



DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS (RFSQ)

RFSQ-DRP-53830

FOR

AS-NEEDED PLANNING CONSULTANT SERVICES

Prepared By
County of Los Angeles

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APPENDICES

- A Master Agreement:** Identifies the terms and conditions in the Master Agreement.
- B Required Forms:** Forms that must be completed and included in the Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).
- C Solicitation Requirements Review (SRR) Request:** Transmittal form sent to Department requesting a Solicitation Requirements Review.
- D Service Category Descriptions:** A summary of service categories which provides additional details for each service category under the Master Agreement.

1.0 SOLICITATION INFORMATION AND MINIMUM MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

RFSQ Release Date	July 15, 2026
RFSQ Contact	LA County Planning Contract Contract@planning.lacounty.gov
Solicitation Requirements Review (SRR) Request Due	July 22, 2026
Written Questions Due	July 22, 2026, thereafter during the term of the RFSQ is open
Questions and Answers Released via Addendum	July 29, 2026, thereafter responses will be published as necessary
SOQ's *Initial Due Date *County will continue to accept SOQs throughout the term of the Master Agreement unless the County suspends or closes the solicitation	August 12, 2026
Anticipated Master Agreement Term	Initial Term *November 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031 *Or upon execution, whichever is later
Minimum Mandatory Requirements (MMRs)	See Section 3.0 (Minimum Mandatory Requirements)

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Scope of Work

The County of Los Angeles (County) Department of Regional Planning (Department) is seeking highly qualified consultants (“vendor” or “contractor”) to enter into Master Agreements with the County to perform as-needed planning consultant services for the following categories:

- Environmental Documentation
- Historic and Cultural Preservation
- Economic Development /Economic Impact Analysis
- Biological Studies
- Climate and Sustainability
- Transportation/Parking Studies
- Community Engagement
- Disaster Rebuild and Long-Term Recovery
- Plans and Ordinances

2.1.1 Environmental Documentation

- Conduct research, prepare studies, technical reports in compliance with State and Federal laws, including but not limited to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and when applicable, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), using best practices in accordance with applicable regulations, industry standards, and County procedures.
- Focus on the development of programmatic CEQA analyses for long range planning projects, such as plans and ordinances.
- Whenever possible, guide the development of self-mitigating plans as an alternative to mitigation measures.
- Develop a project management approach, a work plan, and a schedule with clear deadlines and specific action items or deliverables.
- Attend a kick-off meeting with Department staff (“staff”) to receive an overview of a proposed development project, to discuss County processes and expectations, and to discuss the work plan and schedule.
- Attend coordination meetings with staff and participate in conference calls.
- Review available data pertinent to the project.

- Conduct site assessments and environmental baseline surveys.
- Conduct and/or facilitate scoping meetings.
- Prepare appropriate CEQA/NEPA documentation and required public notices for the Department, including, but not limited to:
 - Categorical Exemptions/Exclusions;
 - Initial Studies/Environmental Assessments;
 - Findings of No Significant Impact;
 - Draft PEIRs;
 - Final PEIRs, including responses to comments, findings of fact, and statements of overriding considerations (where applicable);
 - Addenda to certified PEIRs, Supplemental PEIRs, or Subsequent PEIRs;
 - Joint Environmental Impact Statements/EIR
 - Other PEIR tiering documents;
 - Related technical or special studies (e.g., historical, cultural, flood, air quality, health risks, hazards, noise, and traffic); and
 - Mitigation monitoring and reporting programs for long range project.
- Coordinate with other agencies and County departments where comments or issues are anticipated.
- Assist in communications with local, Tribal, State, and Federal agencies and partners.
- Assist with environmental-related questions and responses to public comments.
- Prepare reports and administrative records that are adequate and legally defensible.
- Develop alternative project scenarios for environmental analysis in consultation with staff.
- Revise and correct all errors, omissions, or deficiencies in the environmental document deliverables (e.g., Screencheck Draft PEIRs, Final PEIRs), as required by the Department.
- Publish and circulate environmental documents.
- Organize public meetings and/or attend and make presentations at public workshops, meetings, and hearings if requested.
- Assist in the preparation, review, or editing of written and web-based material such as fact sheets, templates, forms, FAQs, policy or issue papers.
- Prepare, file, and publish required notices for distribution, publication, or recordation (e.g., filing/posting with County Clerk and submittal to the State Clearinghouse or e-NEPA).

2.1.2 Historic and Cultural Preservation

- Conduct research, prepare studies, and technical reports related to historic preservation using best practices in accordance with applicable regulations, industry standards, and County procedures.
- Conduct field surveys of communities, neighborhoods, existing buildings, and structures.
- Evaluate communities, neighborhoods, existing buildings, and structures for historic significance.
- Identify existing historic and cultural resources.
- Identify potential impacts on historic and cultural resources.
- Evaluate properties for Mills Act contract or County of Los Angeles Landmark Designation.

2.1.3 Economic Development / Economic Impact Analysis

- Conduct research, prepare studies and technical reports related to economic impacts using best practices in accordance with applicable regulations, industry standards, and County procedures. This may include an economic/fiscal impact analysis.
- Collect and prepare economic data.
- Participate in outreach meetings and prepare informational material.
- Prepare or analyze economic growth forecast.
- Analyze the impacts of land use policies on businesses and industries.
- Prepare policies on economic development.

2.1.4 Biological Studies

- Conduct research, prepare studies and technical reports related to biological resources using best practices in accordance with applicable regulations, industry standards, and County procedures.
- Conduct field work.
- Prepare technical studies.
- Review biological assessments.
- Prepare policies on resource protections.

2.1.5 Climate and Sustainability

- Conduct research, prepare studies and technical reports related to climate and sustainability using best practices in accordance with applicable regulations, industry standards, and County procedures. This may include preparing a greenhouse gas emissions inventory.
- Monitor/track greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- Project increase/decrease in greenhouse gas emissions based on actions.

- Coordinate with Federal and State agencies conducting fugitive emissions data.
- Prepare policies to implement County climate and sustainability goals, such as net zero emission building standards.
- Participate in outreach meetings and prepare informational material.

2.1.6 Transportation / Parking Analysis

- Conduct research, prepare studies and technical reports related to transportation and parking using best practices in accordance with applicable regulations, industry standards, and County procedures.
- Conduct VMT and traffic analyses for long range planning projects.
- Develop transportation policies related to safety and sustainability.

2.1.7 Community Engagement

- Develop and implement a community engagement and outreach plan for long range planning projects.
- Organize public meetings and meet with communities and other stakeholders.
- Facilitate meetings with focus groups and conduct stakeholder interviews.
- Attend and present (as needed) at public workshops, meetings and hearings.
- Prepare outreach tools, such as surveys and informational material to support outreach efforts.
- Develop summaries and graphics documenting community feedback

2.1.8 Disaster Rebuild and Long-Term Recovery

- Provide disaster recovery consulting and emergency management services, including identifying funding, preparing long-term disaster recovery plans, and long-term recovery planning services.
- Conduct research, prepare studies and technical reports related to disaster recovery.
- Compile various baseline information from records search, field tests/studies/surveys and other appropriate resources.
- Coordinate with federal, state, and county agencies.

2.1.9 Plans and Ordinances

- Research and evaluate existing land use patterns, development patterns, environmental constraints and regulatory framework to determine existing conditions and identify issues and opportunities.
- Prepare and update long range planning documents.
- Conduct site visits and field surveys as necessary.
- Coordinate with applicable agencies and County departments.

- Prepare technical reports/studies as necessary.
- Compile various baseline information from records search, field tests/studies/surveys and other appropriate resources.
- Prepare and submit draft(s) of long-range planning documents and/or zoning ordinances in a format as requested by the Department.
- Provide ancillary services related to planning and zoning as requested by the Department.
- Provide options and ways of implementing planning policies, goals and objectives.

2.2 Prepare feasibility reports, including financial feasibility and impact studies Overview of Solicitation Document

This Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ):

- 2.2.1** Specifies the Vendor's minimum qualifications, provides information regarding some of the requirements of the Master Agreement and the solicitation process.
- 2.2.2** Contains instructions to Vendors in how to prepare and submit their Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).
- 2.2.3** Explains how the SOQ will be reviewed, selected and qualified.
- 2.2.4** The following Appendices are included in the RFSQ:
 - A Master Agreement:** The Master Agreement used for this solicitation. The terms and conditions shown in the Master Agreement are not negotiable.
 - B Required Forms:** Forms contained in this section must be completed and included in the SOQ.
 - C Solicitation Requirements Review (SRR) Request:** Transmittal sent to Department requesting a Solicitation Requirements Review.

2.3 Terms and Definitions

Throughout this RFSQ, references are made to certain persons, groups, or departments/agencies. For convenience, a description of specific definitions can be found in Appendix A (Master Agreement), Paragraph 2.0 (Definitions).

2.4 Master Agreement Process

The objective of this RFSQ process is to pre-select a list of consultants to assist the Department with various projects. Specific tasks, deliverables, etc., will be awarded through the Work Order Solicitation (WOS) process.

- 2.4.1** Master Agreements will be executed with all Vendors determined to be qualified in each category.

2.4.2 Upon the Department's execution of these Master Agreements, the qualified Vendors will become County Contractors (Contractor), and thereafter be solicited under competitive conditions via Work Order Solicitation (WOS) process to provide as-needed services under Work Orders to be issued by County. Work Orders will include a Statement of Work which will describe in detail the particular project and the work required for the performance thereof. Payment for all work will be either on a time and materials basis or on a fixed price per deliverable basis, subject to the Total Maximum Amount specified on each individual Work Order. The execution of a Master Agreement does not guarantee a Contractor any minimum amount of business.

2.4.3 If the Master Agreement includes various categories of services, only those Contractors qualified for the specific category will be contacted to submit bids.

2.5 Master Agreement Term

The term of any Master Agreement will be for up to five (5) years or through June 30, 2031, with two (2) one-year renewal options. Renewal options will be exercised at the Department's discretion.

The Master Agreement will become effective upon the date of its execution by the Director of the Regional Planning or designee and expire at the end of the Master Agreement term, unless sooner extended or terminated.

The Department intends to accept SOQs throughout the duration of the Master Agreement to qualify Vendors, as set forth in Paragraph 1.0 (Solicitation Information and Minimum Mandatory Requirements). SOQs received after the initial due date, and while the RFSQ remains open and until the conclusion or termination of the approved term of the Master Agreement for the required services, will be reviewed on an intermittent basis to qualify additional Vendors, depending on the anticipated service needs of the Department.

2.6 Indemnification and Insurance

Vendor will be required to comply with the Indemnification provisions contained in Appendix A (Master Agreement), Paragraph 8.22. Vendor must procure, maintain, and provide to the County proof of insurance coverage for all the programs of insurance along with associated amounts specified in Appendix A (Master Agreement), Paragraphs 8.23 and 8.24.

3.0 MINIMUM MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Interested and qualified Vendors that meet the Minimum Mandatory Requirements stated below are invited to submit an SOQ.

3.1 Minimum Requirements

- Vendor must have at least five (5) years of experience for all categories, except the Environmental Documentation and Plans and Ordinances, providing the type of services equivalent or similar to the service category as described in Section 2.1 – Scope of Work.
- Vendor must have at least ten (10) years of experience for the Environmental Documentation and Plans and Ordinances category, with the last five (5) years providing the type of services equivalent or similar to the service category as described in Section 2.1 – Scope of Work.
- Vendors in the Environmental Documentation category must have experience developing programmatic CEQA analyses for long range planning projects.
- Vendors in the Plans and Ordinances category must demonstrate an understanding of the unincorporated areas of the County and the County's General Plan and community-based plans regulations, policies, ordinances, and procedures.
- Vendor's Project Manager must have a minimum of five (5) years of experience in providing the services of the target category.
- Vendor must have experience preparing a wide range of technical studies/reports in the target category, or is able to subcontract with a firm based in California for technical professional expertise if not available in-house.

Notwithstanding, vendors cannot rely on subcontractors' experience to meet the Minimum Mandatory Requirements listed above.

3.2 If Vendor's compliance with a County contract has been reviewed by the Department of the Auditor-Controller (A-C) within the last 10 years, Vendor must not have unresolved questioned costs identified by the A-C in an amount over \$100,000 that are confirmed to be disallowed costs by the contracting County department and remain unpaid for a period of six months or more from the date of the A-C Report, unless such disallowed costs are the subject of current good faith negotiations to resolve the disallowed costs, in the opinion of the County.

3.3 At least two (2) of the Vendors references provided in Appendix B (Required Forms), Exhibit 9 (List of References) must be responsive and validate that the Vendor meets the Minimum Mandatory Requirements identified in Section 3 (Minimum Mandatory Requirements).

3.4 Specific Category Qualifications

Vendors that meet the minimum mandatory requirements above must also meet category specific minimum mandatory requirements (including licenses, certificates, and other documents) as identified in Exhibit 7 (Statement of Qualifications Submittal Form) of Appendix B (Required Forms). A Summary of

service categories which provides additional details for each service category under (MA acronym) can be found in Appendix E (Service Category Descriptions).

3.5 New Firm Eligibility

Vendors may submit SOQs in the event that they have not been in business for the minimum number of years required in the paragraph above. Vendors may qualify if the Vendor's principals, partners, or officers personally meet the minimum qualifications from previous organizations. Vendors must explicitly state that they are seeking to qualify under this provision.

4.0 COUNTY'S RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Representations Made Prior to Master Agreement Execution

The County is not responsible for representations made by any of its officers or employees prior to the execution of the Master Agreement unless such understanding or representation is included in the Master Agreement.

4.2 County's Right to Amend Request for Statement of Qualifications

The County has the right to amend the RFSQ by written addendum. The County is responsible only for that which is expressly stated in the solicitation document and any authorized written addenda thereto. Such addendum will be made available to each person or organization which County records indicate has received this RFSQ. Should such addendum require additional information not previously requested, failure to address the requirements of such addendum may result in the SOQ not being considered, as determined in the sole discretion of the County. The County is not responsible for and will not be bound by any representations otherwise made by any individual acting or purporting to act on its behalf.

