

02-INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

WARNING: READ THIS DOCUMENT CAREFULLY DO NOT ASSUME THAT IT IS THE SAME AS OTHER SIMILAR DOCUMENTS YOU MAY HAVE SEEN EVEN IF FROM THE SAME OWNER

PROJECT TITLE: General Alterations at Mullen Gymnasium

OWNER: Taft Union High School District

1. Preparation of Bid Form.

The Owner invites bids on the form attached to be submitted at the time and place stated in the Notice to Contractors Calling for Bids. Bids shall be submitted on the prescribed Bid Form, completed in full. All bid items and statements shall be properly and legibly filled out. Numbers shall be stated both in words and in figures where so indicated, and where there is a conflict in the words and the figures, the words shall govern. The signatures of all persons shall be in longhand. Prices, wording, and notations must be in ink or typewritten.

2. Form and Delivery of Bids.

The bid must conform to and be responsive to all Contract Documents and shall be made on the Bid Form provided. The complete bid, together with any additional materials required, shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope, addressed and hand-delivered or mailed to the Owner at the address set forth in the Notice to Contractors Calling for Bids, and must be received on or before the time set for the opening of bids. The envelope shall be plainly marked in the upper left-hand corner with the bidder's name, the project designation, and the date and time for the opening of bids. It is the bidder's sole responsibility to ensure that its bid is received prior to the bid deadline. In accordance with Government Code Section 53068, any bid received after the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

At the time set for the opening of bids, the sealed bids will be opened and publicly read aloud at the place indicated in the Notice to Contractors Calling for Bids.

3. Bid Security.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in cash, a certified or cashier's check, or bid bond in an amount not less than 10 percent of the total bid price payable to the Owner. The bid security shall be given as a guarantee that if awarded the contract the bidder will execute and return the Construction Agreement within 10 working days after

award of the contract and will furnish on the prescribed forms a satisfactory Payment (labor and material) Bond and separate Performance Bond, in accordance with the Contract Documents and Civil Code Sections 9550 et seq., and certificates evidencing that the required insurance is in effect in the amounts set forth in the Contract Documents. In case of refusal or failure to timely execute the Construction Agreement and furnish the required bonds and insurance certificates, the bid security shall be forfeited to the Owner. If the bidder elects to furnish a bid bond as its bid security, the bidder shall use the bid bond form included in the Contract Documents, unless the Owner elects to waive the use of the form provided, in its sole discretion.

4. Signature.

At the various times such documents are required to be submitted, the Bid Form, all bonds, the Designation of Subcontractors form, all Information Required of Bidder or prequalification forms, Workers Compensation Certificate, Drug-Free Workplace Certification, Non-Collusion Affidavit, Asbestos and Lead Based Paint Certification, Iran Contracting Act Certification, the Construction Agreement, and all Guarantees must be signed in the name of the bidder and must bear the signature of the person or persons duly authorized to sign these documents. Where indicated, if bidder is a corporation, the legal name of the corporation shall first be set forth, together with two signatures: one from among the chairman of the board, president, or vice president, and one from among the secretary, chief financial officer, or assistant treasurer. Alternatively, the signature of other authorized officers or agents may be affixed, if duly authorized by the corporation. Such documents shall include the title of such signatories below the signature and shall bear the corporate seal. Where indicated, if bidder is a joint venture or partnership, the bidder shall submit with the bid certifications signed by authorized officers of each of the parties to the joint venture or partnership, naming the individual (1) who shall be the agent of the joint venture or partnership, (2) who shall sign all necessary documents for the joint venture or partnership and, (3) should the joint venture or partnership be the successful bidder, who shall act in all matters relative to the resulting contract for the joint venture or partnership. If bidder is an individual, his/her signature shall be placed on such documents.

5. Modifications.

Changes in or additions to any of the bid documents, the summary of the work bid upon, or the alternative proposals, or any other modifications which are not specifically called for by the Owner, may result in the Owner's rejection of the bid as not being responsive. No oral or telephonic modification of any bid will be considered. However, prior to the opening of bids, a telegraphic modification signed by the bidder and postmarked and received prior to the opening of bids, or a facsimile modification duly signed by the bidder received prior to the opening of bids, may be considered if included within a sealed bid.

