

**IMPERIAL COUNTY
COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
COUNTY OF IMPERIAL COLONIAS MASTER PLAN UPDATE**



**Funded by the
California Department of
Housing and Community Development (HCD)
and
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program**

Issued Wednesday, February 11, 2026

DUE DATE AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

One (1) Original and Five (5) Copies of Proposals must be received by **5:00 P.M.** on **Thursday, March 12, 2026**

Point of Contact:

Tabita Velarde
Community & Economic Development Coordinator
1250 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(442) 265-7191
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Exhibit 1

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Imperial, acting by and through its Board of Supervisors, hereinafter referred to as the "COUNTY", will receive up to, but no later than **5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2026**, sealed PROPOSALS for negotiation and award of a contract concerning the **Update of the County of Imperial Colonias Master Plan**.

To be considered, **one original and five copies of PROPOSALS** must be received in the office of the **Imperial County Business Development Center, 1250 Main Street, El Centro, California, 92243, Attention: Priscilla Lopez, Director of Workforce & Economic Development, RE: Colonias Master Plan Update**, by the time specified above.

Proposals shall be evaluated by a selection committee. It is the County's intention to select the Consultant whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the County in accordance with the evaluation criteria set forth in this Request for Proposals. A Selection Committee appointed by the Economic Development Manager will review and score the proposals and recommend the most responsive and responsible firm to receive the contract award. The Selection Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the Imperial County Board of Supervisors for final determination.

Each proposal must conform and be responsive to the Standard Agreement, a sample of which is attached as Exhibit 3. This Standard Agreement may also be obtained at the Imperial County Business Development Center located at 1250 W. Main Street, El Centro, California, 92243.

The COUNTY reserves the right to reject any or all PROPOSALS, or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any proposals or in the proposal and selection process.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Women Business Enterprises (WBE), and Veteran Owned Businesses (VOB) are encouraged to participate.

Exhibit 2

INFORMATION FOR PROPOSERS

1.0 PURPOSE

The COUNTY, through the Imperial County Workforce & Economic Development, Division of Community and Economic Development (ICWED-CED), is soliciting proposals from qualified consultants and consulting firms to update and develop a Colonias Master Plan. The most recent version was approved by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors in 2014. The focus points within should be updated and improved for each of the existing Colonias within the Imperial County's jurisdiction.

The purpose and intent of the study is to provide the County of Imperial with an update of the current information for the Colonias Master Plan that would be used to reassess the areas for assistance eligibility in the future.

- 1) Update the current information regarding the sphere of influence, site services, streets/roads/bridges, safety services, social services, utilities, income, and housing
- 2) Identify the needs of each community and rank them in order of highest to lowest (the highest being the most urgent need)
- 3) Recommendations and outlines of necessary actions needed to address current deficiencies

All communications relating to this RFP must be directed to the contact person named below and **only** through email or written correspondence. Any communications between a respondent and COUNTY staff concerning this RFP are prohibited. In no instance is a respondent to discuss cost information, quality of responses, names of additional respondents, or any other information requested by or contained in a proposal with the point of contact or any other staff prior to proposal evaluation. Failure to comply with this section may result in COUNTY's disqualification of the proposal. The respondent is responsible for ensuring the response is received before the deadline. Copies or faxed responses will **not** be accepted. COUNTY assumes no responsibility for lost or misrouted mail.

The term of the Agreement for services will be for one year from the date of an executed agreement. The agreement may be extended.

2.0 PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

- 2.1 A pre-proposal conference will be held on **February 25, 2026**, at **9:00 a.m.** at:

Imperial County Business Development Center
1250 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
Contact: Tabita Velarde at (442) 265-7191

Attendance at the pre-proposal conference **is not** a mandatory requirement for those interested in submitting a proposal.

3.0 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3.1	RFP sent out to consultants	February 11, 2026
3.2	Pre-proposal conference	February 25, 2026 9:00 A.M.
3.3	Deadline for County to receive written questions	February 26, 2026 5:00 P.M.
3.4	Deadline to submit proposals	March 12, 2026 5:00 P.M.

