of events. The State reserves the right to modify these dates at any time.

Task	Date/Time
Deadline for submitting questions	03/10/2016 @ 5:00 PM
Answers posted to website	On or about 03/14/2016
Deadline for submittal of Reference Questionnaires	No later than 4:30 PM on 03/23/2016
Deadline for submission and opening of SOQs	No later than 2:00 PM on 03/24/2016
Evaluation period (approximate time frame)	03/24/2016 - 03/28/2016
Selection of vendor	On or about 03/28/2016
Anticipated BOE approval	05/10/2016
Contract start date (contingent upon BOE approval)	05/10/2016

9. RFQ RESPONSE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS, FORMAT AND CONTENT

9.1 GENERAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Vendors’ RFQ responses must be packaged and submitted in counterparts; therefore, vendors must pay close attention to the submission requirements. RFQ responses will have a technical response, which may be composed of two (2) parts in the event a vendor determines that a portion of their technical response qualifies as “confidential” as defined within **Section 2, Acronyms/Definitions**.

If complete responses cannot be provided without referencing confidential information, such confidential information must be provided in accordance with **Section 9.3, Part I B – Confidential Technical and Section 9.5, Part III Confidential Financial Information**. Specific references made to the tab, page, section and/or paragraph where the confidential information can be located must be identified on **Attachment A, Confidentiality and Certification of Indemnification** and comply with the requirements stated in **Section 9.6, Confidentiality of RFQ Response**.

The remaining section is the Cost Proposal. Vendors may submit their proposal broken out into the three (3) sections required, or four (4) sections if confidential technical information is included, in a single box or package for shipping purposes.

The required CDs must contain information as specified in **Section 9.6.4**.

Detailed instructions on RFQ response submission and packaging follows and vendors must submit their responses as identified in the following sections. Proposals and CDs that do not comply with the following requirements may be deemed non-responsive and rejected at the State's discretion.

- 9.1.1 All information is to be completed as requested.
- 9.1.2 Each section within the RFQ response must be separated by clearly marked tabs with the appropriate section number and title as specified in the following sections.
- 9.1.3 Although it is a public opening, only the names of the vendors submitting RFQ responses will be announced per NRS 333.335(6). Technical and cost details about responses submitted will not be disclosed. Assistance for handicapped, blind or hearing-impaired persons who wish to attend the RFQ opening is available. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify the Purchasing Division designee as soon as possible and at least two (2) days in advance of the opening.
- 9.1.4 If discrepancies are found between two (2) or more copies of the RFQ response, the master copy will provide the basis for resolving such discrepancies. If one (1) copy of the RFQ response is not clearly marked "MASTER," the State may reject the response. However, the State may at its sole option, select one (1) copy to be used as the master.
- 9.1.5 For ease of evaluation, the RFQ response must be presented in a format that corresponds to and references sections outlined within this RFQ and must be presented in the same order. Written responses must be placed immediately following the applicable RFQ question, statement and/or section and must be presented in a style/format that is easily distinguishable from RFQ language. Exceptions/assumptions to this may be considered during the evaluation process.
- 9.1.6 RFQ responses are to be prepared in such a way as to provide a straightforward, concise delineation of capabilities to satisfy the requirements of this RFQ. Expensive bindings, colored displays, promotional materials, etc., are not necessary or desired. Emphasis should be concentrated on conformance to the RFQ instructions, responsiveness to the RFQ requirements, and on completeness and clarity of content.

Unnecessarily elaborate responses beyond what is sufficient to present a complete and effective response to this RFQ are not desired and may be construed as an indication of the proposer's lack of environmental and cost consciousness. Unless specifically requested in this RFQ, elaborate artwork, corporate brochures, lengthy narratives, expensive paper, specialized binding, and other extraneous presentation materials are neither necessary nor desired.

The State of Nevada, in its continuing efforts to reduce solid waste and to further recycling efforts requests that responses, to the extent possible and practical:

- 9.1.6.1 Be submitted on recycled paper;
 - 9.1.6.2 Not include pages of unnecessary advertising;
 - 9.1.6.3 Be printed on both sides of each sheet of paper; and
 - 9.1.6.4 Be contained in re-usable binders rather than with spiral or glued bindings.
- 9.1.7 For purposes of addressing questions concerning this RFQ, the sole contact will be the Purchasing Division as specified on Page 1 of this RFQ. Upon issuance of this RFQ, other employees and representatives of the agencies identified in the RFQ will not answer questions or otherwise discuss the contents of this RFQ with any prospective vendors or their representatives. Failure to observe this restriction may result in disqualification of any subsequent RFQ response per NAC 333.155(3). This restriction does not preclude discussions between affected parties for the purpose of conducting business unrelated to this procurement.
- 9.1.8 Any vendor who believes the requirements or specifications are unnecessarily restrictive or limit competition may submit a request for administrative review, in writing, to the Purchasing Division. To be considered, a request for review must be received no later than the deadline for submission of questions.
- The Purchasing Division shall promptly respond in writing to each written review request, and where appropriate, issue all revisions, substitutions or clarifications through a written amendment to the RFQ.
- Administrative review of technical or contractual requirements shall include the reason for the request, supported by factual information, and any proposed changes to the requirements.
- 9.1.9 If a vendor changes any material RFQ language, vendor's response may be deemed non-responsive per NRS 333.311.

