

Questions & Answers (Q & A) Document

Request for Qualifications – (RFQ) – Makah Water Supply Study

Project PO-22-N49

Issued: February 12, 2025

This document provides responses to questions received regarding the RFQ for the Makah Water Supply Study. All information provided herein is intended to clarify the RFQ requirements.

1. **Does the Tribe have available and updated GIS data for water supply facilities (including wells, reservoirs, pump stations, pipelines, valves) with data on size, capacity (e.g., volumes, flow rates) that could be used to develop the hydraulic model?**
 - The IHS has CWS as-builts which display water main locations and diameters, the reservoirs, and the wells. IHS has some WTP production records (most recently from 2022). IHS also has information on the capacity of the four reservoirs used by the Tribe as well as typical daily production of the CWS in gallons per day.
 - The Tribe has some GIS data available for water system infrastructure; however, the completeness and accuracy of these datasets may vary. As noted in the RFQ, Consultants should anticipate direct coordination with the Tribe, including on-site visits to review records and gather additional data necessary for hydraulic modeling. Consultants may need to supplement GIS data through field inspections and coordination with the Tribe's records and plans, some of which may not be in digital format.
2. **Does the Tribe have pump station and tank operating conditions (flow rate, water level) available for two-week periods in summer and winter? These would be used to develop the hydraulic model.**
 - The RFQ specifies the need for field inspections and data collection to assess existing conditions, including reviewing test pump records from previous projects. While the Tribe does have some historical operational data, Consultants should be prepared to identify and request specific data sets during the early phases of the project. Some real-time or additional monitoring may be required to supplement existing records.
3. **Does the Tribe have current demands or future demand projections to understand the ultimate goal for the supply alternatives?**
 - Yes, the RFQ outlines that the project will incorporate an evaluation of existing and future system water demand. The Tribe has past water master plans and feasibility studies that include demand projections, but the Consultant will need to review and refine these estimates based on updated population growth and infrastructure planning considerations. The goal is to develop a reliable, sustainable water supply to support community growth while mitigating seasonal shortages.

4. **Would the Tribe be willing to defer additional evaluations of aquifer capacity in order to meet the schedule?**
 - The RFQ specifies that additional testing may be conducted to adequately evaluate aquifer capacity. The Tribe prioritizes timely completion of the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) by July 2025, but any decision to defer specific evaluations must be based on a well-supported justification that it would not compromise the quality or competitiveness of the Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) application. If deferring evaluations presents risks, the Consultant should outline alternative approaches to balance schedule and project integrity.
5. **One option for saving time in the schedule is to not build the hydraulic model for the purpose of informing the supply analysis. Would the Tribe accept building the model as a task to complete after the supply analysis? While it would be helpful to fully test each supply option, it may not be necessary.**
 - The RFQ identifies the hydraulic model as a key component of the project, specifically to assist in evaluating alternatives and justifying the SDS project. However, the Tribe is open to removing the hydraulic model requirement in order to maintain an expedited project timeline. The Consultant should demonstrate that the preferred water supply alternative can be fully justified through other means, and that deferring the model would not negatively impact the selection of a preferred alternative. The Consultant should clearly outline the implications of this approach and whether delaying the model would affect the justification for IHS funding.
6. **Does the Tribe want to wait to complete all active and planned supply source evaluations prior to completing the supply alternatives analysis and project selection?**
 - The RFQ states that the Consultant will consolidate findings from prior water resource studies and evaluate alternative solutions for the PER. Gathering information from relevant water resource studies and assessing current water source and system conditions (Tasks 2 and 3) are necessary for developing tailored, sustainable water supply alternatives that are compatible with the Makah CWS and the local geology. The Tribe prefers to complete the evaluations prior to analyzing supply alternatives.
7. **In order to result in a project cost estimate with a contingency of less than 10%, does the Tribe expect the project to be fully designed?**
 - The RFQ specifies that the preferred alternative should include a comprehensive cost estimate with a contingency no greater than 10%, but full design is not required at this stage. The expectation is that the PER will provide an AACE Level 4 cost estimate that includes all foreseeable costs, such as design, project management, permitting, construction, and inspection, ensuring that estimates align with IHS funding criteria.
8. **Would the District consider allowing planning-level cost estimates (AACE Cost Estimate – Planning Level 5) for a benefit-cost analysis of alternative supply sources?**

- The RFQ requires cost estimates for at least three alternatives, identifying eligible vs. ineligible costs per the IHS Sanitary Deficiency System (SDS) Manual. For the preferred alternative, the Consultant shall develop a cost estimate to a Tier 1 Ready to Fund level as defined in the IHS SFC SDS Manual, 2019. Tier 1 SDS projects require a cost estimate with an accuracy range of +/- 10%.

9. **Would the Tribe accept a phased approach to the work to allow tasks 1 through 4 to be completed by July 2025?**

- The RFQ states that the PER must be completed by July 2025, and the Tribe is open to a phased approach that ensures this deadline is met. The Consultant should clearly define how tasks would be sequenced, ensuring that key deliverables align with project objectives and funding eligibility requirements.

10. **Attached is a potential schedule for the type of work requested in the RFQ that represents an aggressive but realistic timeline to provide a quality, reliable supply study. Would this be acceptable?**

- The Tribe is committed to maintaining an expedited project timeline and welcomes proposals that balance efficiency with the need for a thorough and justifiable analysis. The schedule should explicitly include the completion of the Preliminary Engineering Report, which is the final deliverable required by the RFQ. The Preliminary Engineering Report shall be completed by the current standing deadline of July 2025. Justifications to extend this deadline may be sent to the Tribe.

Next Steps & Submission Reminder

- The **RFQ submission deadline has been extended to March 13, 2025, by 4:00pm (local time)**.
- Submissions must acknowledge receipt of **Amendment No. 1** in the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).
- Any further questions must be submitted no later than **March 6, 2025** to ensure a response before the deadline.