4.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The scope of work is to provide the County of Imperial with a revised and updated version of their current Colonias Master Plan with accurate information to be used to reassess these areas for the purpose of providing future assistance. The following nine (9) Colonias within the County of Imperial must be Included: Bombay Beach, Heber, Niland, Ocotillo, Palo Verde, Poe Colonia, Salton Sea Beach, Seeley, and Winterhaven. The Consultant will perform these services under the supervision and direction of the Imperial County Workforce and Economic Development Director. The COUNTY wishes to contract with a consultant to provide the following services:

- 4.1** Update the current information regarding the sphere of influence, site services, streets/roads/bridges, safety services, social services, utility providers, commerce, educational institutions, income, and housing
 - A. As part of the original document, housing & income surveys must include:
 - 1. Housing survey data must be divided by categories of sound, minor, moderate and major rehabilitation needed as well as a separate category for dilapidated units
 - 2. Income surveys must follow CDBG survey guidelines
- 4.2** Identify the status of the Colonias as well as the needs of the community and rank them in order of highest to lowest (the highest being the most urgent need) for each Colonia.
 - A. Areas addressed in each Colonia must include, but are not limited to: housing, water, sewer, refuse/solid waste, electrical service, natural gas, telephone, cable television, high speed internet, street lighting, mosquito abatement, streets/roads/bridges, safety services, social services, schools, parks and recreation, retail/commercial, and government.
 - B. Identify the needs for each community and rate them from High, Moderate, and Low based on urgency.
 - C. Rank the needs of each community in order from highest to lowest.
- 4.3** Recommendations and outlines of necessary actions to address current deficiencies.

- A. Include an estimated cost and timetables for recommended improvements related to infrastructure service, and supportive community issues

4.4 Schedule for completion of project:

The Consultant is to propose a date for major milestones and concluding the scope of work. All work must be completed and submitted to Imperial County Workforce & Economic Development on or before **March 31, 2027, at 5:00 pm.**

5.0 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROPOSALS

5.2 All proposals must demonstrate that the consultant has a willingness and ability to comply with all documents, including but not limited to, the Standard Agreement, a sample of such is identified as Exhibit 3.

5.3 All proposals must be accompanied with the name(s), title(s) and resume(s) of the individual(s) who will be performing the services should the contract be awarded.

5.4 All parties submitting a proposal shall include with their proposals at least three (3) current references, including name, address, and telephone number.

6.0 CONTRACT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please refer to the attached Exhibit 3, Standard Agreement. The attached Exhibit 3 is a sample of the agreement that the winning party will be expected to sign. It is not the final agreement and there may be additional or different terms included in the final agreement. The final agreement must be approved by CDBG prior to execution.

7.0 PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL

All statements of proposals must include one original and five copies to be submitted in sealed envelopes bearing on the outside the name of the consultant, address, and the title of the RFP for which the qualifications are submitted. It is the sole responsibility of respondent to ensure that the proposals are received by COUNTY in the proper time. Any proposals received after the scheduled closing time for receipt will be returned to the consultant unopened. Proposals may not be submitted by facsimile, telegraph, electronic mail or any other means other than by personal delivery, United States Mail or other delivery services such as Federal Express or United Parcel Service.

8.0 SIGNATURE

The statement of qualifications document or any modification must be signed in the name of the consultant and must bear the original signature of the person or persons authorized to sign the proposal.

9.0 MODIFICATIONS

Any modification of any proposals submitted must be in writing and received by COUNTY prior to the closing time for proposals. Modifications may not be submitted by facsimile, telegraph, electronic mail or any other means other than by personal delivery, United States Mail or other delivery services such as Federal Express or United Parcel Service. Any qualifications or modifications received after the scheduled closing time for receipt of statement of qualifications will be returned to the consultant unopened.

10.0 ERASURES

Proposals submitted must not contain any erasures, interlineations, or other corrections unless each such correction is suitably authenticated by putting in the margin immediately opposite the correction the surname or surnames of the person or persons signing the statement of qualifications.