9.2 PART I A – TECHNICAL STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (SOQ)

- 9.2.1 The technical SOQ must include:
- 9.2.1.1 One (1) original marked “MASTER”; and
 - 9.2.1.2 Two (2) identical copies.
- 9.2.2 The technical SOQ **must not include** confidential technical information (refer to **Section 9.3, Part I B, Confidential Technical SOQ**) or cost and/or pricing information. Cost and/or pricing information contained in the technical SOQ may cause the RFQ response to be rejected.
- 9.2.3 Format and Content
- 9.2.3.1 Tab I – Title Page

The title page must include the following:

Part I A – Technical SOQ	
RFQ Title:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System’s Habitat Quantification Tool
RFQ:	3236
Vendor Name:	
Address:	
Opening Date:	March 24, 2016
Opening Time:	2:00 PM

9.2.3.2 Tab II – Table of Contents

An accurate and updated table of contents must be provided.

9.2.3.3 Tab III – Vendor Information Sheet

The vendor information sheet completed with an original signature by an individual authorized to bind the organization must be included in this tab.

9.2.3.4 Tab IV – State Documents

The State documents tab must include the following:

- A. The signature page from all amendments with an original signature by an individual authorized to bind the organization.
- B. Attachment A – Confidentiality and Certification of Indemnification with an original signature by an individual authorized to bind the organization.
- C. Attachment C – Vendor Certifications with an original signature by an individual authorized to bind the organization.
- D. Copies of any vendor licensing agreements and/or hardware and software maintenance agreements.
- E. Copies of applicable certifications and/or licenses.

9.2.3.5 Tab V - Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ

- A. **Attachment B** with an original signature by an individual authorized to bind the organization must be included in this tab.

- B. If the exception and/or assumption require a change in the terms or wording of any section of the RFQ, the contract, or any incorporated documents, vendors **must** provide the specific language that is being proposed on **Attachment B**.
- C. Only technical exceptions and/or assumptions should be identified on **Attachment B**.
- D. The State will not accept additional exceptions and/or assumptions if submitted after the RFQ response deadline. If vendors do not specify any exceptions and/or assumptions in detail at time of submission, the State will not consider any additional exceptions and/or assumptions during negotiations.

9.2.3.6 Tab VI – Section 3.2 – General Minimum Qualifications

Vendors must place their written response(s) in **bold/italics** immediately following the applicable RFQ question, statement and/or section.

9.2.3.7 Tab VII – Section 3.3 – Technical Minimum Qualifications

Vendors must place their written response(s) in **bold/italics** immediately following the applicable RFQ question, statement and/or section.

9.2.3.8 Tab VIII– Section 4 – Company Background and References

Vendors must place their written response(s) in **bold/italics** immediately following the applicable RFQ question, statement and/or section. This section must also include the requested information in **Section 4.2, Subcontractor Information**, if applicable.

9.2.3.9 Tab IX – Attachment G – Proposed Staff Resume

- A. Vendors must include all proposed staff resumes per **Section 4.4, Vendor Staff Resumes** in this section.
- B. This section should also include any subcontractor proposed staff resumes, if applicable.

9.2.3.10 Tab X – Other Informational Material

Vendors must include any other applicable reference material in this section clearly cross referenced with the RFQ response.

9.3 PART I B – CONFIDENTIAL TECHNICAL SOQ

9.3.1 Vendors only need to submit Part I B if the SOQ includes any confidential technical information (*Refer to Attachment A, Confidentiality and Certification of Indemnification*).

9.3.2 The confidential technical SOQ must include:

- 9.3.2.1 One (1) original marked “MASTER”; and
- 9.3.2.2 Two (2) identical copies.

9.3.3 Format and Content

9.3.3.1 Tab I – Title Page

The title page must include the following:

Part I B – Confidential Technical SOQ	
RFQ Title:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System’s Habitat Quantification Tool
RFQ:	3236
Vendor Name:	
Address:	
Opening Date:	March 24, 2016
Opening Time:	2:00 PM

9.3.3.2 Tabs – Confidential Technical

Vendors must have tabs in the confidential technical information that cross reference back to the technical SOQ, as applicable.

9.4 PART II – COST PROPOSAL

9.4.1 The cost proposal must include:

- 9.4.1.1 One (1) original marked “MASTER”; and
- 9.4.1.2 Two (2) identical copies.

9.4.2 The cost proposal must not be marked “confidential”. Only information that is deemed proprietary per NRS 333.020(5)(a) may be marked as “confidential”.

9.4.3 Format and Content

9.4.3.1 Tab I – Title Page

The title page must include the following:

Part II – Cost Proposal	
RFQ Title:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System’s Habitat Quantification Tool

RFQ:	3236
Vendor Name:	
Address:	
Opening Date:	March 24, 2016
Opening Time:	2:00 PM

9.4.3.2 Tab II – Cost Proposal

Vendor’s response for the cost proposal must be included in this tab.

9.4.3.3 Tab III – Attachment I, Cost Proposal Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ.

A. **Attachment I** with an original signature by an individual authorized to bind the organization must be included in this tab.

B. In order for any cost exceptions and/or assumptions to be considered, vendors **must** provide the specific language that is being proposed in **Attachment I**.

C. Only cost exceptions and/or assumptions should be identified on **Attachment I**.

D. **Do not restate** the technical exceptions and/or assumptions on this form.

E. The State will not accept additional exceptions and/or assumptions if submitted after the proposal submission deadline. If vendors do not specify any exceptions and/or assumptions in detail at time of RFQ response submission, the State will not consider any additional exceptions and/or assumptions during negotiations.