4.3 County's Option to Reject SOQs

The County may, at its sole discretion, reject any or all SOQs submitted in response to this solicitation. The County will not be liable for any cost incurred by a Vendor in connection with preparation and submittal of any SOQ. The County reserves the right to waive inconsequential disparities in a submitted SOQ.

4.4 Background and Security Investigations

Background and security investigations of Vendor's staff may be required at the discretion of the County as a condition of beginning and continuing work under any resulting agreement. The cost of background checks is the responsibility of the Vendor.

5.0 NOTIFICATION TO VENDORS

5.1 Public Records Act

5.1.1 Responses to this RFSQ will become the exclusive property of the County. At such time as when Department recommends the qualified

Vendor(s) to the Board of Supervisors (Board) and such recommendation appears on the Board agenda, all SOQ's submitted in response to this RFSQ, become a matter of public record, with the exception of those parts of each SOQ which are justifiably defined and identified by the Vendor as business or trade secrets, and plainly marked as "Trade Secret," "Confidential," or "Proprietary."

- 5.1.2** The County will not, in any way, be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such record or any parts thereof, if disclosure is required or permitted under the California Public Records Act or otherwise by law. A blanket statement of confidentiality or the marking of each page of the SOQ as confidential will not be deemed sufficient notice of exception. The Vendor must specifically label only those provisions of their respective SOQ which are "Trade Secrets," "Confidential," or "Proprietary" in nature.

5.2 Contact with County Personnel

Any contact regarding this RFSQ or any matter relating thereto must be in writing and e-mailed to:

LA County Planning Contract
E-mail: contract@planning.lacounty.gov

If it is discovered that a Vendor contacted and received information from any County personnel, other than the contact specified above, regarding this solicitation, County, in its sole determination, may disqualify their SOQ from further consideration.

5.3 Mandatory Requirement to Register on County's WebVen

Prior to executing a Master Agreement, all potential Contractors must register in the County's WebVen. The WebVen contains the Vendor's business profile and identifies the goods/services the business provides. Registration can be accomplished online via the Internet by accessing the County's home page at <http://camisvr.co.la.ca.us/webven/>.

5.4 Protest Process

- 5.4.1** Under Board Policy No. 5.055 ([Services Contract Solicitation Protest](#)), any prospective Vendor may request a review of the requirements under a solicitation for a Board-approved services contract, as described in Paragraph 5.4.3 below. Additionally, any actual Vendor may request a review of a disqualification under such a solicitation, as described in the Paragraphs below.
- 5.4.2** Throughout the review process, the County has no obligation to delay or otherwise postpone an award of Master Agreement based on a Vendor protest. In all cases, the County reserves the right to make an award when it is determined to be in the best interest of the County of Los Angeles to do so.

5.4.3 Grounds for Review

Unless State or Federal statutes or regulations otherwise provide, the grounds for review of any Departmental determination or action should be limited to the following:

5.4.3.1 Solicitation Requirements Review (Referenced in Paragraph 9.1)

5.4.3.2 Disqualification Review (Referenced in Paragraph 9.2)

5.5 Conflict of Interest

No County employee whose position in the County enables them to influence the selection of a Contractor for this RFSQ, or any competing RFSQ, nor any spouse or economic dependent of such employees, will be employed in any capacity by a Vendor or have any other direct or indirect financial interest in the selection of a Contractor. Vendor must certify that they are aware of and have read [Section 2.180.010 of the Los Angeles County Code](#) as stated in Exhibit 2 (Certification of Compliance) of Appendix B (Required Forms).

5.6 Determination of Vendor Responsibility

5.6.1 A responsible Vendor is a Vendor who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the Master Agreement. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible Vendors.

5.6.2 Vendors are hereby notified that, in accordance with [Chapter 2.202 of the County Code](#), the County may determine whether the Vendor is responsible based on a review of the Vendor's performance on any Master Agreements, including but not limited to County contracts. Particular attention will be given to violations of labor laws related to employee compensation and benefits, and evidence of false claims made by the Vendor against public entities. Labor law violations which are the fault of the subcontractors and of which the Vendor had no knowledge will not be the basis of a determination that the Vendor is not responsible.

5.6.3 The County may declare a Vendor to be non-responsible for purposes of this Master Agreement if the Board, in its discretion, finds that the Vendor has done any of the following: (1) violated a term of a contract with the County or a nonprofit corporation created by the County; (2) committed an act or omission which negatively reflects on the Vendor's quality, fitness or capacity to perform a contract with the County, any other public entity, or a nonprofit corporation created by the County, or engaged in a pattern or practice which negatively reflects on same; (3) committed an act or omission which indicates a lack of business integrity or business honesty; or (4) made or submitted a false claim against the County or any other public entity.

- 5.6.4** If there is evidence that the Vendor may not be responsible, the Department will notify the Vendor in writing of the evidence relating to the Vendor's responsibility, and its intention to recommend to the Board that the Vendor be found not responsible. The Department will provide the Vendor and/or the Vendor's representative with an opportunity to present evidence as to why the Vendor should be found to be responsible and to rebut evidence which is the basis for the Department's recommendation.
- 5.6.5** If the Vendor presents evidence in rebuttal to the Department, the Department will evaluate the merits of such evidence, and based on that evaluation, make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The final decision concerning the responsibility of the Vendor will reside with the Board.
- 5.6.6** These terms will also apply to proposed Subcontractors of Vendors on County Master Agreements.

5.7 Vendor Debarment

- 5.7.1** Vendor is hereby notified that, in accordance with [Chapter 2.202 of the County Code](#), the County may debar the Vendor from bidding or proposing on, or being awarded, and/or performing work on other County contracts for a specified period of time, which generally will not exceed five (5) years but may exceed five (5) years or be permanent if warranted by the circumstances, and the County may terminate any or all of the Vendor's existing contracts with County, if the Board finds, in its discretion, that the Vendor has done any of the following: (1) violated a term of a contract with the County or a nonprofit corporation created by the County; (2) committed an act or omission which negatively reflects on the Vendor's quality, fitness or capacity to perform a contract with the County, any other public entity, or a nonprofit corporation created by the County, or engaged in a pattern or practice which negatively reflects on same; (3) committed an act or offense which indicates a lack of business integrity or business honesty; or (4) made or submitted a false claim against the County or any other public entity.
- 5.7.2** These terms will also apply to proposed subcontractors of Vendors on County contracts.
- 5.7.3** A listing of contractors that are currently on the Debarment List for Los Angeles County may be obtained on the following website: <https://doingbusiness.lacounty.gov/listing-of-contractors-debarred-in-los-angeles-county/>.

5.8 Improper Considerations

5.8.1 Attempt to Secure Favorable Treatment

It is improper for any County officer, employee, or agent to solicit consideration, in any form, from a Vendor with the implication, suggestion or statement that the Vendor's provision of the consideration may secure more favorable treatment for the Vendor in the award of a Master Agreement or that the Vendor's failure to provide such consideration may negatively affect the County's consideration of the Vendor's submission. A Vendor must not offer or give either directly or through an intermediary, consideration, in any form, to a County officer, employee, or agent for the purpose of securing favorable treatment with respect to the award of a Master Agreement.

5.8.2 Notification to County

A Vendor must immediately report any attempt by a County officer, employee, or agent to solicit such improper consideration. The report must be made to the Los Angeles County Fraud Hotline at (800) 544-6861 or <https://fraud.lacounty.gov/>. Failure to report such a solicitation may result in the Vendor's submission being eliminated from consideration.

5.8.3 Form of Improper Consideration

Among other items, such improper consideration may take the form of cash, discounts, services, the provision of travel or entertainment, or tangible gifts.

5.9 County Lobbyist Ordinance

The County has enacted an ordinance regulating the activities of persons who lobby County officials. This ordinance, referred to as the "Lobbyist Ordinance", defines a County Lobbyist and imposes certain registration requirements upon individuals meeting the definition. The complete text of the ordinance can be found in County Code Chapter 2.160. In effect, each person, corporation or other entity that seeks a County permit, license, franchise or contract must certify compliance with the ordinance. As part of this solicitation process, it will be the responsibility of each Vendor to review the ordinance independently as the text of said ordinance is not contained within this RFSQ. Thereafter, each person, corporation or other entity submitting a response to this solicitation, must certify that each County Lobbyist, as defined by Los Angeles County Code Section 2.160.010, retained by the Vendor is in full compliance with Chapter 2.160 of the Los Angeles County Code and each such County Lobbyist is not on the Executive Office's List of Terminated Registered Lobbyists.

5.10 Consideration of GAIN/START Participants for Employment

5.10.1 As a threshold requirement for consideration of a Master Agreement, Vendors must demonstrate a proven record of hiring participants in the County's Department of Public Social Services Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) or Skills and Training to Achieve Readiness for Tomorrow (START) Programs or must attest to a willingness to consider

GAIN/START participants for any future employment openings if they meet the minimum qualifications for that opening. Vendors must attest to a willingness to provide employed GAIN/START participants access to the Vendor's employee mentoring program, if available, to assist these individuals in obtaining permanent employment and/or promotional opportunities.

- 5.10.2** Vendors who are unable to meet this requirement will not be considered for a Master Agreement. Vendors must submit a completed Exhibit 2 (Certification of Compliance) of Appendix B (Required Forms), along with their SOQ.

5.11 Jury Service Program

- 5.11.1** The prospective Master Agreement is subject to the requirements of the County's Contractor Employee Jury Service Ordinance ("Jury Service Program") (Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.203). Prospective Contractors should carefully review Paragraph 8.7 (Compliance with the County's Jury Service Program) of Appendix A (Master Agreement), which is incorporated by reference into and made a part of this RFSQ. The Jury Service Program applies to both Contractors and their Subcontractors.

SOQs that fail to comply with the requirements of the Jury Service Program will be considered non-responsive and excluded from further consideration.

- 5.11.2** Contractor must certify compliance with County's Contractor Employee Jury Service Ordinance in Exhibit 2 (Certification of Compliance) of Appendix B (Required Forms). If a Contractor does not fall within the Jury Service Program's definition of "Contractor" or if it meets any of the exceptions to the Jury Service Program, then the Contractor must so indicate in Exhibit 2 (Certification of Compliance) of Appendix B (Required Forms), and include with its submission all necessary documentation to support the claim such as tax returns or a collective bargaining agreement, if applicable. Upon reviewing the Contractor's application, the County will determine, in its sole discretion, whether the Contractor falls within the definition of Contractor or meets any of the exceptions to the Jury Service Program. The County's decision will be final.

5.12 Pending Acquisitions/Mergers by Proposing Company

The Vendor must notify the County of any pending acquisitions/mergers of its company unless otherwise legally prohibited from doing so. If the Vendor is restricted from legally notifying the County of pending acquisitions/mergers, then it should notify the County of the actual acquisitions/mergers as soon as the law allows and provide to the County the legal framework that restricted it from notifying the County prior to the actual acquisitions/mergers. This information must

be provided by the Vendor in Exhibit 1 (Organization Questionnaire/Affidavit) of Appendix B (Required Forms). Failure of the Vendor to provide this information may eliminate its SOQ from any further consideration. Vendor should have a continuing obligation to notify the County and update any changes to its response in Exhibit 1 (Organization Questionnaire/Affidavit) of Appendix B (Required Forms) during the solicitation.

5.13 This Section is Intentionally Omitted

5.14 Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program

5.14.1 The prospective Master Agreement is subject to the requirements of the County's Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program ("Defaulted Tax Program") [Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.206](#). Prospective Contractors should reference the pertinent provisions of Appendix A (Master Agreement), Paragraphs 8.50 and 8.51, both of which are incorporated by reference into and made a part of this solicitation. The Defaulted Tax Program applies to both Contractors and their Subcontractors.

5.14.2 Vendors will be required to certify that they are in full compliance with the provisions of the Defaulted Tax Program and must maintain compliance during the term of any contract that may be awarded pursuant to this solicitation or must certify that they are exempt from the Defaulted Tax Program by completing Exhibit 2 (Certification of Compliance) in Appendix B (Required Forms). Failure to maintain compliance, or to timely cure defects, may be cause for termination of a contract or initiation of debarment proceedings against the non-compliance contractor ([Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.202](#)).

5.14.3 SOQs that fail to comply with the certification requirements of the Defaulted Tax Program will be considered non-responsive and excluded from further consideration.

5.15 County's Commitment to Zero Tolerance Policy on Human Trafficking

5.15.1 On October 4, 2016, the County approved a motion taking significant steps to protect victims of human trafficking by establishing a zero-tolerance policy on human trafficking. The policy prohibits Vendors engaged in human trafficking from receiving contract awards or performing services under a County contract.

5.15.2 Vendors are required to complete Exhibit 2 (Certification of Compliance) in Appendix B (Required Forms), certifying that they are in full compliance with the County's Zero Tolerance Policy on Human Trafficking provision as defined in Paragraph 8.53 (Compliance with County's Zero Tolerance Policy on Human Trafficking) of Appendix A (Master Agreement). Further, contractors are required to comply with the requirements under said provision for the term of any Master Agreement awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

5.16 This Section is Intentionally Omitted

5.17 Default Method of Payment: Direct Deposit or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

- 5.17.1** The County, at its sole discretion, has determined that the most efficient and secure default form of payment for goods and/or services provided under an agreement/contract with the County will be Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or direct deposit, unless an alternative method of payment is deemed appropriate by the Auditor-Controller (A-C).
- 5.17.2** Upon contract award or at the request of the A-C and/or the contracting department, the Contractor must submit a direct deposit authorization request with banking and vendor information, and any other information that the A-C determines is reasonably necessary to process the payment and comply with all accounting, record keeping, and tax reporting requirements.
- 5.17.3** Any provision of law, grant, or funding agreement requiring a specific form or method of payment other than EFT or direct deposit will supersede this requirement with respect to those payments.
- 5.17.4** Upon contract award or at any time during the duration of the agreement/contract, a Contractor may submit a written request for an exemption to this requirement. The A-C, in consultation with the contracting department(s), will decide whether to approve exemption requests.

