

**WRITTEN
PUBLIC
COMMENT
CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**

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City Council of La Quinta

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Subject: Concerns Regarding Request for Qualifications Contracts

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) contracts issued by the City of La Quinta, specifically referring to the SilverRock Landscape Maintenance Services RFQ 2023-31, Park Landscape Maintenance Services RFQ 2023-30, Lighting & Landscape Assessment District 89-1 Lighting Services RFQ 2023-29, and Lighting & Landscape Assessment District 89-1 LSM Services RFQ 2023-28. While I appreciate the efforts to procure services for the betterment of our community, I have identified significant shortcomings in these RFQs that may compromise the quality and safety of the work performed.

Firstly, the RFQs fail to mandate the submission of the Experience Modification Rating (EMR) by potential contractors. The EMR is a crucial metric used to assess a contractor's safety performance history. Its omission from the qualification requirements raises concerns about the city's commitment to ensuring the safety of its residents and visitors. By neglecting to evaluate this important aspect, the city risks awarding contracts to entities with inadequate safety records, potentially endangering public well-being.

Secondly, there is a glaring absence of licensing requirements for the scope of work outlined in the RFQs. Licensing ensures that contractors possess the necessary skills and expertise to perform their duties competently and safely. Without stringent licensing requirements, there is a risk of subpar workmanship, which could negatively impact the aesthetic appeal and functionality of our public spaces.

Furthermore, the RFQs lack a stipulation for the submission of a subcontractor list at the time of proposal. This oversight hampers transparency and accountability in the procurement process, as it prevents the city from fully assessing the capabilities and qualifications of all parties involved in the project. Without clear visibility into subcontractor arrangements, there is potential for mismanagement, conflicts of interest, and inferior service delivery.

Additionally, the RFQs fail to emphasize the importance of hiring a licensed qualified traffic control contractor. Traffic control is a critical aspect of landscape maintenance and construction projects, particularly in public areas where pedestrian and vehicular traffic must be managed safely. By not prioritizing the engagement of licensed professionals in this field, the city risks disruptions, accidents, and legal liabilities arising from inadequate traffic management protocols.

Moreover, it is crucial to note that these proposals involve multiple scopes of work that require experienced contractors and adherence to prevailing wages, which vary depending on the work being performed. To ensure transparency in public funding allocation, we recommend that the tree maintenance and on-call work sections of the proposal be separated into their own RFQs.

In light of these concerns, I urge the City Council to reconsider the current RFQs and amend them to address the aforementioned deficiencies. By implementing stricter qualification criteria, including the submission of EMRs, licensing requirements, and subcontractor lists, as well as emphasizing the necessity of hiring licensed traffic control contractors, the city can ensure that contracts are awarded to reputable, competent, and safety-conscious entities.

Furthermore, I encourage the City Council to engage with stakeholders, including community members, industry experts, and relevant regulatory bodies, to develop comprehensive RFQs that prioritize safety, quality, and accountability. By fostering collaboration and transparency in the procurement process, the city can uphold its commitment to serving the best interests of its residents and fostering a thriving, sustainable community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the City Council will take prompt and decisive action to address these concerns and uphold the highest standards of governance and public service.

Sincerely,

Gus Garcia