11.0 WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

Respondents may withdraw their proposals either personally or by written request at any time prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of proposals.

12.0 PROPOSAL ELEMENTS

Proposals must address each of the elements in this section.

12.1 Qualifications

- a. Relevant Experience: Applicant's demonstration of adequate, meaningful and relevant experience with projects of a similar/comparable type including experience in completing comprehensive studies. Preference will be given to individuals/firms with State Housing and Community Development (HCD) experience. Include the names, addresses and phone numbers of contact persons for several contracts for which you have performed services as solicited in this RFP.
- b. Relevant Education: Applicant's demonstration of certification and training required to perform services, including licensing requirements (i.e. engineer, architect, or contractor).
- c. Responsiveness to Project Requirements: Applicant's demonstrated success in completing projects on time and responsiveness to meeting changing requirements. Attentiveness to and compliance with RFP instructions, interview requirements, and other aspects of the selection process will be considered as an indication of responsiveness.
- d. Registration on SAM.gov.
- e. A brief statement of your policy regarding affirmative action.

- f. The Consultant shall carry no less than the following insurance and shall provide verification to the County upon request:
1. Professional Liability Insurance: Errors and Omissions Insurance in an amount of at least \$1,000,000 single limit coverage, covering all personnel employed by the Consultant in the capacity of acting as an Agent of the municipality.
 2. General Liability Insurance: General Liability Insurance in an amount of at least \$1,000,000, single limit coverage, covering all personnel employed by the Building Office in the capacity of acting as an Agent of the municipality.
 3. Worker's Compensation: Worker's Compensation Coverage in full compliance with California statutory requirements for all personnel employed by the Consultant in the capacity of acting as an Agent of the municipality.
 4. Automobile Liability Insurance: Automobile Liability Insurance in an amount of at least \$1,000,000 combined single limit coverage including owned, non-owned and hired vehicles.

12.2 Proposed Scope of Work

A prospective consultant should indicate an understanding of the requested services as described in Section 4, Scope of Services, and describe how it proposes to service the County in these aspects.

12.3 Project Personnel and Their Availability

Provide resume(s) of the key personnel who would be assigned to perform the services as described. Indicate status of each person's relationship to your firm, whether an employee, partner, subcontractor, or other contractual agreement. The statement should also identify for each member of the project team, their area of expertise, role in the project, and experience with similar or related projects.

Qualified personnel shall perform all services and shall maintain all necessary certificates and licenses required to perform such services.

Except when, and if, the workload demands otherwise, all services shall be conducted within the normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

12.4 Cost of Proposed Services

Consultant must include a not-to-exceed cost to complete the report.

13.0 Scoring Criteria

The County of Imperial will review the qualifications based on the selection criteria and 100 point scale as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. General firm and individual experience: | 10 points |
| 2. Specific experience as it pertains to California Department of Housing and Community Development, Community Development Block Grant Programs, and/or other grant programs: | 20 points |
| 3. Specific experience as it pertains to the Scope of Services above mentioned in Item 4.0: | 25 points |
| 4. Capacity to perform the Scope of Work and ability to conclude the work in a timely manner: | 10 points |
| 5. Quality of staff and their availability: | 10 points |
| 6. Overall quality of qualifications, especially thoroughness and appearance: | 5 points |
| 7. Cost of Services | 20 points |
| Total Value: | 100 points |

Additional questions may be asked of those submitting a proposal and formal interviews may be conducted as well. Respondents will be notified of any additional required information or interviews after written proposals have been evaluated.

The COUNTY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals submitted; to request clarification of services submitted; to request additional information; and to waive any irregularity in the proposal and review process, as long as COUNTY procedures remain consistent with HCD procurement requirements. The COUNTY may select one consulting firm or a combination of consulting firms to provide the range of services requested.