5.18 Prohibition from Participation in Future Solicitation(s)

A Vendor, or a Contractor or its subsidiary or Subcontractor ("Vendor/Contractor"), is prohibited from submitting an SOQ in a County solicitation if the Vendor/Contractor has provided advice or consultation for the solicitation. A Vendor/Contractor is also prohibited from submitting an SOQ in a County solicitation if the Vendor/Contractor has developed or prepared any of the solicitation materials on behalf of the County. A violation of this provision will result in the disqualification of the Contractor/Vendor from participation in the County solicitation or the termination or cancellation of any resultant County Master Agreement. ([Los Angeles County Code, Chapter 2.202](#)).

5.19 Community Business Enterprise (CBE) Participation

The County has adopted a Community Business Enterprise (CBE) Program, which includes business enterprises certified as disadvantaged business enterprises disabled veteran-owned, minority-owned, women-owned, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning-owned business types. The County has established a collective 25% participation goal for CBE certified firms, calculated on the eligible procurement dollars. The program maintains data on the types of businesses registered as CBEs and their utilization. The Vendor's CBE participation must be reflected in Exhibit 5 (Community Business Enterprise (CBE) Information) form in Appendix B (Required Forms).

All Vendors must document efforts it has taken to assure that CBEs are utilized, when possible, to provide supplies, equipment, technical services, and other services under this Master Agreement. The Vendor must make documents related to these efforts available to the County upon request.

The County strongly encourages participation by CBEs; however, the final selection will be made without regard to race, color, creed, or gender. The final selection will be based on the Vendor's ability to provide the best service and value to the County.

To obtain a list of the County's CBE certified firms, e-mail the request to the County of Los Angeles Department of Economic Opportunity at CBESBE@opportunity.lacounty.gov with the subject "**Request for CBE Listing.**"

For additional information contact the Office of Small Business at: (844) 432-4900 or at OSB@opportunity.lacounty.gov.

5.20 Contribution and Agent Declaration

[Government Code Section 84308](#) requires a party to a contract proceeding to disclose any contribution of more than \$500 made to a County officer within the preceding twelve (12) months by the party or their agent. State regulations require this disclosure to be made at the time an application is filed, and, if a contribution is made during the contract proceeding, within 30 days of making a contribution or on the date on which the party first appears before or communicates with the agency regarding the proceeding after making the contribution, whichever is earliest. All Vendors are advised that they and all of their Subcontractors must complete and return as part of the SOQ, the Contribution and Agent Declaration included in Exhibit 10 (Contribution and Agent Declaration Form) of Appendix B (Required Forms). Vendors are further advised that they and their Subcontractors must update the Contribution and Agent Declaration Form throughout the pendency of the solicitation if a contribution is made after the initial disclosure when the SOQ is submitted, and as requested at any time by the County prior to Master Agreement award. Failure by the Vendor or any Subcontractor(s) to complete and submit the required Contribution and Agent Declaration Form in Exhibit 10, and failure by the Vendor or any Subcontractor(s) to update the declaration as required by law or as otherwise requested by the County, may eliminate the SOQ from further consideration and/or the Vendor may be disqualified from a Master Agreement award, as determined in the County's sole discretion. Further, all Vendors and their Subcontractors are prohibited under [Government Code Section 84308](#) from making a contribution of more than \$500 to a County officer for twelve (12) months after the date a final decision is made in the Master Agreement proceeding involving this solicitation.

5.21 Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion – Lower Tier Covered Transactions (45 C.F.R. Part 76)

5.21.1 Pursuant to Federal law, the County is prohibited from contracting with parties that are suspended, debarred, ineligible, or excluded, or whose

principals are suspended, debarred, or excluded from securing federally funded contracts. At the time of Vendor's response to this RFSQ, Vendor must submit a certification, as set forth in Exhibit 11 (Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion – Lower Tier Covered Transactions [45 C.F.R. Part 76]) in Appendix B (Required Forms), attesting that neither it, as an organization, nor any of its owners, officers, partners, directors, or other principals are currently suspended, debarred, ineligible, or excluded from securing federally funded contracts. Should a SOQ response to this RFSQ identify prospective Subcontractors, or should Vendor intend to use Subcontractors in the provision of services under any subsequent Master Agreement, Vendor must submit a certification, completed by each Subcontractor, attesting that neither the Subcontractor, as an organization, nor any of its owners, officers, partners, directors, or other principals are currently suspended, debarred, ineligible, or excluded from securing federally funded contracts.

- 5.21.2** Failure to provide the required certification may eliminate Vendor's response to RFSQ from consideration.
- 5.21.3** In the event that Vendor and/or its Subcontractor(s) is or are unable to provide the required certification, Vendor instead will provide a written explanation concerning its and/or its Subcontractor's inability to provide the certification. Vendor's written explanation must describe the specific circumstances concerning the inability to certify. It further must identify any owner, officer, partner, director, or other principal of the Vendor and/or Subcontractor who is currently suspended, debarred, ineligible, or excluded from securing federally funded contracts. Finally, the written explanation must provide that person's or those persons' job description(s) and function(s) as they relate to the Master Agreement which is being solicited by this RFSQ.
- 5.21.4** The written explanation will be examined by the County to determine, in its full discretion, whether further consideration of the SOQ response to this RFSQ is appropriate under the Federal law.

6.0 COUNTY'S PREFERENCE PROGRAMS

6.1 Overview of County's Preference Programs

- 6.1.1** The County has three preference programs. The Local Small Business Enterprise (LSBE), Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE), and Social Enterprise (SE). The Board encourages business participation in the County's contracting process by continually streamlining and simplifying our selection process and expanding opportunities for these businesses to compete for County opportunities.

- 6.1.2** The Preference Programs (LSBE, DVBE, and SE) require that a business complete certification prior to requesting a preference in a solicitation. This program and how to obtain certification are further explained in paragraph 6.2, 6.3, and 6.4 of this solicitation. Additional information on the County's preference programs is also available on the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) website at: https://iddweb.isd.lacounty.gov/DCA_eComplaint/SmallBusinessCertifications.
- 6.1.3** In no case will the Preference Programs (LSBE, DVBE, and SE) price or scoring preference be combined with any other County preference program to exceed fifteen percent (15%) in response to any County solicitation.
- 6.1.4** Sanctions and financial penalties may apply to a business that knowingly, and with intent to defraud, seeks to obtain or maintain certification as a certified LSBE, DVBE, or SE when not qualified.
- 6.2 Local Small Business Enterprise (LSBE) Preference Program**
- 6.2.1** In reviewing Work Order Bids, the County will give LSBE preference during the solicitation process to businesses that meet the definition of an LSBE for solicitations subject to the federal restriction on geographical preferences, consistent with [Chapter 2.204.030 of the Los Angeles County Code](#).
- 6.2.2** To apply for certification as a LSBE, businesses should contact DEO at https://iddweb.isd.lacounty.gov/DCA_eComplaint/SmallBusinessCertifications.
- 6.2.3** Certified Local SBEs may only request the preference in each of their Work Order Bid responses and may not request the preference unless the certification process has been completed and certification is affirmed. Businesses must complete and submit the Request for Preference Program Consideration with each Work Order Bid response and submit a letter of certification from the County with their bid.
- 6.3 Social Enterprise (SE) Preference Program**
- 6.3.1** In reviewing Work Order Bids, the County will give preference during the solicitation process to businesses that meet the definition of a SE for solicitations subject to the federal restriction on geographical preferences, consistent with [Chapter 2.205 of the Los Angeles County Code](#).
- 6.3.2** To apply for certification as an SE, businesses should contact DEO at https://iddweb.isd.lacounty.gov/DCA_eComplaint/SmallBusinessCertifications.
- 6.3.3** Certified SEs may only request the preference in each of their Work Order Bid responses and may not request the preference unless the

certification process has been completed and certification is affirmed. Businesses must complete and submit the Request for Preference Program Consideration with each Work Order Bid response and submit their SE certification letter (“Certification for Federally Funded Solicitations”) from the County with their bid.

6.4 Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Preference Program

6.4.1 In reviewing Work Order Bids, the County will give preference during the solicitation process to businesses that meet the definition of a DVBE, consistent with [Chapter 2.211 of the Los Angeles County Code](#).

6.4.2 The business must be certified by the County, prior to requesting the DVBE preference in a solicitation. To apply for certification as a DVBE, businesses should contact DEO at https://iddweb.isd.lacounty.gov/DCA_eComplaint/SmallBusinessCertifications.

6.4.3 Certified DVBEs may only request the preference in each of their Work Order Bid responses and may not request the preference unless the certification process has been completed and certification is affirmed. Businesses must complete and submit the Request for Preference Program Consideration with each Work Order Bid response and submit their DVBE certification approval letter from the County with their bid.

6.5 Preference Program Enterprises (PPEs) - Prompt Payment Program

It is the intent of the County that Certified Preference Program Enterprises (PPEs) receive prompt payment for services they provide to County Departments. Prompt payment is defined as fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of an approved, undisputed invoice which has been properly matched against documents such as a receiving, shipping, or services delivered report, or any other validation of receipt document consistent with Board Policy 3.035 ([Preference Program Payment Liaison and Prompt Payment Program](#)).

7.0 STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION (SOQ) REQUIREMENTS

This Section contains key project activities as well as instructions to Vendors in how to prepare and submit their Statement of Qualifications (SOQ).

7.1 Truth and Accuracy of Representations

False, misleading, incomplete, or deceptively unresponsive statements in connection with an SOQ will be sufficient cause for rejection of the SOQ. The evaluation and determination in this area will be at the Director’s sole judgment and their judgment will be final.

7.2 Vendors’ Questions

7.2.1 Vendors may submit written questions regarding this RFSQ by e-mail to LA County Planning Contract at contract@planning.lacounty.gov. All

questions must be received by the date and time specified in Paragraph 1.0 (Solicitation Information and Minimum Mandatory Requirements). All questions, without identifying the submitting company, will be compiled with the appropriate answers and issued as an addendum to the RFSQ.

- 7.2.2** When submitting questions, please specify the RFSQ paragraph number, and page number and quote the language that prompted the question. This will ensure that the question can be quickly found in the RFSQ. County reserves the right to group similar questions when providing answers.

7.3 Vendor's Conference

No Vendors Conference will be held

7.4 Preparation and Format of the SOQ

All SOQ must be submitted via electronic mail (e-mail) to: contract@planning.lacounty.gov by the date and time listed in Paragraph 1.0 (Solicitation Information and Minimum Mandatory Requirements).

All SOQs must be bound and submitted in the prescribed format. Any SOQ that deviates from this format may be rejected without review at the County's sole discretion.

The content and sequence of the SOQ must be as follows:

- SOQ Cover Page
- Table of Contents
- Vendor's Qualifications (Section A)
- Required Forms (Section B)
- Proof of Insurability (Section C)
- Proof of Licenses (Section D)

7.4.1 SOQ Cover Page

Include the SOQ title along with the service category that the Vendor desires consideration. Provide the firm's name and address, and the name, telephone phone, and e-mailed address of the person authorized to make representations for the Vendor and commit the Vendor to a Contract.

7.4.2 Table of Contents

The Table of Contents must be a comprehensive listing of material included in the SOQ. This section must include a clear definition of the material, identified by sequential page numbers and by section reference numbers.

7.4.3 Vendor's Qualifications (Section A)

Demonstrate that the Vendor's organization has the experience of performing the required services. The following sections must be included:

7.4.3.1 Vendor's Background and Experience (Section A.1)

The Vendor must complete, sign and date the Exhibit 1 (Organization Questionnaire/Affidavit) as set forth in Appendix B (Required Forms). The person signing the form must be authorized to sign on behalf of the Vendor and to bind the vendor in a Master Agreement. Provide a summary of relevant background information to demonstrate that the Vendor meets the minimum mandatory requirements stated in Paragraph 3.0 of this RFSQ and has the capability to perform the required services as a corporation or other entity.

Required Information:

- Describe Vendor's specialized experience in completing scope of services for the target category listed in Section 2.1 of this RFSQ.
- Describe the scope of services that can be performed by Vendor without use of sub-consultants.
- Describe Vendor's experience in completing similar services within the past five (5) years and demonstrate that the Proposer meets the minimum requirements stated in Section 3.1 of this RFSQ.
- **(For Environmental Documentation category only) Possess project managerial expertise in joint CEQA/NEPA review, with a clear understanding of Lead Agency responsibilities, and exhibit independent judgment**
- Describe Vendor's record of preparing adequately detailed documents that provide clarity for public consumption and minimize litigation risk.
- Describe Vendor's experience working in cooperatively and productively with Federal, State, regional, and local regulatory entities that are relevant to the category, such as the County of Los Angeles, California Department of Housing and

Community Development, California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Aviation Administration, Air Quality Management Districts, Water Resources Boards.

Additionally, Vendor must include a list containing all public entities contracts for the last three (3) years where the same or similar scope of services was provided. Vendor's completed form Exhibit 8 (List of Public Entities), in Appendix B (Required Forms) must be provided in Section B (Required Forms) of Vendor's SOQ. Vendor may use additional sheets, if necessary.

Taking into account the structure of the Vendor's organization, Vendor must determine which of the below referenced supporting documents the County requires. If the Vendor's organization does not fit into one of these categories, upon receipt of the SOQ or at some later time, the County may, in its discretion, request additional documentation regarding the Vendor's business organization and authority of individuals to sign Contracts.

If the below referenced documents are not available at the time of SOQ submission, Vendors must request the appropriate documents from the California Secretary of State and provide a statement on the status of the request.

Required Support Documents:

Corporations or Limited Liability Company (LLC):

The Vendor must submit the following documentation with the SOQ:

- 1) A copy of a "Certificate of Good Standing" with the state of incorporation/organization.
- 2) A conformed copy of the most recent "Statement of Information" as filed with the California Secretary of State listing corporate officers or members and managers.

