On March 16, 2020, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Escondido Creek Trail Expansion and Renovation Design Project. The City of Escondido has received the following questions in response to its RFP. Responses to these questions are provided below and are being provided publicly to all possible candidates.

1. **Has the deadline been extended or is the City contemplating an extension?**

Due to the firm, statutorily mandated completion date for this grant, the deadline for responses to this RFP has not been extended. Therefore, proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. PST on April 13, 2020. Proposals received after that date and time, or not in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals, will not be accepted or considered by the City. A copy of the proposal is provided below.


Three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the attention of Mike Strong, Assistant Planning Director, with the City of Escondido Community Development Department at 201 N. Broadway, Escondido CA 92025. As you know, many government offices have been closed to the public, including the City of Escondido. If you were planning on dropping off the proposal in person, please schedule a drop-off appointment by emailing mstrong@escondido.org. A drop-off box has been placed outside of City Hall. Alternatively, proposals that are emailed will also be accepted. Please email the proposal to mstrong@escondido.org. Please provide a file sharing link to ensure that the email is deliverable.

2. **Considering the current circumstances, instead of mailing or dropping off, is it possible to submit an electronic version with a follow up after the deadline for mailing copies of what was submitted electronically on-time?**

Submit your responses on time and in the format requested or by submitting electronically in a manner as provided above.
3. Where is a sample of the draft Grant Agreement?

The Grant Agreement document has been added to the list of resources here:

https://www.escondido.org/engineering-services.aspx

4. The RFP indicates Council approval of award on June 3, 2020 and completion of community engagement, environmental compliance, and design services by October 2020. Would the City consider extending the schedule if needed?

The City is seeking candidates that will scope the deliverables required by the RFP and provide the best value and price. Part of this is to demonstrate an ability to accomplish the project’s goals and milestones at the deadlines provided, to the extent practicable.

The granting agency has set the deadlines for completion of this project. Additional time to complete the tasks will only be considered if the granting agency provides an extension of time.

5. Does the City have a preference as to the discipline that primes the project?

This is a trail expansion and renovation project consisting of many infrastructure requirements. Responses from individuals or firms of all related backgrounds are welcome. The City is seeking candidates that will scope the deliverables required by the RFP and provide the best value and price. Expertise, experience, and references are an integral part of the candidate’s response to the RFP.

6. Is there a preference for a civil engineering lead or can a design firm with landscape architectural licensing be the prime with civil, traffic, environmental and geotechnical subs?

This is a trail expansion and renovation project consisting of many infrastructure requirements. Responses from individuals or firms of all related backgrounds are welcome. The City is seeking candidates that will scope the deliverables required by the RFP and provide the best value and price. Expertise, experience, and references are an integral part of the candidate’s response to the RFP. Working with your proposal team, set your strategy for responding to the RFP to highlight your strengths and address any weaknesses.
7. Is the term high quality artistic design elements implying a public artist should be on the team, or is it focused on providing artful design by a landscape architect and/or an environmental graphics firm? In another section of the RFP it includes the term public art, so should a public artist be on the team and is it expected that this would be covered under the current listed budget for fees or do we make suggestions on public art possibilities and theming with the intent that a public artist would be hired later under different budget sources?

Once it has been determined that you are interested in responding to the RFP, select your teams. However, it is not necessary that a public artist be a part of the team. The City is seeking recommendations on public art possibilities, themes, and locations. Artists will be solicited through other means to incorporate the art.

8. Are consultants who have previously completed work for the Escondido Creek Trail project precluded from submitting a proposal?

Consultants are prohibited from entering into a subsequent contract to complete a project if the consultant had extensive involvement in the initial design and development of the project.

9. Is it the expectation that the public outreach will continue while the construction documents are being prepared?

The City acknowledges that the project schedule requires design completion by October 2020. Proposals should demonstrate recommendations for utilizing technology resources in order to reach out to, communicate with, and hear input from the public during the course of developing the final design of the project.

10. #6 under Design Services on page 3 indicates utility and stakeholder coordination are part of the scope. Can you please clarify the stakeholder agencies that would be included as part of this coordination?

Community stakeholders may include the City Council, adjacent property owners and businesses, active transportation groups, youth groups, creek conservancy, etc.

11. Under Design Services (Page 3), could you clarify what is meant by Water Improvement Plans?
“Water Improvement Plans” means water supply infrastructure to service landscaping and strategically placed drinking water stations.

12. Is there any base mapping available at this time, including more detailed ownership / parcel / legal boundaries, easement plats or other mapping that can be added to instead of completely starting from scratch? Are there as-builts for any of the creek improvements including the channel or recent improvements?

The City’s Information Systems Department has many mapping tools; however, the consultant should expect to provide detailed mapping, including land surveying topographical mapping, and property marker survey, to support the completion of the project.

13. Beyond borings for any pedestrian bridge, are there any assumptions on geotechnical studies that may be required? Are there any geotechnical studies in the area that could be obtained and utilized by the selected consultant?

Pedestrian bridges are not a featured component of the project; however, pedestrian overlooks are. There are no geotechnical studies in the area that could be obtained and utilized.

14. Although there will be street crossings, it is assumed that these crossing are being completed by another consultant and therefore the crossings and their environmental review and traffic analysis would be covered already. Is this a correct assumption? Other than street crossings of the trail, what other traffic analysis is expected under environmental review?

Crossings are covered for analysis through another contract supported by ATP grants. The Creek Trail Crossings project will analyze and construct the crossings.

15. We understand that the majority of the project improvements will occur in areas with no biological resources, however, biology is not listed at all in the topics for environmental review. Aren’t there still construction impacts and downstream issues of concern even if the improvements are occurring upstream of these resources? Do aquatic resources need to be assessed?

The consultant will have to put together an Initial Study to determine potentially significant impacts upon the environment resulting from the construction, operation and maintenance of the trail/linear park. As part of the hydrology analysis that is
included in the Initial Study, and prior to the issuance of permits, the consultant shall prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in accordance with the Department of Public Work’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity to eliminate potential sedimentation effects off-site. The General Construction permit would require recipients to reduce or eliminate non-stormwater discharges into stormwater systems, and to develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

16. Is it possible to assume that a 90% construction drawing set be submitted in October to reach this milestone and that environmental review and permitting research start off at the 60% but finish sometime before the end of the year, given CEQA schedule requirements?

Proposals must accommodate 90% construction drawings by October to be responsive to the RFP.

17. Is construction administration included in the scope?

The bid specifically asks for construction support. Line 6 on page 3.