



Request for Qualifications

Project Title: Project Gateway

Issue Date: November 22, 2022

Due Date: December 9, 2022 by 3 p.m.

Issuing Department: *Gaffney Board of Public Works*

Direct all inquiries concerning this RFQ to:

Cory Cox, PE

Assistant Manager

Email: ccox@gbpw.com

Contents

Project Gateway	3
Engineering Services	4
RFQ Timeline	5
Questions	5
Submittal Requirements	5
Communications	5
Qualifications	6
<i>Qualifications Packet Required Documents</i>	6
Scope of Services	7
Proposal Evaluation	7
<i>Evaluation Criteria</i>	7
<i>Selection Committee</i>	8

Project Gateway

Cherokee County, located in upstate South Carolina, is home to two sewer districts: the largest, Gaffney's Board of Public Works (BPW), and the Town of Blacksburg. Gaffney BPW has two wastewater treatment plants: Clary Wastewater Treatment Plant and Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Town of Blacksburg has one lagoon-style wastewater treatment plant to serve primarily residential areas of Blacksburg.

In recent years, the Interstate 85 (I-85) corridor between Greenville/Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Charlotte, North Carolina continues to experience exponential growth; Greenville County is actually one of the top three fastest-growing cities in South Carolina, and Charlotte recently passed San Francisco to become the 15th biggest city in the country. Naturally, the primary transportation artery (I-85) that connects these two high-growth regions is also experiencing growth in many forms (residential, industrial, commercial, etc.).

At present, there is no major sewer service along I-85 between exit numbers 100 and 106 in South Carolina, a fact that is severely limiting the area's ability to grow alongside the region. We have found a solution to this problem, a major infrastructure upgrade that we have titled "Project Gateway." This project would position the communities of Gaffney and Blacksburg, which sit along the section of I-85 lacking sewer service, for future growth and opportunity.

Gaffney's Board of Public Works has been awarded Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) SCIIP funds to resolve the need and intends to install both collection system improvements and WWTP improvements.

Gaffney BPW must comply with the requirements of ARPA as well as federal rules and regulations, including the terms of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 and all rules published to date and that may be published in the future by the United States Treasury related to the SLFRF and ARP, and any applicable State rules and regulations, including the terms of ACT 244 and any project management procedures provided by the Authority. All federal dollars shall be expended by December 31, 2026.

Project Gateway has multiple major components:

- 1. Installation of new sewer lift stations at Gaffney Ferry Rd, Bear Den Road, Hwy 5, Jumping Branch Road, Gibbons Road #1, Gibbons Road #2, Quarry Road #1, and Quarry Road #2.**

The new Bear Den Road and Gaffney Ferry Rd Lift Stations are the largest of the proposed lift stations. They will serve as the primary conveyance mechanism of sewer from the eastern side of the Broad River to the western side of the Broad River, where our Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plant is located.

The Gaffney Ferry Rd, Jumping Branch Road, Gibbons Road, and Quarry Road Lift Stations will be strategically located to collect sewer from watersheds with the highest potential for growth.

2. Installation of 15,661 linear feet of gravity sewer

Gravity sewer will be utilized everywhere it is economically feasible. Large sections along I-85 that historically were not served with sewer will now have gravity sewer access.

3. Installation of 73,812 linear feet of sewer force main

Sanitary sewer force main will be utilized to lift sewer from one sub-basin to the next as sewer is conveyed back to the Broad River WWTP in Gaffney.

4. Broad River Wastewater Treatment Plant & Providence Creek Lift Station Upgrades

During the preliminary engineering phase we identified several hydraulic bottlenecks at the WWTP. To correct these issues, the proposed Broad River WWTP upgrades include expanded sludge handling, new electrical, piping and pump station improvements, and variable speed pumps and controls at the existing Providence Creek Lift Station. These improvements will solidify our ability to reliably treat the new incoming flows from Project Gateway.

Due to the size and complexity of this project, we intend to break the construction scope into two major components: Collection System Work (items 1-3 above) and WWTP Work (item 4 above).

Engineering Services

Engineering services have followed the same major component breakdown as above.

Collection Improvements:

- Collection system preliminary engineering report is complete.
- Collection system final design is under contract and scheduled to be complete in March 2023.
- Collection System Construction Management Services

WWTP Improvements:

- Preliminary engineering report for the wastewater plant work is complete.
- WWTP Improvements Design
- WWTP Improvements Construction Management Services

The intention of this RFQ is to hire a qualified engineering firm for WWTP Improvements design, and construction management services for both the collection

system work and WWTP improvements. Engineering services costs will be expensed through the SCIIP grant awarded from RIA.

The BPW intends to negotiate one contract with the highest qualified bidder for services based on the evaluation criteria of this RFQ and qualifications of prospective firms to perform the services at fair and reasonable prices.