Limited Partnership:

The Vendor must submit a conformed copy of the Certificate of Limited Partnership or Application for Registration of Foreign Limited Partnership as filed with the California Secretary of State, and any amendments.

7.4.3.2 Vendor's List of References (Section A.2)

Vendor must provide at least two (2) references where the same or similar scope of services was provided to validate that the Vendor meets the minimum qualifications stated in Paragraph 3.0 (Minimum Mandatory Requirements). Vendors submitting as joint ventures must provide references that validate experience of all parties, including joint venture projects that have been completed. References for joint venture projects must be listed before references validating individual experience and projects.

It is the Vendor's sole responsibility to ensure that information provided for each reference is accurate.

County may disqualify a Vendor if:

- 1) References fail to substantiate Vendor's description of the services provided; or
- 2) References fail to support that Vendor has a continuing pattern of providing capable, productive and skilled personnel, or
- 3) The Department is unable to reach the point of contact with reasonable effort. It is the Vendor's responsibility to inform the point of contact of normal working hours.

7.4.3.3 Vendor's Debarment History and List of Terminated Contracts (Section A.3)

The County will conduct a review of Vendor's terminated contracts and debarment history. Vendor must include contracts terminated within the past three (3) years with a reason for termination in Appendix B (Required Forms), Exhibit 4 (Debarment History and List of Terminated Contracts). Vendor's completed form Exhibit 4 (Debarment History and List of Terminated Contracts) must be provided as part of their SOQ.

7.4.3.4 Vendor's Pending Litigation and Judgments (Section A.4)

The County will conduct a review of Vendor's pending litigation and judgements. Vendor must identify by name, case and court jurisdiction any pending litigation in which Vendor is involved, or judgments against Vendor in the past five (5) years. Additionally, Vendor must provide a statement describing the size and scope of any pending or threatening litigation against the Vendor or principals of the Vendor.

7.4.4 Required Forms (Section B)

Include all forms identified in Appendix B (Required Forms).

- Exhibit 1 Organization Questionnaire/Affidavit
- Exhibit 2 Certification of Compliance
- Exhibit 3 Request for Preference Consideration
- Exhibit 4 Debarment History and List of Terminated Contracts
- Exhibit 5 Community Business Enterprise (CBE) Information
- Exhibit 6 Minimum Mandatory Requirements
- Exhibit 7 Statement of Qualifications Submittal Form
- Exhibit 8 List of Public Entities
- Exhibit 9 List of References
- Exhibit 10 Contribution and Agent Declaration
- Exhibit 11 Certification Regarding Debarment Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion – Lower Tier Covered Transactions (45 C.F.R. Part 76)
- Exhibit 12 Declaration

7.4.5 Proof of Insurability (Section C)

Vendor must provide proof of insurability that meets all insurance requirements set forth in the Appendix A (Master Agreement), Paragraphs 8.23 and 8.24. If a Vendor does not currently have the required coverage, a letter from a qualified insurance carrier indicating a willingness to provide the required coverage should the Vendor be selected to receive a Master Agreement award may be submitted with the SOQ.

7.4.6 Proof of Licenses (Section D)

Vendor must furnish a copy of all applicable licenses.

7.5 SOQ Submission

Vendors should not use the official seal of the County, nor any of its departments, in their SOQ.

All SOQ must be submitted via electronic mail (e-mail) in a Portable Document Format (PDF) file with no security provisions to:

Email Address: contract@planning.lacounty.gov

Subject Line: SOQ for [insert Service Category here] RFSQ-DRP-53830

- 7.5.1** No hard copies delivered in person or facsimile (faxed) responses will be accepted. Please note, each email attachment file size is limited to 25mb per email. Multiple emails should be utilized if attachment files are too large to send in on email.
- 7.5.2** All SOQs documentation must be sent as attachments, NOT VIA A LINK, for cyber security purposes.
- 7.5.3** It is the sole responsibility of submitting Vendor to ensure that its SOQ is received before the submission deadline identified in Paragraph 1.0 (Solicitation Information and Minimum Mandatory Requirements).
- 7.5.4** Any SOQs received after the initial submission deadline identified in Paragraph 1.0 (Solicitation Information and Minimum Mandatory Requirements), will be evaluated after the initial Master Agreements have been executed.
- 7.5.5** Until the SOQs submission deadline, errors in SOQs may be corrected, errors in pending SOQs may be corrected by a request in writing to withdraw the SOQ (see Paragraph 7.7 and by submission of another set of SOQs with the mistakes corrected. Corrections or re-submissions of SOQs after the initial deadline identified in Paragraph 1.0 (Solicitation Information and Minimum Mandatory Requirements), will be evaluated after the initial Master Agreements have been executed. Corrections or re-submissions will not be accepted once the deadline for submission of SOQs have passed.

All SOQs will be firm offers and may not be withdrawn for a period of one eighty (180) days following the last day to submit SOQs.

7.6 Acceptance of Terms and Conditions of Master Agreement

Vendors understand and agree that submission of the SOQ constitutes acknowledgement and acceptance of, and a willingness to comply with, all terms and conditions of the Appendix A (Master Agreement).

7.7 SOQ Withdrawals

The Vendor may withdraw its SOQ at any time prior to the date and time which is set forth herein as the deadline for acceptance of SOQs, upon written request for same to (the Director or designee). A withdrawal submitted solely for the purpose of correcting clerical or administrative errors under Paragraph 7.5.5 shall not be considered a withdrawal of the SOQ for purposes of the 180-day firm-offer period.

8.0 SOQ REVIEW/SELECTION/QUALIFICATION PROCESS

8.1 Review Process

SOQs will be subject to a detailed review by qualified County staff. The review process will include the following steps:

8.1.1 Adherence to Minimum Mandatory Requirements

County will review Exhibit 1 (Organization Questionnaire/Affidavit of Appendix B (Required Forms), Exhibit 6 (Minimum Mandatory Requirements), Exhibit 8 (List of Public Entities), and Exhibit 9 (List of References), to determine if the Vendor meets the minimum mandatory requirements as outlined in Paragraph 3.0 of this RFSQ.

Failure of the Vendor to comply with the minimum mandatory requirements may eliminate its SOQ from any further consideration. The Department may elect to waive any informality in an SOQ if the sum and substance of the SOQ is present.

Corrections or re-submissions of SOQs received in this RFSQ after the initial deadline identified in Paragraph 1.0 (Solicitation Information and Minimum Mandatory Requirements), will be evaluated after the initial Master Agreements have been executed.

8.1.2 Vendor's Qualifications (Section A)

County's review will include the following:

8.1.2.1 Vendor's Background and Experience as provided in Section A.1 of the SOQ.

8.1.2.2 Vendor's References as provided in Section A. 2. The review will include verification of references submitted, a review of the Contractor Alert Reporting Database, if applicable, reflecting past performance history on County or other contracts, and a review of terminated contracts.

8.1.2.3 A review to determine the magnitude of any pending litigation or judgments against the Vendor as provided in Section A. 3.

8.1.3 Required Forms

All forms listed in Paragraph 7.4.3 (Required Forms) must be included in Section B of the SOQ.

8.1.4 Proof of Insurability

Review the proof of insurability provided in Section C of the SOQ.

8.1.5 Proof of Licenses

Review the proof of licenses provided in Section D of the SOQ.

8.2 Selection/Qualification Process

The Department will generally select Vendors that have experience in providing a broad range of As-Needed Planning Consultant services. However, in order to ensure the Department has a varied pool of qualified Contractors, the Department may offer Master Agreements to Vendors that offer a narrow scope of services in more highly specialized areas.

8.3 Master Agreement Award

Vendors who are notified by the Department that they appear to have the necessary qualifications and experience (i.e., they are qualified) may still not be recommended for a Master Agreement if other requirements necessary for award have not been met. Other requirements may include acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Master Agreement, and/or satisfactory documentation that required insurance will be obtained. Only when all such matters have been demonstrated to the Department's satisfaction can a Vendor, which is otherwise deemed qualified, be regarded as "selected" for recommendation of a Master Agreement.

The Department will execute Board of Supervisors-authorized Master Agreements with each selected Vendor. All Vendors will be informed of the final selections.

9.0 PROTEST PROCESS OVERVIEW

9.1 Solicitation Requirements Review

Any person or entity may seek a Solicitation Requirements Review by submitting Appendix C (Solicitation Requirements Review (SRR) Request) to the Department conducting the solicitation as described in this Section. A request for a Solicitation Requirements Review may be denied, in the Department's sole discretion, if the request does not satisfy all of the following criteria:

- 9.1.1** The request for a SRR is made within the time frame identified in the solicitation document;
- 9.1.2** The request includes documentation (e.g., letterhead, business card, etc.), which identifies the underlying authority of the person or entity to submit a SOQ;
- 9.1.3** The request itemizes in appropriate detail, each matter contested and factual reasons for the requested review; and
- 9.1.4** The request asserts that either:
 - 9.1.4.1** application of the Minimum Mandatory Requirements, evaluation criteria and/or business requirements unfairly disadvantages the person or entity; or,
 - 9.1.4.2** due to unclear instructions, the process may result in the County not receiving the best possible responses from prospective Vendor.

The SRR will be completed and the Department's determination will be provided to the requesting person or entity, in writing, within a reasonable time prior to the SOQ due date.

9.2 Disqualification Review

An SOQ may be disqualified from consideration because a Department determined it was non-responsive at any time during the review/evaluation process. If a Department determines that an SOQ is disqualified due to non-responsiveness, the Department will notify the Vendor in writing.

Upon receipt of the written determination of non-responsiveness, the Vendor may submit a written request for a Disqualification Review within the timeframe specified in the written determination.

A request for a Disqualification Review may, in the Department's sole discretion, be denied if the request does not satisfy all of the following criteria:

- 9.2.1** The request for a Disqualification Review is submitted timely (i.e., by the date and time specified in the written determination); and
- 9.2.2** The request for a Disqualification Review asserts that the Department's determination of disqualification due to non-responsiveness was erroneous (e.g. factual errors, etc.) and provides factual support on each ground asserted as well as copies of all documents and other material that support the assertions.

The Disqualification Review must be completed and the determination will be provided to the requesting Vendor, in writing, prior to the conclusion of the evaluation process.

APPENDIX A

(RFSQ MASTER AGREEMENT)



MASTER AGREEMENT

BY AND BETWEEN

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

AND

(CONTRACTOR)

FOR

**AS-NEEDED PLANNING CONSULTANT SERVICES
(SERVICE CATEGORY)**

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STANDARD EXHIBITS

A	County's Administration (Not Attached to Sample)
B	Contractor's Administration (Not Attached to Sample)
C	Sample Work Order Formats (Not Attached to Sample)
D	Approved Service Categories Form
	Forms Required for Each Work Order Before Work Begins (Not Attached to Sample)
E	Certification of Employee Status
F1	Contractor Acknowledgement and Confidentiality Agreement
F2	Contractor Employee Acknowledgement and Confidentiality Agreement
F3	Contractor Non-Employee Acknowledgement and Confidentiality Agreement
G	Subsequent Executed Work Orders
H	Digital Accessibility Requirements

**MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
AND**

FOR

SERVICES

This Master Agreement is made and entered into on [Enter Date] (“Execution Date”), by and between the County of Los Angeles, hereinafter referred to as “County,” and [Contractor Name], hereinafter referred to as “Contractor.” [Contractor Name] is located at [Contractor Address].

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the County may contract with private businesses for As-Needed Planning Consultant Services when certain requirements are met; and

WHEREAS, the Contractor is a private firm specializing in providing [Category Service] Services; and

WHEREAS, this Master Agreement is therefore authorized under California Codes, Government Code Section 31000 which authorizes the Board of Supervisors to contract for special services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has authorized the Director of Regional Planning (Director) or designee to execute and administer this Master Agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the parties agree to the following:

1.0 APPLICABLE DOCUMENTS

Exhibits A through H are attached to and form a part of this Master Agreement. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency in the definition or interpretation of any word, responsibility, schedule, or the contents or description of any task, deliverable, goods, service, or other work, or otherwise between the base Master Agreement and the Exhibits, or between Exhibits, such conflict or inconsistency will be resolved by giving precedence first to the Master Agreement and then to the Exhibits according to the following priority:

Standard Exhibits:

Exhibit A	County's Administration
Exhibit B	Contractor's Administration
Exhibit C	Sample Work Order Formats
Exhibit D	Approved Service Categories Form
Exhibit E	Certification of Employee Status
Exhibit F	Acknowledgement and Confidentiality Agreement
Exhibit G	Subsequent Executed Work Orders
Exhibit H	Digital Accessibility Requirements

This Master Agreement and the Exhibits hereto constitute the complete and exclusive statement of understanding between the parties, and supersedes all previous Master Agreements, written and oral, and all communications between the parties relating to the subject matter of this Master Agreement. No change to this Master Agreement will be valid unless prepared pursuant to Paragraph 8.1 (Amendments) and signed by both parties.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Standard Definitions

The headings herein contained are for convenience and reference only and are not intended to define the scope of any provision thereof. The following words as used herein will be construed to have the following meaning, unless otherwise apparent from the context in which they are used.

- 2.1.1 Active Contractor:** Identifies a Qualified Contractor who is in compliance with the terms and conditions and whose evidence of insurance requirements have all been received by the Department and are valid and in effect at the time of a given Work Order award. As used herein, the terms Active Contractor and Contractor may be used interchangeably throughout this Master Agreement.
- 2.1.2 Contractor's Project Manager:** The individual designated by the Contractor to administer the Master Agreement operations after the Master Agreement award.
- 2.1.3 County's Contract Analyst:** The person designated by the County to manage and facilitate the administrative functions of the Contract.
- 2.1.4 County's Master Agreement Program Director (MAPD):** Person designated by Director with authority to negotiate and recommend all changes on behalf of County.
- 2.1.5 County's Project Director:** Person designated by Director with authority to approve all Work Order solicitations and executions.