14.0 PROHIBITION AS SUBCONTRACTORS UNDER COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

No party submitting a proposal who is permitted to withdraw a proposal shall, for compensation, perform any subcontract or other service for the person or firm to whom the contract is awarded or otherwise benefit, directly or indirectly, from the performance of the project for which the withdrawn proposal was submitted.

15.0 FEDERAL REGULATIONS

12.1 Affirmative Action

The work to be performed under this contract is on a project assisted under a program providing direct federal financial assistance from the UNITED States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and subject to 24 CFR 85.36(e). County hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged, minority and women's business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids

in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award. Minority- and women-owned and operated businesses are encouraged to apply.

12.2 Section 3

The work to be performed under this contract in on a project assisted under a program providing direct federal financial assistance from the HUD, Community Development Block Grant Program, and is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 USC 1701u. Section 3 requires that to the greatest extent feasible opportunities for training and employment be given to low and moderate income persons residing within the project area and that the contracts for work in connection with the project be awarded to eligible business concerns which are located in, or owned in substantial part by persons residing in the area of the project. Regulations for implementing the Section 3 clause are contained in 24 CFR 135, as amended, and as specified in the project specifications.

12.3 Federal Terms and Conditions

During the performance of the contract, the Contractor must agree to comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations including but not limited to each of the following:

A. Equal Opportunity

During the performance of this Contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

1. The Contractor will comply with Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965 entitled Equal Employment Opportunity as amended by Executive Order 11375 of October 1967 as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (41 CFR Chapter 60).
2. The Contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to insure that applicants are employed and that employees are treated equally during employment, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment, or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the County setting forth the provision of the nondiscrimination clause.
3. The Contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
4. The Contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under Section 202 of Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and shall

- post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
5. The Contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to this books, records, and accounts by the contracting agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.
 6. In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of such rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
 7. The Contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of Executive Order N. 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the Secretary of Labor as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, that in the event the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction, the contractor may request the United States or enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.
 8. The contractor shall file, and shall cause each of his subcontractors to file, Compliance Reports with the contracting agency or the Secretary of Labor as may be directed. Compliance Reports shall be filed within such times and shall contain such information as to the practices, policies, programs, and employment policies, programs, and employment statistics of the contractor and each subcontractor, and shall be in such form, as the Secretary of Labor may prescribe.
 9. Bidders or prospective contractors or subcontractors may be required to state whether they have participated in any previous contract subject to the provisions of the Order, or any preceding similar Executive order, and in that event to submit, on behalf of themselves and their proposed subcontractors, Compliance reports prior to or as an initial part of their bid or negotiation of a contract.
 10. Whenever the Contractor or subcontractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other Contract or understanding with a labor union or an agency referring workers or providing or supervising apprenticeship or training for such workers, the compliance Report shall include such information as to such labor union's or agency's practices and policies affecting compliance as the Secretary of Labor may prescribe: Provided, that to the extent such information is within the exclusive possession of a labor union or an agency referring workers or providing or supervising apprenticeship or training and such labor union or agency shall refuse to furnish such information to the Contractor, the Contractor

shall so certify to the Secretary of Labor as part of its Compliance Report and shall set forth what efforts he/she has made to obtain such information.

11. The Secretary of Labor may direct that any bidder or prospective contractor or subcontractor shall submit, as part of his Compliance Report, a statement in writing, signed by an authorized officer or agent of behalf of any labor union or any agency referring workers or providing or supervising apprenticeship or other training, with which the bidder or prospective contractor deals, with supporting information, to the effect that the signer's practices and policies do not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex or national origin, and that the signer either will affirmatively cooperate in the implementation of the policy and provision of this order or that it consents and agrees that recruitment, employment, and the terms and conditions of employment under the proposed contract shall be in accordance with the purposes and provisions of the order. In the event that the union, or the agency shall refuse to execute such a statement, the Compliance Report shall so certify and set forth what efforts have been made to secure such a statement and such additional factual material as the Secretary of Labor may require.
12. The Contractor will cause the forgoing provision to be inserted in all subcontracts for work covered by this Agreement so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor, provided that the forgoing provisions shall not apply to contracts or subcontracts for standard commercial supplies or raw materials.

