

January 4, 2016



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE  
PHYSICAL SUICIDE DETERRENT SYSTEM  
FEDERAL-AID PROJECT: BHLS-6003(051)  
and  
WIND RETROFIT  
FEDERAL-AID PROJECT: BHLS-6003(052)

Contract No. 2016-B-1

To: Prospective Bidders

RE: **Response to Bidders' Questions No. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The following are the responses to questions submitted by prospective bidders and designated as Bid Questions No. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34:

**BID QUESTION No. 29:**

Specification Section 55-1.02B(6)(c) includes a clause that states, "For all bolts, thread stick-out after tensioning must be at least flush with the outer nut face and at most  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. At least 3 full threads must be located within the grip of the connection." It is highly unlikely that the contractor can meet this requirement on a consistent basis due to fabrication tolerances on the bolt assembly, thickness of existing steel and variability in the bolt tensioning process. Would the District accept the use of an alternative bolting specification regarding thread engagement such as the Research Council on Structural Connections *Specification for Structural Joints Using High Strength Bolts-2014* which allows for a flush nut?

**RESPONSE:**

*Special Provisions Section 55-1.02B(6)(c) requires bolted connections to comply with the Research Council on Structural Connections (RCSC) Specification for Structural Joints Using High Strength Bolts. RCSC Specification Section 2.3.2 states that the bolt length used shall be such that the end of the bolt extends beyond or is at least flush with the outer face of the nut when properly installed. Section 55-1.02B(6)(c) specifies a limitation on how much the end of the bolt can extend beyond the outer face of the nut (maximum  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) and requires that at least 3 full threads be located within the grip of the connection. The District has found on past projects that contractors are able to comply with this specification when they perform the required field measurements prior to steel fabrication and keep an adequate supply of various lengths of bolts available for use during the steel erection.*

**BID QUESTION No. 30:**

Preliminary feedback from a number of traveler suppliers has indicated that the new travelers will not be available for installation for up to 30 months after the commencement of the Project. A number of work activities will require completion well in advance of the installation of the new travelers that will render portions of the bridge inaccessible to the existing travelers for the District's maintenance personnel. A few of the work activities include SDS bracket installation, existing traveler rail/beam removal and new traveler rail/beam installation. Is the Contractor free to sequence the Contract work activities as long as a means of access, other than the existing or new travelers, is offered to the District's maintenance personnel while the existing or new travelers are not available?

**RESPONSE:**

*The Contractor is required to follow the order of work and sequence of operations as set forth in the Special Provisions and on the Contract Plans including Special Provisions Section 8-1.08, "Order of Work," and Section 60-2, "Maintenance Traveler Section."*

*The Contractor is required to cooperate and provide access and labor as required to facilitate the quality assurance sampling and testing by the Engineer in accordance with Special Provisions Section 6-3.05, "Quality Assurance." The Contractor is also required to afford the District's Bridge Maintenance and Inspection forces with proper and safe access to their work sites and a reasonable opportunity for the movement and storage of materials and equipment to their work sites and for the execution of their work in accordance with Special Provisions Section 5-1.20, "Coordination with Other Entities."*

*The access provided by the Contractor to comply with the Contract requirements does not have to be the existing or new maintenance travelers but needs to be safe and adequate and approved by the Engineer as part of the detailed work plans for the Contractor's work to be submitted to the Engineer in accordance with Special Provisions 5-1.23, "Submittals."*

**BID QUESTION No. 31:**

Reference is made to Page P-35 of Volume V of the Bidding Documents. Item 21 states, in part, to "Provide information regarding the companies within your Organization that will be performing the fabrication of the Travelers and the Traveler Drive System under this Contract." Further within Item 21, it requires past experience be provided for the companies performing the Traveler Fabrication and Traveler Drive Systems. Based upon the above, please confirm our understanding of the District's intent regarding this and that would be the company providing the Traveler has overall experience in a complete Traveler System and demonstrated past experience in furnishing operable Travelers on other Projects.