9.5 PART III – CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION

9.5.1 The confidential financial information part must include:

9.5.1.1 One (1) original marked “MASTER”; and

9.5.1.2 One (1) identical copy.

9.5.2 Format and Content

9.5.2.1 Tab I – Title Page

The title page must include the following:

Part III – Confidential Financial Information	
RFQ Title:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System’s Habitat Quantification Tool
RFQ:	3236

Vendor Name:	
Address:	
Opening Date:	March 24, 2016
Opening Time:	2:00 PM

9.5.2.2 Tab II – Financial Information and Documentation

Vendors must place the information required per *Section 4.1.11* in this tab.

9.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF SOQS

9.6.1 As a potential contractor of a public entity, vendors are advised that full disclosure is required by law.

9.6.2 Vendors are required to submit written documentation in accordance with *Attachment A, Confidentiality and Certification of Indemnification* demonstrating the material within the RFQ response marked “confidential” conforms to NRS §333.333, which states “Only specific parts of the RFQ response may be labeled a “trade secret” as defined in NRS §600A.030(5)”. Not conforming to these requirements will cause your RFQ response to be deemed non-compliant and will not be accepted by the State of Nevada.

9.6.3 Vendors acknowledge that material not marked as “confidential” will become public record upon contract award.

9.6.4 The required CDs must contain the following:

9.6.4.1 One (1) “**Master**” CD with an exact duplicate of the technical and cost proposal contents only.

A. The electronic files must follow the format and content section for the technical and cost proposal.

B. The CD must be packaged in a case and clearly labeled as follows:

Master CD	
RFQ:	3236
Vendor Name:	
Contents:	Part IA – Technical SOQ
	Part IB – Confidential Technical SOQ
	Part II – Cost Proposal

9.6.4.2 One (1) “**Public Records CD**” with the technical and cost proposal contents to be used for public records requests.

A. This CD **must not** contain any confidential or proprietary information.

- B. All electronic files **must** be saved in “PDF” format.
- C. The CD must be packaged in a case and clearly labeled as follows:

Public Records CD	
RFQ:	3236
Vendor Name:	
Contents:	Part IA – Technical SOQ for Public Records Request
	Part II – Cost Proposal for Public Records Request

- 9.6.5 The Public Records submitted on the CD will be posted to the Purchasing Website upon the Notice of Award.
- 9.6.6 It is the vendor’s responsibility to act in protection of the labeled information and agree to defend and indemnify the State of Nevada for honoring such designation.
- 9.6.7 Failure to label any information that is released by the State shall constitute a complete waiver of any and all claims for damages caused by release of said information.

9.7 RFQ RESPONSE PACKAGING

- 9.7.1 If the separately sealed technical and cost proposals as well as confidential technical information and financial documentation, marked as required, are enclosed in another container for mailing purposes, the outermost container must fully describe the contents of the package and be clearly marked as follows:
- 9.7.2 Vendors are encouraged to utilize the copy/paste feature of word processing software to replicate these labels for ease and accuracy of RFQ response packaging.

Heather Moon State of Nevada, Purchasing Division 515 E. Musser Street, Suite 300 Carson City, NV 89701	
RFQ:	3236
OPENING DATE:	March 24, 2016
OPENING TIME:	2:00 PM
FOR:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System’s Habitat Quantification Tool
VENDOR’S NAME:	

- 9.7.3 RFQ responses **must be received at the address referenced below no later than the date and time specified in Section 8, RFQ Timeline.** RFQ responses that do not arrive by the scheduled opening date and time **will not be accepted.** Vendors may submit their RFQ response any time prior to the above stated deadline.

- 9.7.4 The State will not be held responsible for RFQ response envelopes mishandled as a result of the envelope not being properly prepared. Facsimile, e-mail or telephone responses will NOT be considered; however, at the State's discretion, the RFQ response may be submitted all or in part on electronic media, as requested within the RFQ document. RFQ responses may be modified by facsimile, e-mail or written notice provided such notice is received prior to the scheduled opening date and time.
- 9.7.5 The technical SOQ shall be submitted to the State in a sealed package and be clearly marked as follows:

Heather Moon State of Nevada, Purchasing Division 515 E. Musser Street, Suite 300 Carson City, NV 89701	
RFQ:	3236
RFQ COMPONENT:	Part I A – Technical SOQ
OPENING DATE:	March 24, 2016
OPENING TIME:	2:00 PM
FOR:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System's Habitat Quantification Tool
VENDOR'S NAME:	

- 9.7.6 If applicable, confidential technical information shall be submitted to the State in a sealed package and be clearly marked as follows:

Heather Moon State of Nevada, Purchasing Division 515 E. Musser Street, Suite 300 Carson City, NV 89701	
RFQ:	3236
RFQ COMPONENT:	Part I B – Confidential Technical SOQ
OPENING DATE:	March 24, 2016
OPENING TIME:	2:00 PM
FOR:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System's Habitat Quantification Tool
VENDOR'S NAME:	

- 9.7.7 The cost proposal shall be submitted to the State in a sealed package and be clearly marked as follows:

Heather Moon State of Nevada, Purchasing Division 515 E. Musser Street, Suite 300 Carson City, NV 89701	
RFQ:	3236
RFQ COMPONENT:	Part II – Cost Proposal
OPENING DATE:	March 24, 2016
OPENING TIME:	2:00 PM
FOR:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System's

	Habitat Quantification Tool
VENDOR'S NAME:	