B. Disadvantaged/Minority/Women Business Enterprise Federal Regulatory Requirements under 24 CFR 85.36(e)

1. The Contractor will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority firms, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.
2. Affirmative steps shall include:
 - a. Placing qualified small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
 - b. Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
 - c. Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority business, and women's business enterprises;
 - d. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority business, and women's business enterprises;
 - e. Using the Services and assistance of the Small Business Administration, and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

C. Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 U.S.C. 874)

Contractor shall comply with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 U.S.C. 874) as supplemented in Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 3).

D. Compliance with Labor Standard Provisions

Contractor shall comply with all provisions contained in the form HUD-4010, Federal Labor Standards Provisions.

E. Compliance with Sections 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-330)

Contractor will comply with Sections 103 and 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-330) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 5). Requires the contracting officer to insert the clauses set forth in 29 CFR Part 5, construction contracts awarded by grantees and subgrantees in excess of \$2,000, and in excess of \$2,5000 for other contracts which involve the employment of mechanics or laborers).

F. Requirements and Regulations pertaining to Data and Design

All data and design and engineering work created under this Agreement shall be owned by the County and shall not be subject to copyright protection. The rights to any invention which is developed in the course of this Agreement shall be the property of the County.

G. Requirements and Regulations pertaining to Reporting

The County, State CDBG, HUD and the Comptroller General of the United States of any of their duly authorized representatives shall be granted access to any books, documents, papers and recorders of Contractor which are directly pertinent the contract.

H. Compliance with Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act

1. Contractor Shall comply with all applicable standards, orders and requirements issued under Section 306 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1857 (h)).
2. Contractor shall comply with all applicable standards, orders and requirements issued under Section 508 of the Clean Air Act (33 U.S.C. 1368).
3. Contractor shall comply with Executive Order 11738 and Environmental Protection Agency regulations (40 CFR Part 15).\

I. Compliance with Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Pub. L. 94-163, 89 Stat. 871)

The Contractor shall comply with the mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency with are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Pub. L. 94-163, 89 Stat. 871).

D/MBE/WBE Implementation Guidelines

The following information, as applicable, shall be retained by Contractor and produced upon request by General Services if determined by General Services to be necessary to establish the bidder's "good faith efforts" to meet the Disadvantaged/Minority/Women Business Enterprise (D/M/WBE) requirements:

1. The names and dates of advertisement of each newspaper, trade paper, and minority-focus paper in which a request for D/M/WBE participation for this project was placed by the bidder.
2. The names and dates of notices of all certified D/M/WBEs solicited by direct mail for this project and the dates and methods used for following up initial solicitations to determine with certainty whether the D/M/WBEs were interested.
3. The items of work for which the bidder request subbids or materials to be supplied by D/M/WBEs, the information furnished interested D/M/WBEs in the way of plans, specifications and requirements for the work, and any breakdown of items of work into economically feasible units to facilitate D/M/WBE participation. Where there are D/M/WBEs available for doing portions of the work normally performed by the bidder with his own forces, the bidder will be expected to make portions of such work available for D/M/WBEs to bid on.
4. The names of D/M/WBEs who submitted bids for any of the work indicated in (3) above, which were not accepted, and summary of the bidder's discussions and/or negotiations with them, the name of the subcontractor or supplier that was selected for that portion of work, and the reasons for the bidder's choice. If the reason for rejecting the D/M/WBE bid was price, give the price bid by the rejected D/M/WBE and the price bid by the selected subcontractor or supplier.
5. Assistance that the bidder has extended to D/M/WBEs identified in (4) above to remedy the deficiency in their subbids.
6. To find a D/M/WBE certified firm, you may call (916) 455-3520, go online to: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq.bep>, or via email at: D/M/WBE Listing for County, CalTrans-Publications Distribution Unit, 1900 Royal Oaks, Sacramento, CA 95815-3800.