6. Erasures, Inconsistent, or Illegible Bids.

The bid submitted must not contain any erasures, interlineations, or other corrections unless each correction creates no inconsistency and is suitably authenticated and noted by signature of the bidder. In the event of inconsistency between words and figures in the bid, words shall control figures. In the event the Owner determines that any bid is unintelligible, illegible, or ambiguous, the Owner may reject the bid as not being responsive.

7. Examination of Site and Contract Documents.

At its own expense and prior to submitting bids, each bidder shall examine all documents relating to the project, visit the site, and determine the local conditions which may in any way affect the performance of the work, including the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and other relevant cost factors. Each bidder shall be familiar with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and codes affecting the performance of the work, including the cost of permits and licenses required for the work. Each bidder shall make such surveys and investigations, including investigation of subsurface or latent physical conditions at the site or where work is to be performed, as it may deem necessary for performance of the work at the price being bid. Each bidder shall determine the character, quality, and quantities of the work to be performed and the materials and equipment to be provided, and shall correlate its observations, investigations, and determinations with all requirements of the project.

The Contract Documents show and describe the existing conditions as they are believed to have been used in the design of the work and are only provided as information for the bidder. The Owner is not making any warranties regarding this information. The Owner shall not be liable for any loss sustained by the successful bidder resulting from any variance between the conditions and design data given in the Contract Documents and the actual conditions revealed during the bidder's pre-bid examination or during the progress of the work. Bidder agrees that the submission of a bid shall be incontrovertible evidence that the bidder has complied with and agrees to further comply with all the requirements of this section.

8. Withdrawal of Bids.

Any bid may be withdrawn, either personally, by written request, or by telegraphic or facsimile request confirmed in the manner specified above for bid modifications, at any time prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids. In accordance with this paragraph, the bid security shall be returned for bids withdrawn prior to the scheduled closing time for receipt of bids. No bidder may withdraw any bid for a period of 60 days after the award of the contract. A bidder's unawarded alternative bids remain open for a period of six months after award of contract as irrevocable offers to enter into either change orders or separate contracts for the stated price adjustment.

9. Agreement and Bonds.

The Construction Agreement and the form of the Payment and Performance Bonds which the successful bidder as Contractor will be required to execute are included in the Contract Documents and should be carefully examined by the bidder. The Payment Bond shall be in an amount not less than 100 percent of the amount of the contract in accordance with Civil Code section 9554. The successful bidder as Contractor will also be required to furnish a separate Performance Bond in the amount of 100 percent of the contract amount. Sufficient bonds shall be fully executed and returned to Owner with the executed Construction Agreement.

10. Interpretation of Contract Documents.

If any bidder is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the Contract Documents, or finds discrepancies in or omissions from the drawings and specifications, a written request for an interpretation ("RFI") or correction shall be submitted to the Owner's Project Manager at josem@vcsi.com 7 business days before the bid deadline. The bidder submitting the RFI shall be responsible for its prompt delivery. Any interpretation or correction of the Contract Documents will be made only by addendum issued by the Owner, and a copy of any addendum will be hand-delivered, mailed, or faxed to each bidder known to have received a set of the Contract Documents. No person is authorized to make any oral interpretation of any provision in the Contract Documents, nor shall any oral interpretation be binding on the Owner. If there are discrepancies on drawings, plans, or specifications, or conflicts between drawings, plans, specifications, terms, or conditions, the interpretation of the Owner shall prevail. Bidder shall become familiar with the plans, specifications, and drawings. Bidder shall not rely on summaries, if provided, of the plans, specifications, and drawings, but shall inspect each document independently to determine the full scope of the bid package and submit written questions to Owner's Project Manager, utilizing the RFI process described above, in the event of any identified potential discrepancies.