- 9.7.8 Confidential financial information shall be submitted to the State in a sealed package and be clearly marked as follows:

Heather Moon State of Nevada, Purchasing Division 515 E. Musser Street, Suite 300 Carson City, NV 89701	
RFQ:	3236
RFQ COMPONENT:	Part III – Confidential Financial Information
OPENING DATE:	March 24, 2016
OPENING TIME:	2:00 PM
FOR:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System's Habitat Quantification Tool
VENDOR'S NAME:	

- 9.7.9 The CDs shall be submitted to the State in a sealed package and be clearly marked as follows:

Heather Moon State of Nevada, Purchasing Division 515 E. Musser Street, Suite 300 Carson City, NV 89701	
RFQ:	3236
RFQ COMPONENT:	CDs
OPENING DATE:	March 24, 2016
OPENING TIME:	2:00 PM
FOR:	Verifiers for Nevada Conservation Credit System's Habitat Quantification Tool
VENDOR'S NAME:	

10. RFQ RESPONSE EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS

The information in this section does not need to be returned with the vendor's response.

- 10.1** General Minimum Qualifications shall be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Only vendors who meet the General Minimum Qualifications will have their Technical SOQs considered.
- 10.2** Technical SOQs shall be consistently evaluated and scored in accordance with NRS §333.335 based upon the following criteria listed below:
- 10.2.1 Demonstrated competence
 - 10.2.2 Experience in performance of comparable engagements
 - 10.2.3 Conformance with the terms of this RFQ

10.2.4 Expertise and availability of key personnel

10.2.5 Cost

Note: Financial stability will be scored on a pass/fail basis.

RFQ responses shall be kept confidential until a contract is awarded.

- 10.3** The State may also contact the references provided in response to *Section 4.3, Business References*; contact any vendor to clarify any response; contact any current users of a vendor's services; solicit information from any available source concerning any aspect of an RFQ response; and seek and review any other information deemed pertinent to the evaluation process.
- 10.4** Each vendor must include in its RFQ response a complete disclosure of any alleged significant prior or ongoing contract failures, contract breaches, any civil or criminal litigation or investigations pending which involves the vendor or in which the vendor has been judged guilty or liable. Failure to comply with the terms of this provision may disqualify any RFQ response. The State reserves the right to reject any RFQ response based upon the vendor's prior history with the State or with any other party, which documents, without limitation, unsatisfactory performance, adversarial or contentious demeanor, significant failure(s) to meet contract milestones or other contractual failures. See generally, NRS 333.335.
- 10.5** Clarification discussions may, at the State's sole option, be conducted with vendors who submit RFQ responses determined to be acceptable and competitive per NAC 333.165. Vendors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and/or written revisions of RFQ responses. Such revisions may be permitted after submissions and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from RFQ responses submitted by competing vendors. Any modifications made to the original RFQ response during the best and final negotiations will be included as part of the contract.
- 10.6** A Notification of Intent to Award shall be issued in accordance with NAC 333.170. Any award is contingent upon the successful negotiation of final contract terms and upon approval of the Board of Examiners, when required. Negotiations shall be confidential and not subject to disclosure to competing vendors unless and until an agreement is reached. If contract negotiations cannot be concluded successfully, the State upon written notice to all vendors may negotiate a contract with the next highest scoring vendor or withdraw the RFQ.
- 10.7** Any contract resulting from this RFQ shall not be effective unless and until approved by the Nevada State Board of Examiners (NRS 284.173).

11. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

11.1 PROCUREMENT AND SOQ TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The information in this section does not need to be returned with the vendor's RFQ response. However, if vendors have any exceptions and/or assumptions to any of the

terms and conditions in this section, they **MUST** identify in detail their exceptions and/or assumptions on ***Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance***. In order for any exceptions and/or assumptions to be considered they **MUST** be documented in ***Attachment B***. The State will not accept additional exceptions and/or assumptions if submitted after the proposal submission deadline.

- 11.1.1 This procurement is being conducted in accordance with NRS Chapter 333 and NAC Chapter 333.
- 11.1.2 The State reserves the right to alter, amend, or modify any provisions of this RFQ, or to withdraw this RFQ, at any time prior to the award of a contract pursuant hereto, if it is in the best interest of the State to do so.
- 11.1.3 The State reserves the right to waive informalities and minor irregularities in RFQ responses received.
- 11.1.4 For ease of responding to the RFQ, vendors are encouraged to download the RFQ from the Purchasing Division's website at <http://purchasing.nv.gov>.
- 11.1.5 The failure to separately package and clearly mark ***Part I B and Part III*** – which contains confidential information, trade secrets and/or proprietary information, shall constitute a complete waiver of any and all claims for damages caused by release of the information by the State.
- 11.1.6 RFQ responses must include any and all proposed terms and conditions, including, without limitation, written warranties, maintenance/service agreements, license agreements and lease purchase agreements. The omission of these documents renders an RFQ response non-responsive.
- 11.1.7 The State reserves the right to reject any or all RFQ responses received prior to contract award (NRS 333.350).
- 11.1.8 The State shall not be obligated to accept the lowest priced RFQ response, but will make an award in the best interests of the State of Nevada after all factors have been evaluated (NRS 333.335).
- 11.1.9 Any irregularities or lack of clarity in the RFQ should be brought to the Purchasing Division designee's attention as soon as possible so that corrective addenda may be furnished to prospective vendors.
- 11.1.10 Descriptions on how any and all services and/or equipment will be used to meet the requirements of this RFQ shall be given, in detail, along with any additional informational documents that are appropriately marked.
- 11.1.11 Alterations, modifications or variations to an RFQ response may not be considered unless authorized by the RFQ or by addendum or amendment.