**RESPONSE:**

*Item 21 on page P-35 of Volume V of the Contract Documents will be revised through an upcoming addendum to clarify that, the company within Bidder's organization that will perform fabrication and delivery of the Traveler System, including the Traveler Drive System, for this project, must have experience in fabricating and delivering complete operable traveler systems with traveler drives and under quality control similar to the Traveler System required for this project.*

**BID QUESTION No. 32:**

The following questions relate to the Non-Disclosure process and Security Sensitive Information protocol associated with the Bid:

1. It is necessary for the Contractor to prepare Means and Methods Bid Packages for the fabrication and supply of Temporary Works associated with the performance of Work on the Project. Many of these Bid Packages will be sent to firms, including DBE firms, to solicit pricing from them. Our question is as follows:
  - a. Whether a DBE firm that may be listed on the Bid Form Attachment E – Construction Contract DBE Commitment that has provided pricing solely for temporary works materials based upon documents prepared by the Contractor or its Consultants and not including any of the Bid Plan Sheets or Specification be required to go through and be cleared by the District under the NDA process?
  - b. Whether any firm that has provided pricing solely for temporary works materials based upon documents prepared by the Contractor or its Consultants and not including any of the Bid Plan Sheets or Specification required to go through and be cleared by the District under the NDA process?
2. Is it necessary for a DBE Firm that would provide pricing for construction equipment or supplies and may be listed on the Attachment E – Construction Contract DBE Commitment be required to go through and be cleared by the District under the NDA process?

**RESPONSE:**

*Regarding your questions:*

*1a. A DBE firm listed on Bid Form Attachment E – Construction Contract DBE Commitment, that has provided pricing solely for temporary works materials based upon documents prepared by the Contractor or its Consultants and not including any of the Bid Plan Sheets or Specifications is not required to go through and be cleared by the District under the NDA process.*

*1b. A firm that has provided pricing solely for temporary works materials based upon documents prepared by the Contractor or its Consultants and not including any of the Bid Plan Sheets or Specifications is not required to go through and be cleared by the District under the NDA process.*

*2. A DBE Firm that would provide pricing for construction equipment or supplies and may be listed on the Attachment E – Construction Contract DBE Commitment is not required to go through and be cleared by the District under the NDA process.*

*As stated in the NDA for Bidding Purposes, you must not disclose the Contract Documents to any individuals or to any prospective subcontractors, consultants or suppliers without first verifying that such third parties have executed a NDA for Bidding Purposes with the District.*

**BID QUESTION No. 33:**

During the walkthrough, a posted sign was observed on the existing chain link fence around Staging Area “2” indicating a Load Limit 8,000 LB. Can the District clarify what is meant by this load limit and where it is in effect/applies?

**RESPONSE:**

*The 8,000 LB load limit sign is attached to the chain link fence near Staging Area “2” at the South Approach Viaduct. This load limit applies to the roof of the South Anchorage Housing which has a restriction of 8,000 pounds for a point load anywhere on the roof.*

*Attention is directed to Section 5-1.37, Maintenance and Protection. Prior to imposing any construction loads on the roof of the South Anchorage Housing, as well any other portions of the existing Bridge structures, the Contractor must submit calculations and independent check calculations verifying structural integrity and capacity of the Bridge structure that will carry those construction loads in addition to the bridge dead and live loads. Attention is directed to Section 48-3, Temporary Structures. If the calculations indicate that temporary support and bracing are required to provide sufficient structural capacity for the additional loads imposed by the Contractor’s operations, the Contractor must design, furnish and install such temporary structures prior to imposing any construction loads.*


**BID QUESTION No. 34:**

Can the District please issue the Volume 5 documents in electronic format so they can be filled out electronically?

**RESPONSE:**

*No, Volume 5 of the Contract Documents will not be issued electronically.*

Sincerely,



John Eberle, P.E.  
Deputy District Engineer