SUBMISSION OF A BID WITHOUT REQUESTING CLARIFICATIONS SHALL BE INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE THAT THE BIDDER HAS DETERMINED THAT THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND DRAWINGS ARE SUFFICIENT FOR BIDDING AND COMPLETING THE WORK, THAT BIDDER IS CAPABLE OF READING, FOLLOWING AND COMPLETING THE WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND DRAWINGS, AND THAT THE PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND DRAWINGS FALL WITHIN AN ACCEPTABLE STANDARD FOR THESE ITEMS, AND THAT BIDDER AGREES THAT THE PROJECT CAN AND WILL BE COMPLETED ACCORDING TO THE OWNER'S TIME LINES AND ACCORDING TO THE PROGRESS SCHEDULE TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER INCORPORATING THE OWNER'S TIME LINES FOR COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT.

11. Bidders Interested in More Than One Bid.

No person, firm, or corporation shall be allowed to make or file or be interested in more than one bid for the same work unless alternate bids are specifically called for by the Owner. A person, firm, or corporation that has submitted a sub-proposal to a bidder, or that has quoted prices of materials to a bidder, is not disqualified from submitting a proposal or quoting prices to other bidders or submitting a bid on the project.

12. Award of Contract.

(a) The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any irregularities or informalities in any bids or in the bidding process, and to award more than one contract. If two identical low bids are received from responsive and responsible bidders, the Owner will determine which bid will be accepted pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 20117.

(b) If made by the Owner, award of the contract will be by action of the governing board or other governing body to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. In the event an award of the contract is made to a bidder and that bidder fails or refuses to execute the Agreement and provide the required documents within the time required, the Owner may award the contract to the next lowest responsive and responsible bidder or release all bidders. An election by the Owner to reject all bids does not release the bid security of any bidder who has previously been awarded the contract and failed or refused to execute the Agreement and provide the required documents.

(c) In ascertaining the low bidder, the bids will be examined without reference to any substitutions requested by any bidder, whether or not the substitution request would result in a modification of the contract price.

13. Competency of Bidders.

In selecting the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, consideration will be given not only to the financial standing but also to the general competency of the bidder for performance of the work. By submitting a bid, each bidder agrees that in determining the successful bidder and its eligibility for the award, the Owner may consider the bidder's experience, facilities, conduct, and performance under other contracts, financial condition, reputation in the industry, and other factors relating to or which could affect the bidder's performance of the project.

The Owner may also consider the qualifications and experience of subcontractors and other persons and organizations (including those who are to furnish the principal items of material and equipment) proposed for those portions of the work. Operating costs, maintenance considerations, performance data, and guarantees of materials and equipment may also be considered by the Owner. In this regard, the Owner may conduct such investigations as the Owner deems necessary to assist in the evaluation of any bid

and to establish the responsibility, qualifications, and financial ability of the bidder, proposed subcontractors, and other persons and organizations to do the work to the Owner's satisfaction within the prescribed time. The Owner reserves the right to reject the bid of any bidder who does not pass any such evaluation to the satisfaction of the Owner, or in the Owner's sole discretion, to permit substitution of subcontractor(s) found non-responsible.

14. Listing Subcontractors.

Each bidder shall submit a list of the proposed subcontractors, including their address, California contractor's license number and DIR Registration number, on the project as required by the Subletting and Subcontracting Fair Practices Act (Public Contract Code Section 4100 and following sections) on the form furnished with the Contract Documents. If alternate bids are called for and the bidder intends to use different or additional subcontractors, a separate list of subcontractors must be submitted for each such alternate bid. The Owner may request that bidder submit information to assess the responsibility of the bidder's proposed subcontractors. The apparent low bidder shall, within 24 hours of the bid opening, provide a complete listing of all subcontractors, including full name, address, telephone numbers, contractor's license number and type and DIR Registration number.

15. Workers' Compensation.

In accordance with the provisions of Labor Code Section 3700, the successful bidder shall secure the payment of compensation to all employees. The successful bidder awarded the contract shall sign and file with the Owner, at the time of returning the executed Construction Agreement, the certificate which is included as a part of the Contract Documents.