- 11.1.12 RFQ responses which appear unrealistic in the terms of technical commitments, lack of technical competence, or are indicative of failure to comprehend the complexity and risk of this contract, may be rejected.
- 11.1.13 RFQ responses from employees of the State of Nevada will be considered in as much as they do not conflict with the State Administrative Manual, NRS Chapter 281 and NRS Chapter 284.
- 11.1.14 Proposals may be withdrawn by written or facsimile notice received prior to the proposal opening time. Withdrawals received after the proposal opening time will not be considered except as authorized by NRS 333.350(3).
- 11.1.15 Prices offered by vendors in their proposals are an irrevocable offer for the term of the contract and any contract extensions. The awarded vendor agrees to provide the purchased services at the costs, rates and fees as set forth in their proposal in response to this RFQ. No other costs, rates or fees shall be payable to the awarded vendor for implementation of their proposal.
- 11.1.16 The State is not liable for any costs incurred by vendors prior to entering into a formal contract. Costs of developing the RFQ response or any other such expenses incurred by the vendor in responding to the RFQ, are entirely the responsibility of the vendor, and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by the State.
- 11.1.17 RFQ responses submitted per the submission requirements become the property of the State, selection or rejection does not affect this right; RFQ responses will be returned only at the State's option and at the vendor's request and expense. The masters of the technical SOQ, confidential technical SOQ, cost proposal and confidential financial information of each response shall be retained for official files.
- 11.1.18 The Nevada Attorney General will not render any type of legal opinion regarding this transaction.
- 11.1.19 Any unsuccessful vendor may file an appeal in strict compliance with NRS 333.370 and Chapter 333 of the Nevada Administrative Code.

11.2 CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The information in this section does not need to be returned with the vendor's RFQ response. However, if vendors have any exceptions and/or assumptions to any of the terms and conditions in this section, they **MUST** identify in detail their exceptions and/or assumptions on **Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance**. In order for any exceptions and/or assumptions to be considered they **MUST** be documented in **Attachment B**. The State will not accept additional exceptions and/or assumptions if submitted after the submission deadline.

- 11.2.1 The awarded vendor will be the sole point of contract responsibility. The State will look solely to the awarded vendor for the performance of all contractual

obligations which may result from an award based on this RFQ, and the awarded vendor shall not be relieved for the non-performance of any or all subcontractors.

- 11.2.2 The awarded vendor must maintain, for the duration of its contract, insurance coverages as set forth in the Insurance Schedule of the contract form appended to this RFQ. Work on the contract shall not begin until after the awarded vendor has submitted acceptable evidence of the required insurance coverages. Failure to maintain any required insurance coverage or acceptable alternative method of insurance will be deemed a breach of contract.
- 11.2.3 The State will not be liable for Federal, State, or Local excise taxes per NRS 372.325.
- 11.2.4 **Attachment B and Attachment I** of this RFQ shall constitute an agreement to **all** terms and conditions specified in the RFQ, except such terms and conditions that the vendor expressly excludes. Exceptions and assumptions will be taken into consideration as part of the evaluation process; however, vendors **must** be specific. If vendors do not specify any exceptions and/or assumptions at time of proposal submission, the State will not consider any additional exceptions and/or assumptions during negotiations.
- 11.2.5 The State reserves the right to negotiate final contract terms with any vendor selected per NAC 333.170. The contract between the parties will consist of the RFQ together with any modifications thereto, and the awarded vendor's response, together with any modifications and clarifications thereto that are submitted at the request of the State during the evaluation and negotiation process. In the event of any conflict or contradiction between or among these documents, the documents shall control in the following order of precedence: The final executed contract, any modifications and clarifications to the awarded vendor's RFQ response, the RFQ, and the awarded vendor's response. Specific exceptions to this general rule may be noted in the final executed contract.
- 11.2.6 Local governments (as defined in NRS 332.015) are intended third party beneficiaries of any contract resulting from this RFQ and any local government may join or use any contract resulting from this RFQ subject to all terms and conditions thereof pursuant to NRS 332.195. The State is not liable for the obligations of any local government which joins or uses any contract resulting from this RFQ.
- 11.2.7 Any person who requests or receives a Federal contract, grant, loan or cooperative agreement shall file with the using agency a certification that the person making the declaration has not made, and will not make, any payment prohibited by subsection (a) of 31 U.S.C. 1352.
- 11.2.8 Pursuant to NRS 613 in connection with the performance of work under this contract, the contractor agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or age, including, without limitation, with regard to employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment

advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including, without limitation apprenticeship.

The contractor further agrees to insert this provision in all subcontracts, hereunder, except subcontracts for standard commercial supplies or raw materials.

11.3 PROJECT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The information in this section does not need to be returned with the vendor's RFQ response. However, if vendors have any exceptions and/or assumptions to any of the terms and conditions in this section, they **MUST** identify in detail their exceptions and/or assumptions on ***Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance***. In order for any exceptions and/or assumptions to be considered they **MUST** be documented in ***Attachment B***. The State will not accept additional exceptions and/or assumptions if submitted after the submission deadline.