RFQ Timeline

Submittal packets of qualifications are requested by December 9, 2022 at 3 p.m. The BPW reserves the right to modify or adjust this delivery schedule to meet the needs of the project. If required, BPW will conduct interviews with the three highest bidders on December 13, 2022 at the BPW Operations Center.

Questions

All questions regarding this proposal must be submitted via email by 5 p.m. on December 6, 2022 to ccox@gbpw.com. The subject line of the email should be formatted as “Project Gateway RFQ Questions_Your Company Name”.

Submittal Requirements

Proposals must follow the format as defined in the *Qualifications* section below and be addressed and submitted as follows:

Proposals must be submitted as a PDF via email with the subject line of the email containing the project name and your company name, formatted as “Project Gateway Engineering RFQ - Your Company Name”.

Proposals received after the RFQ deadline above will not be considered.

Any requirements in the RFQ that cannot be met must be indicated in the proposal. Proposers must respond to the entire Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Any incomplete proposal may be eliminated from consideration at the discretion of the BPW.

Communications

All communications of any nature regarding this RFQ with any BPW staff, elected BPW officials, or evaluation committee members are strictly forbidden from the time the solicitation is publicly posted until the time the project is awarded. Questions must be submitted in writing to the individual designated in Section 1 prior to the deadline.

Violation of this provision may result in the firm’s proposal being removed from consideration.

Qualifications

Qualifications Packet Required Documents

Responses must follow the format outlined below. At its sole discretion, the BPW may reject as non-responsive any submittal that does not provide complete and/or adequate responses, or departs in any substantial way from the required format.

Statement of qualifications packages shall not exceed 20 pages. A single page printed on both sides will be counted as two pages. A one-page cover letter will not count towards the page limit.

All pages in the qualifications package must be 8.5" x 11". Font text shall be no smaller than 10-point font. No additional correspondence should be submitted.

Qualifications Packet Required Document Format

Responses should be divided into four sections:

1. Cover Letter

Provide an introduction letter summarizing the unique qualifications of your firm to meet the needs of this service requirement. This letter should be presented on the firm's official letterhead and signed by an authorized representative who has the authority to enter into a contract with the BPW on behalf of the firm. Additionally, include the name, address, telephone and email address of the individual who serves as the point of contact for this solicitation.

2. Corporate Background and Experience

Include background information on the firm and provide detailed information regarding the firm's experience with similar projects. Provide a list of similar projects performed in the past 5 years, accompanied by at least 3 references (contact persons, firm, telephone number and email address). Include the preliminary engineering cost estimate, total construction cost, engineering fees for each listed project, the length of the project schedule, and list of those involved in the project who would also be involved in Project Gateway. Failure to provide a list of all similar contracts in the specified period may result in the rejection of the firm's proposal. The evaluation team reserves the right to contact any or all listed references, and to contact other public entities regarding past performance on similar projects.

3. Project Understanding, Approach, and Schedule

Provide a comprehensive narrative, outline, and/or graph demonstrating the firm's understanding and approach to accomplishing the tasks outlined in the Scope of Work section of this RFQ. A description of each task and deliverable and the schedule for accomplishing each shall be included.

4. Firm/Team Experience and Certifications/Qualifications

This section must include a proposed organizational chart of the people assigned to the project, their roles, and the amount of time to be dedicated to the project., as well as experience qualifications and summary for key people assigned to the project.

Scope of Services

The scope of services for the engineering services outlined above will include the following:

1. Design of the Broad River Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements, based on the preliminary engineering report produced by Black & Veatch Engineering in June 2022. A copy of the preliminary engineering report most recent collection system design drawings can be found on our website at <https://www.gbpw.com/project-gateway-resources>
2. Bid services for the WWTP Improvements.
 1. Construction management services for both the Collection System Improvements and WWTP Improvements. Construction schedule is tentatively scheduled for July 2023 through January 2026. At minimum, firms should anticipate 1 full-time inspector available for the entire construction schedule.
 2. Project Closeout Services
Record drawings for both the Collection System Improvements and WWTP Improvements, as well as all necessary permit requirements to operate and close out of the construction phases.

Proposal Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria

BPW intends to select the firm or team that demonstrates competence and qualifications to perform the services at fair and reasonable prices.

Criteria:	Weight:	Score: (0-10)	Total:
Firm's WWTP design capability & staff availability	25%		
Firm's ability to design to a target budget that meets the needs outlined in the preliminary engineering report	10%		
Firm's alternative delivery experience	15%		
Firm's ability to meet the project schedule	15%		
Firm's experience with construction management services on projects of similar size (\$50,000,000)	25%		
Firm's resident inspector proximity to project	10%		
		Total:	

Selection Committee

The BPW selection committee is made up of at least 3 staff members with knowledge of the project and qualifications to select engineering firms based on the criteria set in this RFQ.

The BPW shall not be bound or in any way obligated until both parties have executed a contract. The BPW also reserves the right to delay the award of a contract or to not award a contract.