- 2.1.6 County's Project Manager:** Person designated as chief contact person with respect to the day-to-day administration of the Master Agreement.
- 2.1.7 County's Work Order Directors:** Responsible for coordinating and monitoring the Work Order.
- 2.1.8 Day(s):** Calendar day(s) unless otherwise specified.
- 2.1.9 Department:** The County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, which is entering into this Master Agreement on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
- 2.1.10 Director:** Director of Department.
- 2.1.11 Fiscal Year:** The twelve (12) month period beginning July 1st and ending the following June 30th.
- 2.1.12 Master Agreement:** County's standard agreement executed between County and individual Contractors. It sets forth the terms and conditions for the issuance and performance of, and otherwise governs, subsequent Work Orders.
- 2.1.13 Qualified Contractor:** A Contractor who has submitted a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in response to County's Request For Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ); has met the minimum mandatory requirements qualifications listed in the RFSQ, and has an executed Master Agreement with the Department.
- 2.1.14 Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ):** A solicitation based on establishing a pool of Qualified Vendors to provide services through Master Agreements.
- 2.1.15 Statement of Qualifications (SOQ):** A Contractor's response to an RFSQ.
- 2.1.16 Statement of Work:** A written description of tasks and/or deliverables desired by County for a specific Work Order.
- 2.1.17 Work Order:** A subordinate agreement executed wholly within and subject to the provisions of this Master Agreement, for the performance of tasks and/or provision of deliverables as described in a specification or a Statement of Work. Each Work Order must result from bids, solicited by and tendered to County, by Qualified Contractors. Unless otherwise specified in the Work Order Availability Notice, County will select the most qualified bids/proposals responding to the requirements of the Work Order Solicitation. No work will be performed by Contractors except in accordance with validly bid and executed Work Orders.
- 2.1.18 Work Order Solicitation:** A competitive solicitation containing the Statement of Work, evaluation factors and other relevant

information necessary to bid/propose on a Work Order for award. The Work Order Solicitation will be sent to all Qualified Contractors in the respective Services Category (or categories) that are applicable to the work.

3.0 WORK

- 3.1** Pursuant to the provisions of this Master Agreement, the Contractor must fully perform, complete and deliver on time, all tasks, deliverables, services and other work as set forth herein in each Work Order and its related Statement of Work for which the Contractor is contracted.
- 3.2** Each Work Order will include a Statement of Work, which will describe in detail the particular project and the work required for the performance thereof. Payment for all work will be on a fixed priced per deliverable basis, subject to the Total Maximum Amount specified on each individual Work Order.
- 3.3** If Contractor provides any task, deliverable, service, or other work to County that utilizes other than approved Contractor Personnel, and/or that goes beyond the Work Order expiration date, and/or that exceeds the Total Maximum Amount as specified in the Work Order as originally written or modified in accordance with Paragraph 8.1 (Amendments), these will be gratuitous efforts on the part of Contractor for which Contractor will have no claim whatsoever against County.
- 3.4** The Department procedures for issuing and executing Work Orders are as set forth in this Paragraph as follows:
- Department determines that services covered by this Master Agreement need to be performed.
 - Department develops a Work Order Solicitation (WOS), which includes a Statement of Work and a set of evaluation criteria for that particular project.
 - Department notifies the qualified Master Agreement Contractors of the WOS to submit proposals/bids in response to the WOS.
 - Department reviews proposals/bids upon receipt. Failure of Contractor to follow the instructions identified in the WOS will subject Contractor's bid/proposal to rejection from further review for that WOS.
 - Completion of review and evaluation shall be within 10-14 business days after the proposal/bid due date.
 - Department will execute a Work Order with the selected Qualified Contractor.
 - Contractor shall receive a Notice of Proceed (NTP) letter indicating the start date of services for that particular Work Order.
 - Payment of all work shall not exceed the maximum amount of that particular Work Order.

- 3.5** Each NTP Letter shall include the Work Order executed by both County and Contractor, approved fee schedule, County's Administration, and Contractor's Administration for the Work Order.
- 3.6** In the event that no bids are received for a particular WOS, the Department shall either: (1) revise the WOS and re-issue the WOS; (2) perform the services with County staff; or (3) contract with a private contractor via other County contracting or procurement processes. It is understood by Contractor that County's competitive bidding procedure may result in no Work Orders are awarded to Contractor.

4.0 TERM OF MASTER AGREEMENT

- 4.1** The Master Agreement will commence upon execution by the Director or their designee as authorized by the Board of Supervisors (Board) and will expire on June 30, 2031, unless sooner extended or terminated, in whole or in part, as provided herein.
- 4.2** The County will have the sole option to extend the Master Agreement term for up to two (2) additional one-year periods extensions, under which the Master Agreement may be extended through June 30, 2033. Each such option and extension will be exercised at the sole discretion of the Director or their designee as authorized by the Board.

The County maintains a database that tracks/monitors contractor performance history. Information entered into the database may be used for a variety of purposes, including determining whether the County will exercise a Master Agreement term extension option.

- 4.3** Contractor must notify the Department when this Master Agreement is within six (6) months from the expiration of the term as provided for hereinabove. Upon occurrence of this event, Contractor must send written notification to the Department at the address herein provided in Exhibit A (County's Administration).
- 4.4** If the County authorizes the Contractor in writing via the execution of a Work Order to perform services on a given project prior to the stated expiration date, but thereafter such services are not completed by the stated expiration date, then the expiration of the Agreement shall be automatically extended, for the shortest duration of time reasonably necessary, solely to allow for the completion of such services. The County may authorize unforeseen additional services and extend the Work Order as reasonably necessary to complete those services when the unforeseen additional services are directly related to the initial scope of work and are necessary for the completion of a given project.

5.0 CONTRACT SUM

5.1 Total Contract Sum

Contractor will not be entitled to any payment by County under this Master Agreement except pursuant to validly executed and satisfactorily performed Work Orders. In each year of this Master Agreement, the total of all amounts actually expended by County hereunder (“maximum annual expenditures”) may not exceed amounts allocated to the Department by the Board in their approved budgets. The County has sole discretion to expend some, all, or none of such budgeted amounts. The sum of such maximum annual expenditures for the duration of the Master Agreement is the Contract Sum.

5.2 Written Approval for Reimbursement

The Contractor will not be entitled to payment or reimbursement for any tasks or services performed, nor for any incidental or administrative expenses whatsoever incurred in or incidental to performance hereunder, except as specified herein. Assumption or takeover of any of the Contractor’s duties, responsibilities, or obligations, or performance of same by any entity other than the Contractor, whether through assignment, subcontract, delegation, merger, buyout, or any other mechanism, with or without consideration for any reason whatsoever, will occur only with the County’s express prior written approval.

5.3 No Payment for Services Provided Following Expiration/Termination of Master Agreement

Contractor will have no claim against County for payment of any money or reimbursement, of any kind whatsoever, for any service provided by Contractor after the expiration or other termination of this Master Agreement. Should Contractor receive any such payment it will immediately notify County and must immediately repay all such funds to County. Payment by County for services rendered after expiration/termination of this Master Agreement will not constitute a waiver of County’s right to recover such payment from Contractor.

5.4 Invoices and Payments

5.4.1 For providing the tasks, deliverables, services, and other work authorized pursuant to this Master Agreement, Contractor must separately invoice County for each Work Order either: (1) monthly, if performed on a Time and Materials basis or (2) by deliverable, if performed on a fixed price per deliverable basis.

5.4.2 Payment for all work will be on either a Time and Materials basis or a fixed price per deliverable basis, subject to the Total Maximum Amount specified in each Work Order less any amounts assessed in accordance with Paragraph 8.25 (Liquidated Damages).

5.4.3 County will not pay Contractor for any overtime premiums, travel expenses, meals, lodging, holidays, vacation, sick leave, per diem, or miscellaneous expenses, etc.

5.4.4 All work performed by, and all invoices submitted by, Contractor pursuant to Work Orders issued hereunder must receive the written approval of County's Work Order Director, who will be responsible for a detailed evaluation of Contractor's performance before approval of work and/or payment of invoices is permitted.

5.4.5 Invoices under this Master Agreement must be submitted to the address(es) set forth in the applicable Work Order.

5.4.6 Invoice Content

The period of performance specified in Contractor's invoice(s) must coincide with the period of performance specified in the applicable Work Order.

Time and Materials Work Order:

Each invoice submitted by Contractor must specify:

- County numbers of the Work Order and Contractor's Master Agreement;
- Period of performance of work being invoiced;
- Name(s) of persons who performed the work;
- Number of hours being billed for the individual(s) and the labor rate(s) as specified in the Work Order; and
- Total amount of the invoice.

Fixed Price Per Deliverable Work Order

Each invoice submitted by Contractor must specify:

- County numbers of the Work Order and Contractor's Master Agreement;
- Period of performance of work being invoiced;
- Name(s) of persons who performed the work;
- A brief description of the deliverable(s) for which payment is claimed, the respective number(s) assigned to the deliverable(s), and the individual amount being billed for each deliverable; and
- The total amount of the invoice.

5.4.7 Preference Program Enterprises – Prompt Payment Program

Certified Prompt Payment Enterprises (PPEs) will receive prompt payment for services they provide to County departments.

Prompt payment is defined as fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of an approved, undisputed invoice which has been properly matched against documents such as a receiving, shipping, or services delivered report, or any other validation of receipt document consistent with Board Policy 3.035 ([Preference Program Payment Liaison and Prompt Payment Program](#)).

5.5 Unresolved Disallowed Costs

Contractor must not invoice the County for disallowed costs under the Contract. Correspondingly, the Contractor must not have unresolved disallowed costs in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) that have been confirmed as disallowed costs by the contracting County department and remain unpaid for a period of six (6) months or more from the date of an Auditor-Controller (A-C) Report. Unless such disallowed costs are the subject of current good faith negotiations, as determined in the sole discretion of the County, non-compliance by Contractor regarding this provision will constitute a material breach of Contract and may result in termination for default, in addition to any other remedies available to the County. Further, if Contractor has been determined to have unresolved disallowed costs in excess of \$100,000 for longer than six months since the date of the A-C Report, they will be disqualified from future County solicitations unless such disallowed costs are the subject of good faith negotiations to resolve the disallowed costs, in the sole opinion of the County, or have been resolved.

5.6 Default Method of Payment: Direct Deposit or Electronic Funds Transfer

5.6.1 The County, at its sole discretion, has determined that the most efficient and secure default form of payment for goods and/or services provided under an agreement/contract with the County will be Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or direct deposit, unless an alternative method of payment is deemed appropriate by the Auditor-Controller (A-C).

5.6.2 The Contractor must submit a direct deposit authorization request via the website <https://directdeposit.lacounty.gov> with banking and vendor information, and any other information that the A-C determines is reasonably necessary to process the payment and comply with all accounting, record keeping, and tax reporting requirements.

5.6.3 Any provision of law, grant, or funding agreement requiring a specific form or method of payment other than EFT or direct deposit will supersede this requirement with respect to those payments.

- 5.6.4** At any time during the duration of the agreement/contract, a Contractor may submit a written request for an exemption to this requirement. Such request must be based on specific legal, business or operational needs and explain why the payment method designated by the A-C is not feasible and an alternative is necessary. The A-C, in consultation with the contracting department(s), will decide whether to approve exemption requests.

6.0 ADMINISTRATION OF MASTER AGREEMENT – COUNTY

6.1 County's Administration

A listing of all County Administration referenced in the following paragraphs are designated in Exhibit A (County's Administration). The County will notify the Contractor in writing of any change in the names or addresses shown.

6.2 County's Master Agreement Administrator (MAA)

The MAA has the authority to negotiate, recommend all changes to this Master Agreement, and resolve disputes between the Department and Contractor.

6.3 County's Project Director

The County's Project Director, or designee, is the approving authority for individual Work Order solicitations and executions.

6.4 County's Project Manager

A County's Project Manager will be assigned for each Work Order by County's Project Director.

6.4.1 The responsibilities of the Project Manager include:

- ensuring that the technical standards and task requirements articulated in the individual Work Order are satisfactorily complied with, and must provide, on request, such information, coordination, documentation, and materials as may be reasonably required by Contractor to perform Work Orders;
- coordinating and monitoring the work of Contractor personnel assigned to the Work Order Director's specific projects, and for ensuring that this Master Agreement's objectives are met;
- monitoring, evaluating and reporting Contractor performance and progress on the Work Order;
- coordinating with Contractor's Project Manager, on a regular basis, regarding the performance of Contractor's personnel on each particular project;

- providing direction to Contractor in the areas relating to County policy, information requirements, and procedural requirements.

6.4.2 County's Project Managers are not authorized to make any changes in Work Order labor rates, dollar totals or periods of performance, or in the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement, except through formally prepared Amendments, Paragraph 8.1.

7.0 ADMINISTRATION OF MASTER AGREEMENT - CONTRACTOR

7.1 Contractor's Project Manager

7.1.1 Contractor's Project Manager is designated in Exhibit B (Contractor's Administration). The Contractor must notify the County in writing of any change in the name or address of the Contractor's Project Manager.

7.1.2 Contractor's Project Manager will be responsible for Contractor's day-to-day activities as related to this Master Agreement and will coordinate with County's Work Order Directors on a regular basis with respect to all active Work Orders.

7.2 Contractor's Authorized Official(s)

7.2.1 Contractor's Authorized Official(s) are designated in Exhibit B (Contractor's Administration). Contractor must promptly notify County in writing of any change in the name(s) or address(es) of Contractor's Authorized Official(s).

7.2.2 Contractor represents and warrants that all requirements of Contractor have been fulfilled to provide actual authority to such officials to execute documents under this Master Agreement on behalf of Contractor.

7.3 Approval of Contractor's Staff

County has the absolute right to approve or disapprove all of Contractor's staff performing work hereunder and any proposed changes in Contractor's staff, including, but not limited to, Contractor's Project Manager. Contractor must provide County with a resume of each proposed substitute and an opportunity to interview such person prior to any staff substitution.