16. Contractor's License.

At the bid opening date and time, if a bidder is not properly licensed and registered to perform the project in accordance with Division 3, Chapter 9, of the California Business and Professions Code, Labor Code section 1725.5 and the Notice Calling for Bids, as required, that bidder's bid will be rejected as non-responsive. Business and Professions Code Section 7028.15 precludes payment for work or materials unless the Registrar of Contractors verifies to the Owner that the bidder was properly licensed at the time the bid was submitted. If this project is federally funded, the bidder must be properly licensed prior to the award of the contract. Any bidder not properly licensed and registered with DIR is subject to penalties under the law and the contract can be considered void. If the license classification specified in these Contract Documents is that of a "specialty contractor" as defined in Business and Professions Code Section 7058, the specialty contractor awarded the contract for this work shall construct a majority of the work in accordance with the provisions of Business and Professions Code Section 7059.

17. Anti-Discrimination.

It is the policy of the Owner that in all work performed under contracts there be no unlawful discrimination against any prospective or active employee engaged in the work because of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religious creed, sex, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, or medical condition. The successful bidder agrees to comply with applicable federal and state laws, including but not limited to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, beginning with Government Code Section 12900 and Labor Code Section 1735. In addition, the successful bidder agrees to require like compliance by any subcontractors employed on the work by that bidder.

18. Hold Harmless.

The successful bidder awarded the contract shall hold harmless and indemnify various parties as more clearly set forth elsewhere in the Contract Documents.

19. Substitutions.

(a) All bids should be calculated and submitted on the project as described in the bid documents, and on the assumption that substitution requests submitted with the bid will not be approved. Notwithstanding the foregoing, substitution requests submitted with bids will be given due consideration and adjustments to the contract, which may include adjustment to contract price, will be contained in a change order should the request be approved. Bidders not desiring to bid without prior approval of a proposed substitution should follow the procedure contained in this section for pre-bid review of proposed substitutions. Should the bidder wish to request prior to bid opening any substitution for the specified materials, process, service, or equipment, the bidder shall submit a written request at least ten (10) working days before the bid opening date and time. If the requested substitution is acceptable, the Owner will approve it in an addendum issued to all bidders of record. Requests received less than ten (10) working days prior to bid opening will not be considered prior to the bid date. Extensions of the bid date shall not operate to extend the deadline for requesting substitutions unless the Owner so states in an addendum issued to all bidders of record.

(b) If a substitution is not requested and considered prior to the bid date, the bidder shall submit with the bid all proposed substitutions, if any, on the Substitution Listing form contained in the bid documents.

(c) With respect to any materials, process, service, or equipment listed in the bid, unless the bidder clearly indicates in its Substitution Listing that it is proposing to use an "equal" material, process, service, or equipment, its bid shall be considered as offering the specified material, process, service, or equipment referred to by the brand name or trade name specified.

(d) Unless expressly authorized in the bid documents, no bid may be

conditioned on the Owner's acceptance of a proposed substitution. Any bid containing any such condition may be treated as a non-responsive bid.

(e) It is expressly understood and agreed that the Owner reserves the right to reject any proposed substitution. It is further expressly understood and agreed that in the event the Owner rejects a proposed "equal" item, or any other requested substitution, the specified material, process, service, or equipment designated by brand name or trade name, or other item as specified, will be provided.

(f) No substitution request of any kind or nature may be made after the bid date, except by the express written permission of the Owner and on such terms as Owner may require, or in an emergency, as in the case where a specified material, process, service, equipment, or other item has become unavailable through no fault of the bidder.

(g) These time limitations shall be complied with strictly, and in no case will an extension of time for completion be granted because of the failure to request the substitution of an item at the times and in the manner set forth herein.

(h) Prior to contract award, the Owner shall notify the bidder of the Owner's decision concerning proposed substitutions of "equal" items submitted with the bid. The Owner shall notify bidder of the Owner's decision on any other proposed substitutions as those decisions are made. Notification of all decisions by the Owner shall be in writing, and no proposed substitution shall be deemed approved unless the Owner has confirmed it in writing.

(i) With respect to all proposed substitutions, the requirements applicable to the Contractor in the Contract Documents shall be applicable to all bidders requesting substitutions.