11.3.1 Award of Related Contracts

11.3.1.1 The State may undertake or award supplemental contracts for work related to this project or any portion thereof. The contractor shall be bound to cooperate fully with such other contractors and the State in all cases.

11.3.1.2 All subcontractors shall be required to abide by this provision as a condition of the contract between the subcontractor and the prime contractor.

11.3.2 Products and/or Alternatives

11.3.2.1 The vendor shall not propose an alternative that would require the State to acquire hardware or software or change processes in order to function properly on the vendor's system unless vendor included a clear description of such proposed alternatives and clearly mark any descriptive material to show the proposed alternative.

11.3.2.2 An acceptable alternative is one the State considers satisfactory in meeting the requirements of this RFQ.

11.3.2.3 The State, at its sole discretion, will determine if the proposed alternative meets the intent of the original RFQ requirement.

11.3.3 State Owned Property

The awarded vendor shall be responsible for the proper custody and care of any State owned property furnished by the State for use in connection with the performance of the contract and will reimburse the State for any loss or damage.

11.3.4 Inspection/Acceptance of Work

- 11.3.4.1 It is expressly understood and agreed all work done by the contractor shall be subject to inspection and acceptance by the State.
- 11.3.4.2 Any progress inspections and approval by the State of any item of work shall not forfeit the right of the State to require the correction of any faulty workmanship or material at any time during the course of the work and warranty period thereafter, although previously approved by oversight.
- 11.3.4.3 Nothing contained herein shall relieve the contractor of the responsibility for proper installation and maintenance of the work, materials and equipment required under the terms of the contract until all work has been completed and accepted by the State.

11.3.5 Travel

If travel is required, the following processes must be followed:

- 11.3.5.1 All travel must be approved in writing in advance by the Department.
- 11.3.5.2 Requests for reimbursement of travel expenses must be submitted on the State Claim for Travel Expense Form with original receipts for all expenses.
- 11.3.5.3 The travel expense form, with original signatures, must be submitted with the vendor's invoice.
- 11.3.5.4 Vendor will be reimbursed travel expenses and per diem at the rates allowed for State employees at the time travel occurs.
- 11.3.5.5 The State is not responsible for payment of any premium, deductible or assessments on insurance policies purchased by vendor for a rental vehicle.

11.3.6 Completion of Work

Prior to completion of all work, the contractor shall remove from the premises all equipment and materials belonging to the contractor. Upon completion of the work, the contractor shall leave the site in a clean and neat condition satisfactory to the State.

11.3.7 Right to Publish

- 11.3.7.1 All requests for the publication or release of any information pertaining to this RFQ and any subsequent contract must be in writing and sent to the Agency Head.

- 11.3.7.2 No announcement concerning the award of a contract as a result of this RFQ can be made without prior written approval of the Agency Head.
- 11.3.7.3 As a result of the selection of the contractor to supply the requested services, the State is neither endorsing nor suggesting the contractor is the best or only solution.
- 11.3.7.4 The contractor shall not use, in its external advertising, marketing programs, or other promotional efforts, any data, pictures or other representation of any State facility, except with the specific advance written authorization of the Agency Head.
- 11.3.7.5 Throughout the term of the contract, the contractor must secure the written approval of the State per **Section 11.3.7.2** prior to the release of any information pertaining to work or activities covered by the contract.

12. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

This checklist is provided for vendor's convenience only and identifies documents that must be submitted with each package in order to be considered responsive. Any RFQ response received without these requisite documents may be deemed non-responsive and not considered for contract award.

Part I A– Technical SOQ Submission Requirements		Completed
Required number of the Technical SOQ per submission requirements		
Tab I	Title Page	
Tab II	Table of Contents	
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Tab IV	State Documents	
Tab V	Attachment B – Technical Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ	
Tab VI	Section 3.2 – General Minimum Qualifications	
Tab VII	Section 3.3 – Technical Minimum Qualifications	
Tab VIII	Section 4 – Company Background and References	
Tab IX	Attachment G – Proposed Staff Resumes	
Tab X	Other Informational Material	
Part I B – Confidential Technical SOQ Submission Requirements		
Required number of the Confidential Technical SOQ per submission requirements		
Tab I	Title Page	
Tabs	Appropriate tabs and information that cross reference back to the technical proposal	
Part II – Cost Proposal Submission Requirements		
Required number of Cost Proposals per submission requirements		
Tab I	Title Page	
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Tab III	Attachment I - Cost Proposal Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ	
Part III – Confidential Financial Submission Requirements		
Required number of Confidential Financial Proposals per submission requirements		
Tab I	Title Page	
Tab II	Financial Information and Documentation	
CDs Required		
One (1)	Master CD with the Technical SOQ, Confidential Technical SOQ and Cost Proposal contents only	
One (1)	Public Records CD with the Technical SOQ and Cost Proposal contents only	
Reference Questionnaire Reminders		
Send out Reference Forms for Vendor (with Part A completed)		
Send out Reference Forms for proposed Subcontractors (with Part A completed, if applicable)		

ATTACHMENT A – CONFIDENTIALITY AND CERTIFICATION OF INDEMNIFICATION

Submitted proposals, which are marked “confidential” in their entirety, or those in which a significant portion of the submitted proposal is marked “confidential” **will not** be accepted by the State of Nevada. Pursuant to NRS 333.333, only specific parts of the proposal may be labeled a “trade secret” as defined in NRS 600A.030(5). All proposals are confidential until the contract is awarded; at which time, both successful and unsuccessful vendors’ technical and cost proposals become public information.