7.4 This Section is Intentionally Omitted

7.5 Background and Security Investigations

7.5.1 Each of Contractor's staff performing services under this Master Agreement who is in a designated sensitive position, as determined by County in County's sole discretion, must undergo and pass a background investigation to the satisfaction of County as a condition of beginning and continuing to perform services

under this Master Agreement. Such background investigation must be obtained through fingerprints submitted to the California Department of Justice to include State, local, and federal-level review, which may include, but will not be limited to, criminal conviction information. The fees associated with the background investigation will be at the expense of the Contractor, regardless if the member of Contractor's staff passes or fails the background investigation.

7.5.2 If a member of Contractor's staff does not pass the background investigation, County may request that the member of Contractor's staff be immediately removed from performing services under the Master Agreement at any time during the term of the Master Agreement. County will not provide to Contractor or to Contractor's staff any information obtained through the County's background investigation.

7.5.3 County, in its sole discretion, may immediately deny or terminate facility access to any member of Contractor's staff that does not pass such investigation to the satisfaction of the County or whose background or conduct is incompatible with County facility access.

7.5.4 Disqualification of any member of Contractor's staff pursuant to this Paragraph 7.5 will not relieve Contractor of its obligation to complete all work in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement.

7.6 Confidentiality

7.6.1 Contractor must maintain the confidentiality of all records and information in accordance with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, directives, guidelines, policies and procedures relating to confidentiality, including, without limitation, County policies concerning information technology security and the protection of confidential records and information.

7.6.2 Contractor must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless County, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, liabilities, losses, costs and expenses, including, without limitation, defense costs and legal, accounting and other expert, consulting, or professional fees, arising from, connected with, or related to any failure by Contractor, its officers, employees, agents, or subcontractors, to comply with this Paragraph 7.6, as determined by County in its sole judgment. Any legal defense pursuant to Contractor's indemnification obligations under this Paragraph 7.6 will be

conducted by Contractor and performed by counsel selected by Contractor and approved by County. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, County will have the right to participate in any such defense at its sole cost and expense, except that in the event Contractor fails to provide County with a full and adequate defense, as determined by County in its sole judgment, County will be entitled to retain its own counsel, including, without limitation, County Counsel, and reimbursement from Contractor for all such costs and expenses incurred by County in doing so. Contractor will not have the right to enter into any settlement, agree to any injunction, or make any admission, in each case, on behalf of County without County's prior written approval.

7.6.3 Contractor must inform all of its officers, employees, agents and subcontractors providing services hereunder of the confidentiality provisions of this Master Agreement.

7.6.4 Contractor must sign and adhere to the provisions of the Exhibit D3 (Contractor Acknowledgement and Confidentiality Agreement).

Contractor will cause each employee performing services covered by this Master Agreement to sign and adhere to the provisions of Exhibit D4 (Contractor Employee Acknowledgment and Confidentiality Agreement). Additionally, Contractor will cause each non-employee performing services covered by this Master Agreement to sign and adhere to the provisions of Exhibit D5 (Contractor Non-Employee Acknowledgment and Confidentiality Agreement).

8.0 STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

8.1 Amendments

8.1.1 The County's Board or Chief Executive Officer or designee may require the addition and/or change of certain terms and conditions in the Master Agreement during the term of this Master Agreement. The County reserves the right to add and/or change such provisions as required by the County's Board or Chief Executive Officer. To implement such orders, an Amendment to the Master Agreement must be prepared and executed by the Contractor and by the Director or his/her designee.

8.1.2 The Director, or their designee may, at their sole discretion, authorize extensions of time as defined in Paragraph 4.0 (Term of Master Agreement). The Contractor agrees that such extensions of time will not change any other term or condition of this Master Agreement during the period of such extensions. To implement an extension of time, an Amendment to the Master

Agreement must be prepared and executed by the Contractor and by the Director or his/her designee.

8.1.3 The Director, may at his/her sole discretion, execute amendments to Work Orders to review the Work Order Statement of Work, labor rates, dollar totals, or period of performance. As authorized by the County's Board of Supervisors, the Director may delegate authority to the MAA to execute each such amendment, subject to review and approval by County Counsel.

8.1.4 Addition of Service Categories/Technical Specializations

An Amendment to the Master Agreement will be prepared and executed by the Contractor and by the Director or his/her designee to add or delete Service Categories or Technical Specializations. (Exhibit D of the Master Agreement – Approved Service Categories Form)

8.2 Assignment and Delegation/Mergers or Acquisitions

8.2.1 The Contractor must notify the County of any pending acquisitions/mergers of its company unless otherwise legally prohibited from doing so. If the Contractor is restricted from legally notifying the County of pending acquisitions/mergers, then it should notify the County of the actual acquisitions/mergers as soon as the law allows and provide to the County the legal framework that restricted it from notifying the County prior to the actual acquisitions/mergers.

8.2.2 The Contractor must not assign, exchange, transfer, or delegate its rights or duties under this Master Agreement, whether in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County, in its discretion, and any attempted assignment, delegation, or otherwise transfer of its rights or duties, without such consent will be null and void. For purposes of this Paragraph, County consent will require a written amendment to the Master Agreement, which is formally approved and executed by the parties. Any payments by the County to any approved delegate or assignee on any claim under this Master Agreement will be deductible, at County's sole discretion, against the claims, which the Contractor may have against the County.

8.2.3 Any assumption, assignment, delegation, or takeover of any of the Contractor's duties, responsibilities, obligations, or performance of same by any person or entity other than the Contractor, whether through assignment, subcontract, delegation, merger, buyout, or any other mechanism, with or without consideration for any reason whatsoever without County's express prior written approval, will be a material breach of the Master Agreement which may result in the termination of this Master Agreement. In the event of such

termination, County will be entitled to pursue the same remedies against Contractor as it could pursue in the event of default by Contractor.

8.3 Authorization Warranty

The Contractor represents and warrants that the person executing this Master Agreement for the Contractor is an authorized agent who has actual authority to bind the Contractor to each and every term, condition, and obligation of this Master Agreement and that all requirements of the Contractor have been fulfilled to provide such actual authority.

8.4 Complaints

The Contractor must develop, maintain and operate procedures for receiving, investigating and responding to complaints.

8.4.1 Within five (5) business days after the Master Agreement effective date, the Contractor must provide the County with the Contractor's policy for receiving, investigating and responding to user complaints.

8.4.2 The County will review the Contractor's policy and provide the Contractor with approval of said plan or with requested changes.

8.4.3 If the County requests changes in the Contractor's policy, the Contractor must make such changes and resubmit the plan within five (5) business days for County approval.

8.4.4 If, at any time, the Contractor wishes to change the Contractor's policy, the Contractor must submit proposed changes to the County for approval before implementation.

8.4.5 The Contractor must preliminarily investigate all complaints and notify the County's Project Manager of the status of the investigation within five (5) business days of receiving the complaint.

8.4.6 When complaints cannot be resolved informally, a system of follow-through will be instituted which adheres to formal plans for specific actions and strict time deadlines.

8.4.7 Copies of all written responses must be sent to the County's Project Manager within five (5) business days of mailing to the complainant.

8.5 Compliance with Applicable Laws

8.5.1 In the performance of this Master Agreement, Contractor must comply with all applicable Federal, State and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, directives, guidelines, policies and procedures, and all provisions required thereby to be included in this Master Agreement are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

8.5.2 Contractor must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless County, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any and all claims, demands, damages, liabilities, losses, costs, and expenses, including, without limitation, defense costs and legal, accounting and other expert, consulting or professional fees, arising from, connected with, or related to any failure by Contractor, its officers, employees, agents, or subcontractors, to comply with any such laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, directives, guidelines, policies, or procedures, as determined by County in its sole judgment. Any legal defense pursuant to Contractor's indemnification obligations under this Paragraph will be conducted by Contractor and performed by counsel selected by Contractor and approved by County. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, County will have the right to participate in any such defense at its sole cost and expense, except that in the event Contractor fails to provide County with a full and adequate defense, as determined by County in its sole judgment, County will be entitled to retain its own counsel, including, without limitation, County Counsel, and reimbursement from Contractor for all such costs and expenses incurred by County in doing so. Contractor will not have the right to enter into any settlement, agree to any injunction or other equitable relief, or make any admission, in each case, on behalf of County without County's prior written approval.

8.6 Compliance with Civil Rights Laws

The Contractor hereby assures that it will comply with Subchapter VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 USC Sections 2000 (e) (1) through 2000 (e) (17), to the end that no person will, on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, religion, ancestry, age, condition of physical handicap, marital status, political affiliation, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under this Master Agreement or under any project, program, or activity supported by this Master Agreement. Additionally, Contractor certifies to the County:

- 8.6.1** That Contractor has a written policy statement prohibiting discrimination in all phases of employment.
- 8.6.2** That Contractor periodically conducts a self-analysis or utilization analysis of its work force.
- 8.6.3** That Contractor has a system for determining if its employment practices are discriminatory against protected groups.
- 8.6.4** Where problem areas are identified in employment practices, the Contractor has a system for taking reasonable corrective action, to include establishment of goals or timetables.

8.7 Compliance with County's Jury Service Program

8.7.1 Jury Service Program: This Master Agreement is subject to the provisions of the County's ordinance entitled Contractor Employee Jury Service ("Jury Service Program") as codified in [Sections 2.203.010 through 2.203.090 of the Los Angeles County Code](#).

8.7.2 Written Employee Jury Service Policy

- Unless Contractor has demonstrated to the County's satisfaction either that Contractor is not a "Contractor" as defined under the [Jury Service Program \(Section 2.203.020 of the County Code\)](#) or that Contractor qualifies for an exception to the [Jury Service Program \(Section 2.203.070 of the County Code\)](#), Contractor must have and adhere to a written policy that provides that its Employees will receive from the Contractor, on an annual basis, no less than five days of regular pay for actual jury service. The policy may provide that Employees deposit any fees received for such jury service with the Contractor or that the Contractor deduct from the Employee's regular pay the fees received for jury service.
- For purposes of this Paragraph, "Contractor" means a person, partnership, corporation or other entity which has a Master Agreement with the County or a subcontract with a County Contractor and has received or will receive an aggregate sum of \$50,000 or more in any 12-month period under one or more County Master Agreements or subcontracts. "Employee" means any California resident who is a full time employee of Contractor. "Full-time" means 40 hours or more worked per week, or a lesser number of hours if: 1) the lesser number is a recognized industry standard as determined by the County, or 2) Contractor has a long-standing practice that defines the lesser number of hours as full-time. Full-time employees providing short-term, temporary services of 90 days or less within a 12-month period are not considered full-time for purposes of the Jury Service Program. If Contractor uses any subcontractor to perform services for the County under the Master Agreement, the subcontractor will also be subject to the provisions of this paragraph. The provisions of this paragraph will be inserted into any such subcontract agreement and a copy of the Jury Service Program must be attached to the agreement.

- If Contractor is not required to comply with the Jury Service Program when the Master Agreement commences, Contractor will have a continuing obligation to review the applicability of its “exception status” from the Jury Service Program, and Contractor must immediately notify County if Contractor at any time either comes within the Jury Service Program’s definition of “Contractor” or if Contractor no longer qualifies for an exception to the Jury Service Program. In either event, Contractor must immediately implement a written policy consistent with the Jury Service Program. The County may also require, at any time during the Master Agreement and at its sole discretion, that Contractor demonstrate to the County’s satisfaction that Contractor either continues to remain outside of the Jury Service Program’s definition of “Contractor” and/or that Contractor continues to qualify for an exception to the Program.
- Contractor’s violation of this Paragraph of the Master Agreement may constitute a material breach of the Master Agreement. In the event of such material breach, County may, in its sole discretion, terminate the Master Agreement and/or bar Contractor from the award of future County Master Agreements for a period of time consistent with the seriousness of the breach.

8.8 Conflict of Interest

- 8.8.1** No County employee whose position with the County enables such employee to influence the award of this Master Agreement or any competing Master Agreement, and no spouse or economic dependent of such employee, will be employed in any capacity by the Contractor or have any other direct or indirect financial interest in this Master Agreement. No officer or employee of the Contractor who may financially benefit from the performance of work hereunder will in any way participate in the County’s approval, or ongoing evaluation, of such work, or in any way attempt to unlawfully influence the County’s approval or ongoing evaluation of such work.
- 8.8.2** The Contractor must comply with all conflict of interest laws, ordinances, and regulations now in effect or hereafter to be enacted during the term of this Master Agreement. The Contractor warrants that it is not now aware of any facts that create a conflict of interest. If the Contractor hereafter becomes aware of any facts that might reasonably be expected to create a conflict of interest, it must immediately make full written

disclosure of such facts to the County. Full written disclosure must include, but is not limited to, identification of all persons implicated and a complete description of all relevant circumstances. Failure to comply with the provisions of this Paragraph 8.8 will be a material breach of this Master Agreement.

8.9 Consideration of Hiring County Employees Targeted for Layoffs or Who are on a County Re-employment List

Should the Contractor require additional or replacement personnel after the effective date of this Master Agreement to perform the services set forth herein, the Contractor must give first consideration for such employment openings to qualified, permanent County employees who are targeted for layoff or qualified, former County employees who are on a re-employment list during the life of this Master Agreement.

8.10 Consideration of Hiring GAIN/START Participants

8.10.1 Should the Contractor require additional or replacement personnel after the effective date of this Master Agreement, the Contractor will give consideration for any such employment openings to participants in the County's Department of Public Social Services Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) Program or Skills and Training to Achieve Readiness for Tomorrow (START) Program who meet the Contractor's minimum qualifications for the open position. For this purpose, consideration will mean that the Contractor will interview qualified candidates. The County will refer GAIN/START participants by job category to the Contractor. Contractors must report all job openings with job requirements to: gainstart@dpss.lacounty.gov and BServices@opportunity.lacounty.gov and DPSS will refer qualified GAIN/START job candidates.

8.10.2 In the event that both laid-off County employees and GAIN/START participants are available for hiring, County employees must be given first priority.

8.11 Contractor Responsibility and Debarment

8.11.1 Responsible Contractor

A responsible Contractor is a Contractor who has demonstrated the attribute of trustworthiness, as well as quality, fitness, capacity and experience to satisfactorily perform the Master Agreement. It is the County's policy to conduct business only with responsible Contractors.

