

## RFQ Noyo Harbor Blue Economy Planning Responses to Written Questions Received

We appreciate your questions and thank you for the time and effort invested to develop proposals.

To ensure fair and equal access to information, all questions regarding the Request for Qualifications for on-call, as-needed services to assist with Noyo Harbor Blue Economy planning effort were submitted in writing. The City received seven emails seeking clarification by the February 2, 2024 deadline. Like questions have been grouped together, followed by written response.

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- **Is there a page limit to SOQ?**
  - **Regarding Proposal Submittal Requirements, does the City want an electronic version and a printed copy?**

Response:

There is no page limit to proposals. The City requests one (1) electronic pdf and two (2) copies of printed proposals (8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, printed two-sided on recycled and recyclable paper with removable bindings, bound in a single document, and organized in sections following the order specified under Contents of solicitation).

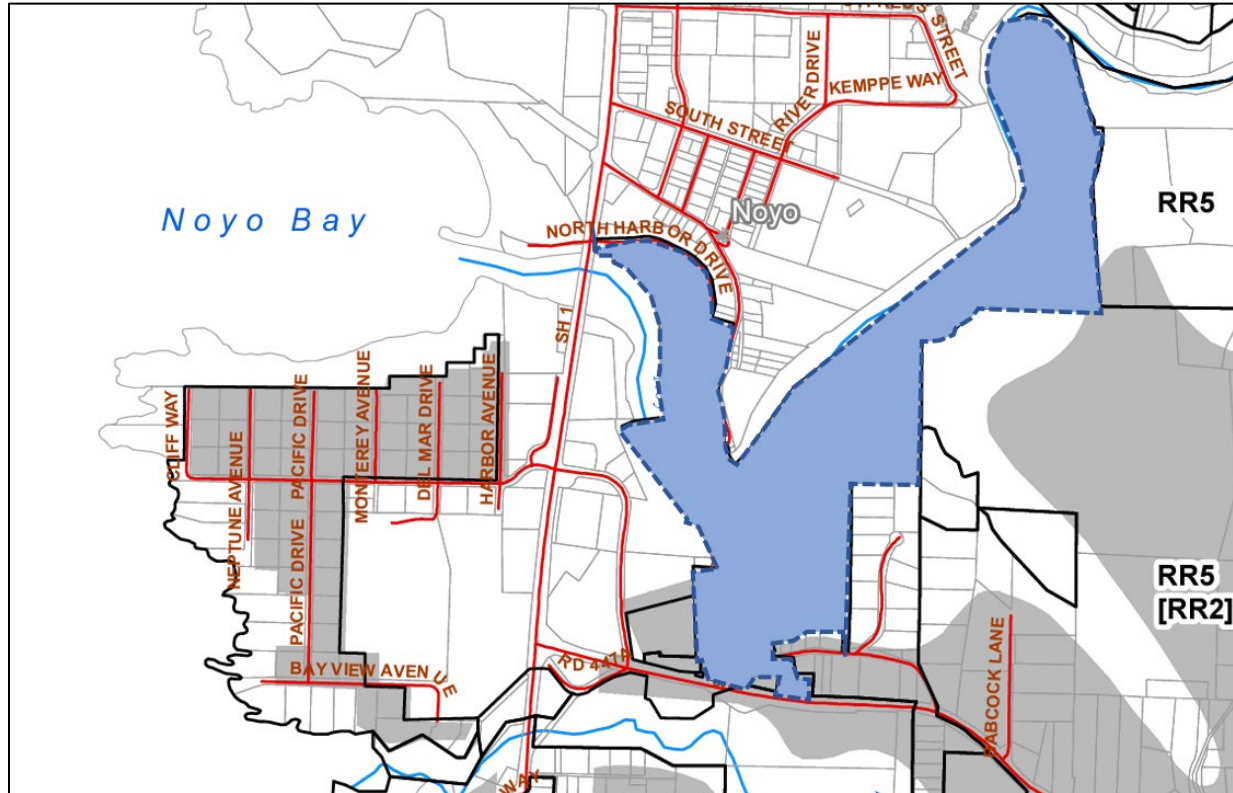
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- **Some of the numbered scope items appear to go beyond the CCC grant scope of work. Is the City's intent here to go beyond in the development of the Plan itself and anticipate what might ultimately be needed for Plan implementation?**