20. Surety Qualifications.

Bid bonds executed by a surety insurer admitted in the State of California for purposes of issuance of such bonds will be accepted by Owner as sufficient.

Payment and/or performance bonds executed by a surety insurer admitted in the State of California with a minimum "A minus, VIII" rating (A minus V" when the price stated in the Contract Documents is less than \$500,000) as rated by the current edition of Best's Key Rating Guide published by A.M. Best Company, Oldwick, New Jersey 08858, shall be presumed by Owner to be sufficient for the issuance of such bonds. In the alternative, any admitted surety company which satisfies the requirements set forth in Code of Civil Procedure Section 995.660 shall be accepted and approved for the issuance of bonds, and documents demonstrating satisfaction of the requirements of Section 995.660 with respect to the bid bond must be submitted with the bid. No personal sureties will be accepted.

21. Liquidated Damages.

All work must be completed within the time limits set forth in the Contract Documents. Bidders must understand that the goodwill, educational process, and other business of the Owner will be damaged if the project is not completed within the time limits required. Should the work not be completed within the specified time for completion, the successful bidder awarded the contract may be liable for liquidated damages and for expenses incurred by the Owner for failure to timely complete the project. Such damages shall be deducted from any payments due or to become due to the successful bidder.

SUBMISSION OF A BID ON THIS PROJECT SHALL BE TAKEN AS CONCLUSIVE AND IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT BIDDER AGREES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

22. Drug-Free Workplace Certification.

Pursuant to Government Code section 8350 and following, the successful bidder will be required to execute and return to Owner the Drug-Free Workplace Certificate contained in the Contract Documents with the executed Construction Agreement. The bidder will be required to take positive measures outlined in the certificate to ensure the presence of a drug-free workplace. Failure to abide with the conditions set forth in the Drug-Free Workplace Act could result in penalties, including termination of the Construction Agreement or suspension of payment under the Construction Agreement.

23. Non-Collusion Declaration.

In accordance with the provisions of Public Contract Code section 7106, each bid must be accompanied by a Non-Collusion Declaration executed under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

24. Implementation of Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises Requirements.

In accordance with Education Code Section 17076.11, the Owner has a participation goal for disabled veteran business enterprises of at least three percent per year of the overall dollar amount of funds allocated to the Owner by the State Allocation Board pursuant to the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998 for construction or modernization and expended each year by the Owner. Prior to and as a condition precedent for final payment under any contract for this project, the successful bidder will be required to provide appropriate documentation to the Owner identifying the amount paid to disabled veteran business enterprises in conjunction with the contract, so the Owner can assess its success at meeting this goal.

25. Fingerprinting Requirements.

The successful bidder and all subcontractors at any level will be required to comply with any applicable laws on fingerprinting construction workers. Minimum requirements are set forth in the Contract Documents, and the form for certification of compliance is contained in the Contract Documents. The successful bidder must complete and return this form when directed by Owner.

26. California Products.

Price, fitness, and quality being equal with regard to supplies, the Owner may prefer supplies grown, manufactured, or produced in California. The Owner may next prefer supplies partially grown, manufactured, or produced in California. Where the Owner has a preference, the bids of the suppliers or the prices quoted by them (i) must not exceed by more than five percent the lowest bids/prices quoted by out-of-state suppliers, (ii) the major portion of the manufacture of the supplies is not done outside of California, and (iii) the public good will be served. Refer to specifications for indications of Owner preferences. Government Code Sections 4330-4334.

27. Contractor License And DIR Registration Required.

To perform the work required for this project, Bidder must possess the type of contractor's license specified in the Notice to Contractors Calling for Bids, and must be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) as a public works contractor. Contractor registration can be accomplished through the portal <https://efiling.dir.ca.gov/PWCR/>. No CONTRACTOR or subcontractor shall be qualified to bid on, be listed in a bid proposal, subject to the requirements of § 4104 of the Public Contract Code, for a public works project (submitted on or after March 1, 2015) unless currently registered with the DIR and qualified to perform public work pursuant to Labor Code § 1725.5. No CONTRACTOR or subcontractor may be awarded a contract for public work on a public works project (awarded after April 1, 2015) unless registered with the DIR.