In accordance with the Submittal Instructions of this RFQ, vendors are requested to submit confidential information in separate binders marked “**Part I B Confidential Technical**” and “**Part III Confidential Financial**”.

The State will not be responsible for any information contained within the proposal. Should vendors not comply with the labeling and packing requirements, proposals will be released as submitted. In the event a governing board acts as the final authority, there may be public discussion regarding the submitted proposals that will be in an open meeting format, the proposals will remain confidential.

By signing below, I understand it is my responsibility as the vendor to act in protection of the labeled information and agree to defend and indemnify the State of Nevada for honoring such designation. I duly realize failure to so act will constitute a complete waiver and all submitted information will become public information; additionally, failure to label any information that is released by the State shall constitute a complete waiver of any and all claims for damages caused by the release of the information.

This proposal contains Confidential Information, Trade Secrets and/or Proprietary information as defined in *Section 2 “ACRONYMS/DEFINITIONS.”*

Please initial the appropriate response in the boxes below and provide the justification for confidential status.

Part I B – Confidential Technical Information			
YES		NO	
Justification for Confidential Status			

A Public Records CD has been included for the Technical SOQ and Cost Proposal			
YES		NO	

Part III – Confidential Financial Information			
YES		NO	
Justification for Confidential Status			

Company Name

Signature

Print Name

Date

This document must be submitted in Tab IV of vendor’s technical proposal

**ATTACHMENT B – TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RFQ**

I have read, understand and agree to comply with *all* the terms and conditions specified in this Request for Qualification.

YES _____ I agree to comply with the terms and conditions specified in this RFQ.

NO _____ I do not agree to comply with the terms and conditions specified in this RFQ.

If the exception and/or assumption require a change in the terms in any section of the RFQ, the contract, or any incorporated documents, vendors *must* provide the specific language that is being proposed in the tables below. If vendors do not specify in detail any exceptions and/or assumptions at time of proposal submission, the State will not consider any additional exceptions and/or assumptions during negotiations.

Company Name

Signature

Print Name

Date

Vendors MUST use the following format. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

EXCEPTION SUMMARY FORM

EXCEPTION #	RFQ SECTION NUMBER	RFQ PAGE NUMBER	EXCEPTION (Complete detail regarding exceptions must be identified)

ASSUMPTION SUMMARY FORM

ASSUMPTION #	RFQ SECTION NUMBER	RFQ PAGE NUMBER	ASSUMPTION (Complete detail regarding assumptions must be identified)

This document must be submitted in Tab V of vendor's technical proposal

ATTACHMENT C – VENDOR CERTIFICATIONS

Vendor agrees and will comply with the following:

- (1) Any and all prices that may be charged under the terms of the contract do not and will not violate any existing federal, State or municipal laws or regulations concerning discrimination and/or price fixing. The vendor agrees to indemnify, exonerate and hold the State harmless from liability for any such violation now and throughout the term of the contract.
- (2) All proposed capabilities can be demonstrated by the vendor.
- (3) The price(s) and amount of this proposal have been arrived at independently and without consultation, communication, agreement or disclosure with or to any other contractor, vendor or potential vendor.
- (4) All proposal terms, including prices, will remain in effect for a minimum of 180 days after the proposal due date. In the case of the awarded vendor, all proposal terms, including prices, will remain in effect throughout the contract negotiation process.
- (5) No attempt has been made at any time to induce any firm or person to refrain from proposing or to submit a proposal higher than this proposal, or to submit any intentionally high or noncompetitive proposal. All proposals must be made in good faith and without collusion.
- (6) All conditions and provisions of this RFQ are deemed to be accepted by the vendor and incorporated by reference in the proposal, except such conditions and provisions that the vendor expressly excludes in the proposal. Any exclusion must be in writing and included in the proposal at the time of submission.
- (7) Each vendor must disclose any existing or potential conflict of interest relative to the performance of the contractual services resulting from this RFQ. Any such relationship that might be perceived or represented as a conflict should be disclosed. By submitting a proposal in response to this RFQ, vendors affirm that they have not given, nor intend to give at any time hereafter, any economic opportunity, future employment, gift, loan, gratuity, special discount, trip, favor, or service to a public servant or any employee or representative of same, in connection with this procurement. Any attempt to intentionally or unintentionally conceal or obfuscate a conflict of interest will automatically result in the disqualification of a vendor's proposal. An award will not be made where a conflict of interest exists. The State will determine whether a conflict of interest exists and whether it may reflect negatively on the State's selection of a vendor. The State reserves the right to disqualify any vendor on the grounds of actual or apparent conflict of interest.
- (8) All employees assigned to the project are authorized to work in this country.
- (9) The company has a written equal opportunity policy that does not discriminate in employment practices with regard to race, color, national origin, physical condition, creed, religion, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, developmental disability or handicap.
- (10) The company has a written policy regarding compliance for maintaining a drug-free workplace.
- (11) Vendor understands and acknowledges that the representations within their proposal are material and important, and will be relied on by the State in evaluation of the proposal. Any vendor misrepresentations shall be treated as fraudulent concealment from the State of the true facts relating to the proposal.
- (12) Vendor must certify that any and all subcontractors comply with Sections 7, 8, 9, and 10, above.
- (13) The proposal must be signed by the individual(s) legally authorized to bind the vendor per NRS 333.337.