Response:

The entirety of the project is within the CCC grant scope of work. The intention is to develop a comprehensive climate ready planning document with action steps. Our goal is to engage the community at every level and learn together about coastal resiliency issues and blue economy initiatives (VISIONING), while simultaneously developing the baseline technical information to understand opportunities and limitations (RESILIENCY). Findings from these efforts will provide insight into future climate ready infrastructure and workforce development projects to pursue as next steps (IMPLEMENTATION). Findings will also inform updates to policies and regulations of the City of Fort Bragg and County of Mendocino Local Coastal Programs (IMPLEMENTATION).

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- **Can you please provide a map of the proposed planning area for the Noyo Harbor Blue Economy Visioning, Resiliency and Implementation Plan? What is the precise Study Area for this project?**
  - **Is it all of the City parcels zoned as PR, OS & HD as well the County's FV zoning districts?**
  - **If something different, can the City please provide a map that clearly illustrates the Study Area?**
  - **Much of the Noyo Harbor is in the retained jurisdiction of the Coastal Commission. Does the City envision the Study Area include areas within CCC retained jurisdiction?**

Response:



The Noyo Harbor District resides within Unincorporated Mendocino County and within the City of Fort Bragg’s [Sphere of Influence](#). The boundaries of the harbor are easiest understood by referring to the [City’s Zoning Map](#) and finding the uncolored parcels along the river. The County’s Zoning Web Map [Coastal Zone Detail: North-Central](#) shows the harbor by zoning classification – Fishing Village (FV).

All that said, the purpose of this project is to develop a roadmap for climate resiliency within the harbor – balancing environmental stewardship with economic vitality. Fixed boundaries are less important, as precise project areas will be determined by task. For example, specific tasks may incorporate the surrounding road/pedestrian network, or possible infrastructure needs within the context of the larger utility network. Alternatively, an economic analysis might consider contributions of a specific parcel or business, whereas future economic opportunities will require an understanding of City, County, State and even Federal drivers.

- **Regarding the Scope of Services, will there be clarification or further details regarding the expertise being requested by the City? For instance, our firm is a land use and environmental planning firm that provides an interdisciplinary approach to the provision of land use an environmental planning. Will the City be seeking environmental compliance services (CEQA/NEPA)? We also provide coastal planning and permitting services? Or shall we send a general overview of all the services our firm provides related to land use and environmental planning?**

Response:

The City will provide clarification and further details on needed expertise, as specific tasks are developed and services are requested. Please identify which services from the Scope of Services list you are responding to, and connect relevant skills and experience to each.

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- **Is the City looking for proposals that reflect multiple consulting firms that provide a wide range of services (i.e., a team of consultants that can cover all 23 service categories/disciplines)? Or are consultants to submit individually without teaming partners (i.e., a submittal focused on each consultant’s areas of expertise)?**
- **If firms are proposing the use of sub consultants, does the City require their schedule of charges as well?**
- **Should firm submit individually only, or is teaming allowed/encouraged?**
- **Under the Proposal Submittal Requirements (Page 3 of 5), the RFQ states: “Provide a description of your firm and list relevant information about capabilities, size, rate of services, and length of time in existence.” Can the City please clarify what is required for “rate of services”?**

Response:

The City is seeking create a panel of professional service contractors with appropriate experience and expertise in the various tasks required to contract with the City on an as-needed basis. Based on the proposals received, this panel may be a combination of multi-disciplinary firms and/or individual firms with specific expertise. You are encourage submit for the services in which you seek to provide.

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- **Can you elaborate on the type of agricultural studies anticipated?**

Response:

The City is collaborating with California Sea Grant and the Noyo Center for Marine Science to prepare an Aquaculture Feasibility Study. This work includes water quality assessments, as well as growing out plants and animals under a Scientific Collection Permit. Depending on how this study moves forward, it is likely lab reports and analyses on tissue samples will be needed.

