

Pre-Bid Conference Minutes

July 14, 9:00am PT

Location: Contractors should meet at the southeast side of the bridge over Travers Creek on Manning Ave, 0.6 miles west of Alta Avenue, Reedley, CA
Attendance at this meeting is not mandatory to bid.

Project Information:

Contract: 21-01-C Travers Creek at Manning Avenue Tree Removal

Estimate Range: \$127,000 to \$141,000.

Bid Opening: Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM – *Note: See Addendum 1 for updated date/time.*

Planholders website: <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/planholders>

Project website: <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-works-and-planning/construction-bidding-opportunities/21-01-c-travers-creek-at-manning-avenue-tree-removal>

Attendees – County Staff

- Jennica Geddert, Design, Public Works and Planning
- Joseph Harrell, Design, Public Works and Planning
- Cynthia Zamora, Design, Public Works and Planning
- Nicolette Nobuhiro, Design, Public Works and Planning
- Jennifer Parks, Construction, Public Works and Planning

Attendees – Contractors

- Jason Neville, Central Sierra Enterprise
- Filipe Campiz, National Waste Management West
- Chris Roberts, National Waste Management West
- Bill Matthews, HDM Matthews Inc.
- Courtney Valdez, HDM Matthews Inc.
- Julian Cabrera, Julian Tree Care Inc.

Description of the project as in the Notice to Bidders

The work, in general, consists of trimming, removal, and proper disposal of 107 trees and approximately 93 brush units located within the project limits of the Travers Creek at Manning Avenue Bridge Replacement project, 0.6 mi. west of

Alta Avenue. Stump grinding is required in certain project areas. All debris generated by the felling, removal, and trimming of trees must be removed. The roadway must be kept free from debris at all times.

Submission of Bids/and Bid Bonds & Bid Express – Jennica Geddert

Bid Openings are now conducted over Zoom with bids submitted via Bid Express. Contractors are encouraged to set up their FREE Bid Express accounts in advance. Bids can be saved, withdrawn and updated up until the time of the bid opening so we encourage bidders to try out the software in advance and call or email DesignServices@fresnocountyca.gov if there are any questions about how the bidding software works.

A presentation for those who have not bid electronically before is coming up on July 16, 2021 at 10:00 AM PT. Details have been posted on the planholders website (<https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/planholders>) under “How to bid electronically on our projects.” – *Note: See website for updated date/time.*

For any hardcopies, bid bonds or hardcopy bids, please let us know your plans to ensure we receive any physically delivered paperwork.

Discussion of Project – Joseph Harrell

This project involves clearing live trees and bushes so that PGE can move power poles in preparation for the bridge replacement. The exact number of trees and bush units is unknown in some of the denser zones and payment will be on a per tree and per brush unit basis. Clearing and excavation including existing dead wood will be part of the bridge replacement phase of the project, so this project is limited to removing and trimming living trees and bushes.

Note:

- Tree Removal Exhibit in the Project Details shows the various zones for the different types of work required. In addition, there will be a preconstruction survey in which the surveyor will flag exact trees for the type of work required (trim, removal, grinding, etc.). On the south side of Manning Avenue no removal of brush units will be required.
- The Contractor is responsible for removal and disposal of tree trimmings, wood chips, etc. The County does not want the wood chips or lumber.
- The Contractor is responsible for erecting temporary livestock fencing as necessary to contain and protect livestock and keep them out of the work area.
- The Contractor is responsible for working with the Resident Engineer regarding needed traffic control, such as shoulder or lane closure.
- The Contractor is responsible for ascertaining the locations of utilities (e.g. call 811), both underground and overhead, before grinding or digging.

Questions

Would it be possible to add license classification D-49/C-61 as an acceptable Licensing alternative in order to bid as a Prime?

A Tree Service (D-48/C-61) license is acceptable if the contractor can self-perform the required percentage of the contract and can employ the correct classification of subcontractor capable of doing the work. See Addendum #1.

Is this a Construction project or a Maintenance project?

This project is best classified as construction since the scope of work prepares for future roadway and bridge construction and does not involve ongoing maintenance.

There are several Determination Numbers for Tree Trimmers, would it be possible for the County to pick one that all Contractors can refer to?

We cannot choose a specific determination. It appears that several classifications are required, and others are not qualified. It is your responsibility to review the scope of work and determine the appropriate classification for each item of work.

How will we know which trees to grind, trim, or remove?

See "Tree Removal Exhibit" in the Project Details. A surveyor will flag the exact trees for the work that needs to be done.

Where can we work on the property owners' property?

You may work in the area between the edge of roadway and the furthest extent of the tree canopy to be removed or trimmed. Care should be taken if other landscaping is within that area.

Where can we set up a staging area?

The cleared field on the southeast property may be used for staging. Provide the Engineer with your required size of area prior to mobilizing.

What is the buffer needed for PG&E?

Please refer to the PG&E Green Book. An excerpt is provided in the Project Details. The main lines are 115kV and require 15' feet clear or to the right-of-way line, whichever is more.

What kinds of fences will we need to contain the goats?

Provide a 4 strand barbed wire fence with metal poles according to Caltrans Standard Plan A-86. See Addendum #1.

Do we need to remove the existing deadwood?

All trees flagged are to be removed regardless if they are alive or dead. At the direction of the Engineer, fallen trees or deadwood may be requested to be removed. In that case, removal will be paid at the appropriate bid unit price according to the DBH measurement or otherwise as a brush unit. You are responsible for disposing of debris generated by trimming, felling, and removing flagged trees and bush units. See Addendum #1.

What about environmental provisions (LLPs)?

The County will supply a biologist and screen for endangered species and nesting. Work will commence when nests are able to be excluded. You are responsible for erosion and dust control measures.

Do we need to remove existing fence posts? May we remove existing fences if they block access to the work area?

You are not required to remove fences. Within the County Right of Way, you may remove fencing that limits/prevents access to the work area. You are responsible for disposal of all items removed.

Do we have to meet the DBE goal?

This is a Federally funded project with a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal. Contractors are required to make a good faith effort to commit to meeting the DBE goal. Contractors must submit their DBE Commitment by 4pm 5 calendar days after the bid opening. If your commitment does not meet the DBE goal, you must submit a Good Faith Effort. You are encouraged to submit a Good Faith Effort even if you are able to meet the DBE goal.

Will we need a Licensed Timber Operator?

The project is not within a forest. A Licensed Timber Operator is not required.

How will the contractor be chosen?

Bids will be evaluated to determine if each one is responsive or non-responsive. Of the responsive bids, the lowest bid will be awarded the contract.

Do we need to provide equipment and employee lists?

Those requirements are part of the pre-construction process, not the bidding process.

Oral explanations or interpretations of plans and specifications are not binding. Any explanation, interpretation or clarification of plans and specifications will be in the form of a written addendum to the plans and specifications issued to the planholders of record.

It is the Contractor's responsibility to ask any questions they might have regarding this project. No allowance will be made after the bids have been received for any errors or omissions due to any misconceptions made by the Contractor.