Vendor Company Name

Vendor Signature

Print Name

Date

This document must be submitted in Tab IV of vendor's technical proposal

ATTACHMENT D – CONTRACT FORM

The following State Contract Form is provided as a courtesy to vendors interested in responding to this RFQ. Please review the terms and conditions in this form, as this is the standard contract used by the State for all services of independent contractors. It is not necessary for vendors to complete the Contract Form with their proposal.

If exceptions and/or assumptions require a change to the Contract Form, vendors **must** provide the specific language that is being proposed on ***Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ.***

Please pay particular attention to the insurance requirements, as specified in Paragraph 16 of the embedded contract and Attachment E, Insurance Schedule.



Contract Form.doc

To open the document, double click on the icon.

If you are unable to access the above inserted file once you have doubled clicked on the icon, please contact Nevada State Purchasing at srvpurch@admin.nv.gov for an emailed copy.

ATTACHMENT E – INSURANCE SCHEDULE FOR RFQ 3236

The following Insurance Schedule is provided as a courtesy to vendors interested in responding to this RFQ. Please review the terms and conditions in the Insurance Schedule, as this is the standard insurance schedule used by the State for all services of independent contractors.

If exceptions and/or assumptions require a change to the Insurance Schedule, vendors **must** provide the specific language that is being proposed on ***Attachment B, Technical Certification of Compliance with Terms and Conditions of RFQ.***



Insurance Schedule
RFQ 3236 - RFQ Attac

To open the document, double click on the icon.

*If you are unable to access the above inserted file
once you have doubled clicked on the icon,
please contact Nevada State Purchasing at
srvpurch@admin.nv.gov for an emailed copy.*

ATTACHMENT F – REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The State of Nevada, as a part of the RFQ process, requires proposing vendors to submit business references as required within this document. The purpose of these references is to document the experience relevant to the scope of work and provide assistance in the evaluation process.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSING VENDOR	
1.	Proposing vendor or vendor’s proposed subcontractor MUST complete Part A of the Reference Questionnaire.
2.	Proposing vendor MUST send the following Reference Questionnaire to EACH business reference listed for completion of Part B, Part C and Part D.
3.	Business reference is requested to submit the completed Reference Questionnaire via email or facsimile to: <div style="text-align: center;"> State of Nevada, Purchasing Division Subject: RFQ 3236 Attention: Purchasing Division Email: RFPdocs@admin.nv.gov Fax: 775-684-0188 </div> <p>Please reference the RFQ number in the subject line of the email or on the fax.</p>
4.	The completed Reference Questionnaire MUST be received <i>no later than 4:30 PM PT 03/23/16</i>
5.	Business references are NOT to return the Reference Questionnaire to the Proposer (Vendor).
6.	In addition to the Reference Questionnaire, the State may contact any and all business references by phone for further clarification, if necessary.
7.	Questions regarding the Reference Questionnaire or process should be directed to the individual identified on the RFQ cover page.
8.	Reference Questionnaires not received, or not complete, may adversely affect the vendor’s score in the evaluation process.



Reference
Questionnaire - 10-12

To open the document, double click on the icon.

If you are unable to access the above inserted file once you have doubled clicked on the icon, please contact Nevada State Purchasing at svrpurch@admin.nv.gov for an emailed copy.

ATTACHMENT G – PROPOSED STAFF RESUME

A resume must be completed for all proposed prime contractor staff and proposed subcontractor staff using the State format.



Proposed Staff
Resume.doc

To open the document, double click on the icon.

*If you are unable to access the above inserted file
once you have doubled clicked on the icon,
please contact Nevada State Purchasing at
srvpurch@admin.nv.gov for an emailed copy.*

ATTACHMENT H – COST SCHEDULE



3236 Cost Matrix.doc

To open the document, double click on the icon.

*If you are unable to access the above inserted file
once you have doubled clicked on the icon,
please contact Nevada State Purchasing at
srvpurch@admin.nv.gov for an emailed copy.*

**ATTACHMENT I – COST PROPOSAL CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RFQ**

I have read, understand and agree to comply with *all* the terms and conditions specified in this Request for Qualifications.

YES _____ I agree to comply with the terms and conditions specified in this RFQ.

NO _____ I do not agree to comply with the terms and conditions specified in this RFQ.

If the exception and/or assumption require a change in the terms in any section of the RFQ, the contract, or any incorporated documents, vendors *must* provide the specific language that is being proposed in the tables below. If vendors do not specify in detail any exceptions and/or assumptions at time of proposal submission, the State will not consider any additional exceptions and/or assumptions during negotiations. *Note: Only cost exceptions and/or assumptions should be identified on this attachment. Do not restate the technical exceptions and/or assumptions on this attachment.*

Company Name

Signature

Print Name

Date

Vendors MUST use the following format. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

EXCEPTION SUMMARY FORM

EXCEPTION #	RFQ SECTION NUMBER	RFQ PAGE NUMBER	EXCEPTION (Complete detail regarding exceptions must be identified)

ASSUMPTION SUMMARY FORM

ASSUMPTION #	RFQ SECTION NUMBER	RFQ PAGE NUMBER	ASSUMPTION (Complete detail regarding assumptions must be identified)

**This document must be submitted in Tab III of vendor’s cost proposal.
This form MUST NOT be included in the technical proposal.**

ATTACHMENT J – BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT UNITS (BSU) MAP



BSU Map.jpg

To open the document, double click on the icon.

*If you are unable to access the above inserted file
once you have double clicked on the icon,
please contact Nevada State Purchasing at
srypurch@admin.nv.gov for an emailed copy.*