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- **Can you elaborate on the local working waterfront skills needed?**

Response:

Commercial and recreational fishing are central to the identity of Noyo Harbor, which holds historical, cultural, and economic importance for the larger coastal region. Specialized knowledge of working waterfront skills will be needed as we gather/analyze data about the historical and current use of waterfront space, the economic value of the waterfront, as well as legal, policy and financing tools that can be leveraged to preserve, enhance and protect these valuable areas.

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- **Does the City expect the consultant to request access to private properties within the Study Area for the purpose of obtaining baseline biological resource data?**

Response:

No, it will be the responsibility of the Harbormaster to obtain permission from owner if private property is to be accessed.

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- **Can you elaborate on what you are looking for regarding the time schedule of specific tasks in Item 2.F. of the Proposal Submittal Requirements?**
- **Section 2.F (page 4) of the RFQ indicates that the submittals should “provide a time schedule for specific tasks, if possible.” Can you please provide further clarification of what is intended here? Is the City seeking cost estimates for specific tasks? Or schedules for specific tasks?**
- **Can the City please clarify what is required in the cost bid? Should our rate sheet be submitted separately?**

Response:

Please include a rate sheet.

The City understands there are limitations to providing time schedules and cost estimates for tasks that have yet to be determined. If possible, please provide insight on timelines, or timing of particular processes. For example, when there is a known task with specific processes and/or formal schedule, please identify and include to help City staff better prioritize and schedule work. Specific contract amounts and deliverables will be formalized in an agreement between the City and Consultant.

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- **Does the City expect that the City’s LCP Update that follows the BEVRI Plan will precede the County’s LCP Update for their portion of the Harbor? Or does the City anticipate that the City & County LCP Updates subsequent to the BEVRI Plan will occur somewhat simultaneously? When are Mendocino County’s sea level rise policy guidance documents expected to be published?**

Response:

The California Coastal Commission has awarded Round 8 LCP Grant Program funds to both the City of Fort Bragg and County of Mendocino, and we are in the process of coordinating several aspects of our projects:

*Community Outreach.* The City will provide regular quarterly updates at public meetings of the Board of Supervisors, engage residents in the Mendocino coastal region via coastal resiliency outreach events, the project website ([www.NoyoOceanCollective.org](http://www.NoyoOceanCollective.org)), e-newsletters, survey, radio interviews, print press, and more.

*Sea Level Rise.* The City and Mendocino County are coordinating the Requests for Proposals for Sea Level Rise Analysis. The County scope will consider the entire length of Mendocino’s coast, including the coastline of Fort Bragg. The City of Fort Bragg will focus on site-specific scenarios within Noyo Harbor. We are looking to secure professional services from a single Consultant, so that efforts are not duplicative. We also want to ensure all the data, modeling, scenerios, etc. will seamlessly integrate. Requests for Proposals are scheduled for release in March.

*LCP Update.* Sea level rise findings from the County analysis will inform updates to the City’s LCP. BEVRI findings will be incorporated into County discussions about LCP updates related to the harbor – namely land use considerations for Fishing Village Zoning Designation.

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- **Will it be feasible for The City of some of the tasks and/or meetings are carried out or conducted virtually?**

Response:

Yes, the City is equipped to support virtual and hybrid meeting formats. Given Fort Bragg’s remote location, virtual meetings are often preferred.

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- **Once the City selects the bench of consultants, will the task orders be awarded directly to a firm or does the City anticipate requesting multiple firms to submit proposals and compete for the task order? If competitive, what evaluation criteria will the City use to award the task orders?**

Response:

The City may contract with any firm/individual on the qualified panel. It is not our intent to have multiple firms submit additional bids once the panels is established.

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- **Under the Proposal Submittal Requirements (Page 4 of 5), the RFQ states: “Describe relevant experience for each task or service identified above, including a list of all agencies your firm has completed similar projects for in the last five years.” Can the City clarify if consultants are to provide a list of agencies separate from the descriptions of relevant experience?**

Response:

Please describe relevant experience for each task you are submitting a proposal. Within each task, include a description of relevant experience and list of agencies you have performed said task.