8.11.2 Chapter 2.202 of the County Code

The Contractor is hereby notified that, in accordance with [Chapter 2.202 of the County Code](#), if the County acquires information concerning the performance of the Contractor on this

or other Master Agreements which indicates that the Contractor is not responsible, the County may, in addition to other remedies provided in this Master Agreement, debar the Contractor from bidding or proposing on, or being awarded, and/or performing work on County contracts for a specified period of time, which generally will not exceed five years but may exceed five years or be permanent if warranted by the circumstances, and terminate any or all existing Contracts the Contractor may have with the County.

8.11.3 Non-responsible Contractor

The County may debar a Contractor if the Board of Supervisors finds, in its discretion, that the Contractor has done any of the following: (1) violated a term of a Master Agreement with the County or a nonprofit corporation created by the County, (2) committed an act or omission which negatively reflects on the Contractor's quality, fitness or capacity to perform a Master Agreement with the County, any other public entity, or a nonprofit corporation created by the County, or engaged in a pattern or practice which negatively reflects on same, (3) committed an act or offense which indicates a lack of business integrity or business honesty, or (4) made or submitted a false claim against the County or any other public entity.

8.11.4 Contractor Hearing Board

- If there is evidence that the Contractor may be subject to debarment, the Department will notify the Contractor in writing of the evidence which is the basis for the proposed debarment and will advise the Contractor of the scheduled date for a debarment hearing before the Contractor Hearing Board.
- The Contractor Hearing Board will conduct a hearing where evidence on the proposed debarment is presented. The Contractor and/or the Contractor's representative will be given an opportunity to submit evidence at that hearing. After the hearing, the Contractor Hearing Board will prepare a tentative proposed decision, which will contain a recommendation regarding whether the Contractor should be debarred, and, if so, the appropriate length of time of the debarment. The Contractor and the Department will be provided an opportunity to object to the tentative proposed decision prior to its presentation to the Board of Supervisors.
- After consideration of any objections, or if no objections are submitted, a record of the hearing, the proposed decision, and any other recommendation of the Contractor Hearing Board

will be presented to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will have the right to modify, deny, or adopt the proposed decision and recommendation of the Contractor Hearing Board.

- If a Contractor has been debarred for a period longer than five (5) years, that Contractor may after the debarment has been in effect for at least five (5) years, submit a written request for review of the debarment determination to reduce the period of debarment or terminate the debarment. The County may, in its discretion, reduce the period of debarment or terminate the debarment if it finds that the Contractor has adequately demonstrated one or more of the following: (1) elimination of the grounds for which the debarment was imposed; (2) a bona fide change in ownership or management; (3) material evidence discovered after debarment was imposed; or (4) any other reason that is in the best interests of the County.
- The Contractor Hearing Board will consider a request for review of a debarment determination only where (1) the Contractor has been debarred for a period longer than five (5) years; (2) the debarment has been in effect for at least five (5) years; and (3) the request is in writing, states one or more of the grounds for reduction of the debarment period or termination of the debarment, and includes supporting documentation. Upon receiving an appropriate request, the Contractor Hearing Board will provide notice of the hearing on the request. At the hearing, the Contractor Hearing Board will conduct a hearing where evidence on the proposed reduction of debarment period or termination of debarment is presented. This hearing will be conducted and the request for review decided by the Contractor Hearing Board pursuant to the same procedures as for a debarment hearing.
- The Contractor Hearing Board's proposed decision will contain a recommendation on the request to reduce the period of debarment or terminate the debarment. The Contractor Hearing Board will present its proposed decision and recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will have the right to modify, deny, or adopt the proposed decision and recommendation of the Contractor Hearing Board.

8.11.5 Subcontractors of Contractor

These terms will also apply to Subcontractors of County Contractors.

8.12 Contractor's Acknowledgement and Notice to its Employees of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law

The contractor acknowledges that the County places a high priority on the implementation of the Safely Surrendered Baby Law. The Contractor must notify and provide to its employees, and will require each Subcontractor to notify and provide to its employees, a [Fact Sheet](#) regarding the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, its implementation in Los Angeles County, and information on where and how to safely surrender a baby. Additionally, the contractor understands that it is the County's policy to encourage all County contractors to voluntarily post the County's "[Safely Surrendered Baby Law Poster](#)" (available in [English/Spanish/Chinese/Korean](#)) in a prominent position at the contractor's place of business. The contractor will also encourage its subcontractors, if any, to post this poster in a prominent position in the subcontractor's place of business.

The Contractor, and its subcontractor(s), can access posters and other program material at babysafela.org.

8.13 Contractor's Warranty of Adherence to County's Child Support Compliance Program

8.13.1 The Contractor acknowledges that the County has established a goal of ensuring that all individuals who benefit financially from the County through Purchase Order or Master Agreement are in compliance with their court-ordered child, family and spousal support obligations in order to mitigate the economic burden otherwise imposed upon the County and its taxpayers.

8.13.2 As required by the [County's Child Support Compliance Program \(County Code Chapter 2.200\)](#) and without limiting the Contractor's duty under this Master Agreement to comply with all applicable provisions of law, the Contractor warrants that it is now in compliance and will during the term of this Master Agreement maintain compliance with employment and wage reporting requirements as required by the Federal Social Security Act (42 USC Section 653a) and California Unemployment Insurance Code Section 1088.5, and will implement all lawfully served Wage and Earnings Withholding Orders or Child Support Services Department Notices of Wage and Earnings Assignment for Child, Family or Spousal Support, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure Section 706.031 and Family Code Section 5246(b).

8.14 County's Quality Assurance Plan

The County or its agent(s) will monitor the contractor's performance under this Master Agreement on not less than an annual basis. Such monitoring will include assessing the contractor's compliance with all Master Agreement terms and conditions and performance standards. Contractor deficiencies which the County determines are significant or continuing and that may place performance of the Master Agreement in jeopardy if not corrected will be reported to the Board of Supervisors and listed in the appropriate contractor performance database. The report to the Board will include improvement/corrective action measures taken by the County and the contractor. If improvement does not occur consistent with the corrective action measures, the County may terminate this Master Agreement or impose other penalties as specified in this Master Agreement.

8.15 Damage to County Facilities, Buildings or Grounds

8.15.1 The Contractor will repair, or cause to be repaired, at its own cost, any and all damage to County facilities, buildings, or grounds caused by Contractor or employees or agents of Contractor. Such repairs must be made immediately after Contractor has become aware of such damage, but in no event later than thirty (30) days after the occurrence.

8.15.2 If the Contractor fails to make timely repairs, County may make any necessary repairs. All costs incurred by County, as determined by County, for such repairs must be repaid by Contractor by cash payment upon demand.

8.16 Employment Eligibility Verification

8.16.1 The Contractor warrants that it fully complies with all Federal and State statutes and regulations regarding the employment of aliens and others and that all its employees performing work under this Master Agreement meet the citizenship or alien status requirements set forth in Federal and State statutes and regulations. The Contractor must obtain, from all employees performing work hereunder, all verification and other documentation of employment eligibility status required by Federal and State statutes and regulations including, but not limited to, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, (P.L. 99-603), or as they currently exist and as they may be hereafter amended. The Contractor must retain all such documentation for all covered employees for the period prescribed by law.

8.16.2 The Contractor must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless, the County, its agents, officers, and employees from employer sanctions and any other liability which may be assessed against the Contractor or the County or both in connection with any alleged violation of any Federal or State statutes or regulations

pertaining to the eligibility for employment of any persons performing work under this Master Agreement.

8.17 Counterparts and Electronic Signatures and Representations

This Master Agreement may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original but all of which together will constitute one and the same Master Agreement. The facsimile, email or electronic signature of the Parties will be deemed to constitute original signatures, and facsimile or electronic copies hereof will be deemed to constitute duplicate originals.

The County and the Contractor hereby agree to regard electronic representations of original signatures of authorized officers of each party, when appearing in appropriate places on the Amendments prepared pursuant to Paragraph 8.1 (Amendments) and received via communications facilities (facsimile, email or electronic signature), as legally sufficient evidence that such legally binding signatures have been affixed to Amendments to this Master Agreement.

8.18 Fair Labor Standards

The Contractor must comply with all applicable provisions of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act and must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the County and its agents, officers, and employees from any and all liability, including, but not limited to, wages, overtime pay, liquidated damages, penalties, court costs, and attorneys' fees arising under any wage and hour law, including, but not limited to, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act, for work performed by the Contractor's employees for which the County may be found jointly or solely liable.

8.19 Force Majeure

8.19.1 Neither party will be liable for such party's failure to perform its obligations under and in accordance with this Master Agreement, if such failure arises out of fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, other natural occurrences, strikes, lockouts (other than a lockout by such party or any of such party's subcontractors), freight embargoes, or other similar events to those described above, but in every such case the failure to perform must be totally beyond the control and without any fault or negligence of such party (such events are referred to in this Paragraph as "force majeure events").

8.19.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, a default by a subcontractor of Contractor will not constitute a force majeure event, unless such default arises out of causes beyond the control of both Contractor and such subcontractor, and without any fault or negligence of either of them. In such case, Contractor will not be liable for failure to perform, unless the goods or services to be furnished

by the subcontractor were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit Contractor to meet the required performance schedule. As used in this Paragraph, the term “subcontractor” and “subcontractors” mean subcontractors at any tier.

- 8.19.3** In the event Contractor's failure to perform arises out of a force majeure event, Contractor agrees to use commercially reasonable best efforts to obtain goods or services from other sources, if applicable, and to otherwise mitigate the damages and reduce the delay caused by such force majeure event.

8.20 Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue

This Master Agreement will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of California. The Contractor agrees and consents to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of California for all purposes regarding this Master Agreement and further agrees and consents that venue of any action brought hereunder will be exclusively in the County of Los Angeles.

8.21 Independent Contractor Status

- 8.21.1** This Master Agreement is by and between the County and the Contractor and is not intended, and must not be construed, to create the relationship of agent, servant, employee, partnership, joint venture, or association, as between the County and the Contractor. The employees and agents of one party must not be, or be construed to be, the employees or agents of the other party for any purpose whatsoever.
- 8.21.2** The Contractor will be solely liable and responsible for providing to, or on behalf of, all persons performing work pursuant to this Master Agreement all compensation and benefits. The County will have no liability or responsibility for the payment of any salaries, wages, unemployment benefits, disability benefits, Federal, State, or local taxes, or other compensation, benefits, or taxes for any personnel provided by or on behalf of the Contractor.
- 8.21.3** The Contractor understands and agrees that all persons performing work pursuant to this Master Agreement are, for purposes of Workers' Compensation liability, solely employees of the Contractor and not employees of the County. The Contractor will be solely liable and responsible for furnishing any and all Workers' Compensation benefits to any person as a result of any injuries arising from or connected with any work performed by or on behalf of the Contractor pursuant to this Master Agreement.
- 8.21.4** The Contractor must adhere to the provisions stated in Paragraph 7.6 (Confidentiality).

8.22 Indemnification

The Contractor must indemnify, defend and hold harmless the County, its Special Districts, elected and appointed officers, employees, agents and volunteers ("County Indemnitees") from and against any and all liability, including but not limited to demands, claims, actions, fees, costs and expenses (including attorney and expert witness fees), arising from and/or relating to this Master Agreement, except for such loss or damage arising from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the County Indemnities.

8.23 General Provisions for all Insurance Coverage

Without limiting Contractor's indemnification of County, and in the performance of this Master Agreement and until all of its obligations pursuant to this Master Agreement have been met, Contractor must provide and maintain at its own expense insurance coverage satisfying the requirements specified in Paragraph 8.24 of this Master Agreement. These minimum insurance coverage terms, types and limits (the "Required Insurance") also are in addition to and separate from any other contractual obligation imposed upon Contractor pursuant to this Master Agreement. The County in no way warrants that the Required Insurance is sufficient to protect the Contractor for liabilities which may arise from or relate to this Master Agreement.

8.23.1 Evidence of Coverage and Notice to County

- Certificate(s) of insurance coverage (Certificate) satisfactory to County, and a copy of an Additional Insured endorsement confirming County and its Agents (defined below) has been given Insured status under the Contractor's General Liability policy, must be delivered to County at the address shown below and provided prior to commencing services under this Master Agreement.
- Renewal Certificates must be provided to County not less than 10 days prior to Contractor's policy expiration dates. The County reserves the right to obtain complete, certified copies of any required Contractor and/or Subcontractor insurance policies at any time.
- Certificates must identify all Required Insurance coverage types and limits specified herein, reference this Master Agreement by name or number, and be signed by an authorized representative of the insurer(s). The Insured party named on the Certificate must match the name of the Contractor identified as the contracting party in this Master Agreement. Certificates must provide the full name of each insurer providing coverage, its NAIC (National Association of Insurance Commissioners) identification number, its financial rating, the amounts of any policy deductibles or self-insured

retentions exceeding fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) dollars, and list any County required endorsement forms.

- Neither the County's failure to obtain, nor the County's receipt of, or failure to object to a non-complying insurance certificate or endorsement, or any other insurance documentation or information provided by the Contractor, its insurance broker(s) and/or insurer(s), will be construed as a waiver of any of the Required Insurance provisions.
- Certificates and copies of any required endorsements must be sent to:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Contract Manager
E-mail address: contract@planning.lacounty.gov

- Contractor also must promptly report to County any injury or property damage accident or incident, including any injury to a Contractor employee occurring on County property, and any loss, disappearance, destruction, misuse, or theft of County property, monies or securities entrusted to Contractor. Contractor also must promptly notify County of any third party claim or suit filed against Contractor or any of its Subcontractors which arises from or relates to this Master Agreement, and could result in the filing of a claim or lawsuit against Contractor and/or County.