28. Post-Bid Credits.

Should any bidder or proposed subcontractor to any bidder issue any credit or otherwise reduce its bid or quote pertaining to the work of this project, the value of the credit or other reduction shall be passed on to the Owner less only the applicable markups for profit and overhead as specified in the Contract Documents on change orders.

29. Contents of Bid.

The bid will include the following documents: Bid Form, List of Subcontractors, Bid Bond or other bid security, Non-collusion Declaration, Iran Contracting Act Certification, DVBE Certification, DVBE Good Faith Effort Worksheet and Certification of Attendance at Mandatory Job Walk.

30. Bid Protests.

Any bidder having submitted a bid on the project may file a protest against the proposed contract award or challenging the validity of other bids. The protest must meet all the following requirements:

- (a) The protest shall be submitted in writing and shall contain all the materials required by these provisions; one that does not contain all the required material shall not be recognized.
- (b) The protest shall be received by the Owner no later than close of business on the second business day after bid opening; one received after that time shall not be recognized.
- (c) Each protest shall contain the following:
 - Identification by name, address, and telephone number of the protesting person(s), company and/or organization and identification of the project to which the protest pertains.
 - The protest shall set forth in detail all grounds for the protest, including without limitation all facts, identification by name of any other bids or bidders involved in the protest, all supporting documentation, together with any legal authorities and/or argument in support of the grounds for the protest. Any matters not set forth in the written protest shall be deemed waived. All factual contentions must be supported by competent, admissible, and credible evidence.
- (d) Any protest not conforming to the requirements of this section shall be rejected as invalid.
- (e) Where a protest is filed in conformity with this section, the Owner's staff, or such individual(s) as may be designated by the Owner, shall review and evaluate the basis of the protest and provide a written decision to the protesting bidder. The written decision shall either concur with or deny the protest.
- (f) Submission of a written protest to and receipt of a written decision from the Owner staff shall be considered an administrative remedy, and failure to follow this procedure shall be a bar to any legal action.
- (g) The written decision by the Owner's staff is not subject to arbitration, mediation, reconsideration, or further appeal. Any protest not involving a finding of non-responsibility shall be fully and finally decided by Owner's staff, and there shall be no right for a protesting bidder to appeal Owner's staff's written decision to the Owner's governing board unless such appeal concerns a finding on non-

responsibility.

31. Procedure for Protesting Being Deemed a Non-Responsible Bidder.

Any bidder or prospective bidder deemed non-responsible after having submitted a bid may file an appeal of the action to the Owner's governing board or other governing body. The protest must meet all the following requirements:

- (a) The appeal shall be submitted in writing, and shall contain all the materials required by these provisions; one that does not contain all the required material shall not be recognized.
- (b) The appeal must be received by the Owner's governing board or other governing body within two business days of the action by Owner giving rise to the protest; one received after that time shall not be recognized.
- (c) A hearing on the appeal shall be held before the Owner's governing board or other governing body prior to the award of contract.
- (d) The decision of the Owner's governing board or other governing body is not subject to arbitration, mediation, reconsideration, or further appeal.
- (e) Submission of a protest to and receipt of a decision from the Owner's governing board or other governing body shall be considered an administrative remedy, and failure to follow this procedure shall be a bar to any legal action.

32. All Projects Over \$1,000 Are Subject to Prevailing Wage Monitoring and Enforcement by the Labor Commissioner

The project is subject to prevailing wage monitoring and enforcement by the DIR, as indicated in the Notice Calling for Bids. The successful bidder and all subcontractors will be subject to the requirements of Subchapter 4.5 of Chapter 8 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. The successful bidder and all subcontractors will be required to furnish certified payroll records to the Labor Commissioner on the frequency specified in the Notice Calling for Bids using the DIR's eCPR system. To access the DIR's eCPR system and to obtain additional information and assistance, bidders may go to DIR website www.dir.ca.gov/Public-Works/Certified-Payroll-Reporting.html. Failure to timely submit certified payroll records may result in debarment from public works projects by the Labor Commissioner for a period of one to three years.