8.23.2 Additional Insured Status and Scope of Coverage

The County of Los Angeles, its Special Districts, Elected Officials, Officers, Agents, Employees and Volunteers (collectively County and its Agents) must be provided additional insured status under Contractor's General Liability policy with respect to liability arising out of Contractor's ongoing and completed operations performed on behalf of the County. County and its Agents additional insured status must apply with respect to liability and defense of suits arising out of the Contractor's acts or omissions, whether such liability is attributable to the Contractor or to the County. The full policy limits and scope of protection also must apply to the County and its Agents as an additional insured, even if they exceed the County's minimum Required Insurance specifications herein. Use of an automatic additional insured endorsement form is acceptable providing it satisfies the Required Insurance provisions herein.

8.23.3 Cancellation of or Changes in Insurance

Contractor must provide County with, or Contractor's insurance policies must contain a provision that County will receive, written notice of cancellation or any change in Required Insurance, including insurer, limits of coverage, term of coverage or policy period. The written notice must be provided to County at least ten (10) days in advance of cancellation for non-payment of premium and thirty (30) days in advance for any other cancellation or policy change. Failure to provide written notice of cancellation or any change in Required Insurance may constitute a material breach of the Master Agreement, in the sole discretion of the County, upon which the County may suspend or terminate this Master Agreement.

8.23.4 Failure to Maintain Insurance

Contractor's failure to maintain or to provide acceptable evidence that it maintains the Required Insurance will constitute a material breach of the Master Agreement, upon which County immediately may withhold payments due to Contractor, and/or suspend or terminate this Master Agreement. County, at its sole discretion, may obtain damages from Contractor resulting from said breach. Alternatively, the County may purchase the Required Insurance, and without further notice to Contractor, deduct the premium cost from sums due to Contractor or pursue Contractor reimbursement.

8.23.5 Insurer Financial Ratings

Coverage must be placed with insurers acceptable to the County with A.M. Best ratings of not less than A:VII unless otherwise approved by County.

8.23.6 Contractor's Insurance Must Be Primary

Contractor's insurance policies, with respect to any claims related to this Master Agreement, must be primary with respect to all other sources of coverage available to Contractor. Any County maintained insurance or self-insurance coverage must be in excess of and not contribute to any Contractor coverage.

8.23.7 Waivers of Subrogation

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Contractor hereby waives its rights and its insurer(s)' rights of recovery against County under all the Required Insurance for any loss arising from or relating to this Master Agreement. The Contractor must require its insurers to execute any waiver of subrogation endorsements which may be necessary to effectuate such waiver.

8.23.8 Subcontractor Insurance Coverage Requirements

Contractor must include all Subcontractors as insureds under Contractor's own policies, or must provide County with each Subcontractor's separate evidence of insurance coverage. Contractor will be responsible for verifying each Subcontractor complies with the Required Insurance provisions herein, and must require that each Subcontractor name the County and Contractor as additional insureds on the Subcontractor's General Liability policy. Contractor must obtain County's prior review and approval of any Subcontractor request for modification of the Required Insurance.

8.23.9 Deductibles and Self-Insured Retentions (SIRs)

Contractor's policies will not obligate the County to pay any portion of any Contractor deductible or SIR. The County retains the right to require Contractor to reduce or eliminate policy deductibles and SIRs as respects the County, or to provide a bond guaranteeing Contractor's payment of all deductibles and SIRs, including all related claims investigation, administration and defense expenses. Such bond must be executed by a corporate surety licensed to transact business in the State of California.

8.23.10 Claims Made Coverage

If any part of the Required Insurance is written on a claims made basis, any policy retroactive date will precede the effective date of this Master Agreement. Contractor understands and agrees it will maintain such coverage for a period of not less than three (3) years following Master Agreement expiration, termination or cancellation.

8.23.11 Application of Excess Liability Coverage

Contractors may use a combination of primary, and excess insurance policies which provide coverage as broad as ("follow form" over) the underlying primary policies, to satisfy the Required Insurance provisions.

8.23.12 Separation of Insureds

All liability policies must provide cross-liability coverage as would be afforded by the standard ISO (Insurance Services Office, Inc.) separation of insureds provision with no insured versus insured exclusions or limitations.

8.23.13 Alternative Risk Financing Programs

The County reserves the right to review, and then approve, Contractor use of self-insurance, risk retention groups, risk purchasing groups, pooling arrangements and captive insurance to satisfy the Required Insurance provisions. The County and its

Agents must be designated as an Additional Covered Party under any approved program.

8.23.14 County Review and Approval of Insurance Requirements

The County reserves the right to review and adjust the Required Insurance provisions, conditioned upon County's determination of changes in risk exposures.

8.24 Insurance Coverage

8.24.1 Commercial General Liability insurance (providing scope of coverage equivalent to ISO policy form CG 00 01), naming County and its Agents as an additional insured, with limits of not less than:

General Aggregate:	\$2 million
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate:	\$1 million
Personal and Advertising Injury:	\$1 million
Each Occurrence:	\$1 million

8.24.2 Automobile Liability insurance (providing scope of coverage equivalent to ISO policy form CA 00 01) with limits of not less than \$1 million for bodily injury and property damage, in combined or equivalent split limits, for each single accident. Insurance must cover liability arising out of Contractor's use of autos pursuant to this Master Agreement, including owned, leased, hired, and/or non-owned autos, as each may be applicable.

8.24.3 Workers Compensation and Employers' Liability insurance or qualified self- insurance satisfying statutory requirements, which includes Employers' Liability coverage with limits of not less than \$1 million per accident. If Contractor will provide leased employees, or, is an employee leasing or temporary staffing firm or a professional employer organization (PEO), coverage also must include an Alternate Employer Endorsement (providing scope of coverage equivalent to ISO policy form WC 00 03 01 A) naming the County as the Alternate Employer. The written notice must be provided to County at least ten (10) days in advance of cancellation for non-payment of premium and thirty (30) days in advance for any other cancellation or policy change. If applicable to Contractor's operations, coverage also must be arranged to satisfy the requirements of any federal workers or workmen's compensation law or any federal occupational disease law.

8.24.4 Professional Liability/Errors and Omissions

Insurance covering Contractor's liability arising from or related to this Master Agreement, with limits of not less than \$1 million per

claim and \$2 million aggregate. Further, Contractor understands and agrees it must maintain such coverage for a period of not less than three (3) years following this Agreement's expiration, termination or cancellation.

8.25 Liquidated Damages

8.25.1 If, in the judgment of the Director, the Contractor is deemed to be non-compliant with the terms and obligations assumed hereby, the Director, or their designee, at their option, in addition to, or in lieu of, other remedies provided herein, may withhold the entire monthly payment or deduct pro rata from the Contractor's invoice for work not performed. A description of the work not performed and the amount to be withheld or deducted from payments to the Contractor from the County, will be forwarded to the Contractor by the Director, or their designee, in a written notice describing the reasons for said action.

8.25.2 If the Director determines that there are deficiencies in the performance of this Master Agreement that the Director or their designee, deems are correctable by the Contractor over a certain time span, the Director or their designee, will provide a written notice to the Contractor to correct the deficiency within specified time frames. Should the Contractor fail to correct deficiencies within said time frame, the Director may:

(a) Deduct from the Contractor's payment, pro rata, those applicable portions of the Monthly Contract Sum; and/or (b) Deduct liquidated damages. The parties agree that it will be impracticable or extremely difficult to fix the extent of actual damages resulting from the failure of the Contractor to correct a deficiency within the specified time frame. The parties hereby agree that under the current circumstances a reasonable estimate of such damages is Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) per day per infraction, or as may be specified in any Performance Requirements Summary (PRS) Charts in future Work Orders, and that the Contractor will be liable to the County for liquidated damages in said amount. Said amount will be deducted from the County's payment to the Contractor; and/or

(c) Upon giving five (5) days notice to the Contractor for failure to correct the deficiencies, the County may correct any and all deficiencies and the total costs incurred by the County for completion of the work by an alternate source, whether it be County forces or separate private contractor, will be deducted and forfeited from the payment to the Contractor from the County, as determined by the County.

8.25.3 The action noted in Paragraph 8.25.2 will not be construed as a penalty, but as adjustment of payment to the Contractor to

recover the County cost due to the failure of the Contractor to complete or comply with the provisions of this Master Agreement.

- 8.25.4** This paragraph will not, in any manner, restrict or limit the County's right to damages for any breach of this Master Agreement provided by law or as specified in the PRS or Paragraph 8.25.2, and will not, in any manner, restrict or limit the County's right to terminate this Master Agreement as agreed to herein.

8.26 Most Favored Public Entity

If the Contractor's prices decline, or should the Contractor at any time during the term of this Master Agreement provide the same goods or services under similar quantity and delivery conditions to the State of California or any county, municipality, or district of the State at prices below those set forth in this Master Agreement, then such lower prices will be immediately extended to the County.

8.27 Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action

- 8.27.1** The Contractor certifies and agrees that all persons employed by it, its affiliates, subsidiaries, or holding companies are and will be treated equally without regard to or because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, or political affiliation, in compliance with all applicable Federal and State anti-discrimination laws and regulations.

- 8.27.2** Contractor certifies to the County each of the following:

- That Contractor has a written policy statement prohibiting discrimination in all phases of employment.
- That Contractor periodically conducts a self-analysis or utilization analysis of its work force.
- That Contractor has a system for determining if its employment practices are discriminatory against protected groups.
- Where problem areas are identified in employment practices, the Contractor has a system for taking reasonable corrective action, to include establishment of goals or timetables.

- 8.27.3** The Contractor must take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, or political affiliation, in compliance with all applicable Federal and State anti-discrimination laws and regulations. Such action must include, but is not limited to: employment, upgrading, demotion, transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or

termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship.

8.27.4 The Contractor certifies and agrees that it will deal with its subcontractors, bidders, or vendors without regard to or because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, or political affiliation.

8.27.5 The Contractor certifies and agrees that it, its affiliates, subsidiaries, or holding companies will comply with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations to the end that no person will, on the grounds of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, or political affiliation, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under this Master Agreement or under any project, program, or activity supported by this Master Agreement.

8.27.6 The Contractor will allow County representatives access to the Contractor's employment records during regular business hours to verify compliance with the provisions of this Paragraph 8.27 when so requested by the County.

8.27.7 If the County finds that any provisions of this Paragraph 8.27 have been violated, such violation will constitute a material breach of this Master Agreement upon which the County may terminate or suspend this Master Agreement. While the County reserves the right to determine independently that the anti-discrimination provisions of this Master Agreement have been violated, in addition, a determination by the California Civil Rights Department or the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that the Contractor has violated Federal or State anti-discrimination laws or regulations will constitute a finding by the County that the Contractor has violated the anti-discrimination provisions of this Master Agreement.

8.27.8 The parties agree that in the event the Contractor violates any of the anti-discrimination provisions of this Master Agreement, the County will, at its sole option, be entitled to the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for each such violation pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1671 as liquidated damages in lieu of terminating or suspending this Master Agreement.

8.28 Non Exclusivity

Nothing herein is intended nor will be construed as creating any exclusive arrangement with Contractor. This Master Agreement will not restrict the Department from acquiring similar, equal or like goods and/or services from other entities or sources.

8.29 Notice of Delays

Except as otherwise provided under this Master Agreement, when either party has knowledge that any actual or potential situation is delaying or threatens to delay the timely performance of this Master Agreement, that party must, within one (1) business day, give notice thereof, including all relevant information with respect thereto, to the other party.

8.30 Notice of Disputes

The Contractor must bring to the attention of the County's Project Manager and/or County's Project Director any dispute between the County and the Contractor regarding the performance of services as stated in this Master Agreement. If the County's Project Manager or County's Project Director is not able to resolve the dispute, the Director or designee will resolve it.

8.31 Notice to Employees Regarding the Federal Earned Income Credit

The Contractor must notify its employees, and will require each subcontractor to notify its employees, that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the federal income tax laws. Such notice must be provided in accordance with the requirements set forth in Internal Revenue Service Notice No. 1015.

8.32 Notices

All notices or demands required or permitted to be given or made under this Master Agreement must be in writing and will be hand delivered with signed receipt or mailed by first-class registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the parties as identified in Exhibits A (County's Administration) and B (Contractor's Administration). Addresses may be changed by either party giving ten (10) days' prior written notice thereof to the other party. The Director or their designee will have the authority to issue all notices or demands required or permitted by the County under this Master Agreement.

8.33 Prohibition Against Inducement or Persuasion

Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor and the County agree that, during the term of this Master Agreement and for a period of one year thereafter, neither party will in any way intentionally induce or persuade any employee of one party to become an employee or agent of the other party. No bar exists against any hiring action initiated through a public announcement.

8.34 Public Records Act

8.34.1 Any documents submitted by Contractor; all information obtained in connection with the County's right to audit and inspect Contractor's documents, books, and accounting records pursuant to Paragraph 8.36 (Record Retention and Inspection/Audit Settlement) of this Master Agreement; as well as those documents which were required to be submitted in response to the Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) used in the solicitation process for this Master Agreement, become the exclusive property

of the County. All such documents become a matter of public record and will be regarded as public records except for those documents determined to be non-disclosable or exempt pursuant to [California Government Code sections 7921.000 et seq.](#) and which are marked “trade secret”, “confidential”, or “proprietary”. The County will not in any way be liable or responsible for the disclosure of any such records including, without limitation, those so marked, if disclosure is required by law, or by an order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

- 8.34.2** In the event the County is required to defend an action on a Public Records Act request for any of the aforementioned documents, information, books, records, and/or contents of an SOQ marked “trade secret”, “confidential”, or “proprietary”, the Contractor agrees to defend and indemnify the County from all costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney’s fees, in action or liability arising under the Public Records Act.

8.35 Publicity

- 8.35.1** The Contractor must not disclose any details in connection with this Master Agreement to any person or entity except as may be otherwise provided hereunder or required by law. However, in recognizing the Contractor’s need to identify its services and related clients to sustain itself, the County will not inhibit the Contractor from publishing its role under this Master Agreement within the following conditions:

- The Contractor must develop all publicity material in a professional manner; and
- During the term of this Master Agreement, the Contractor must not, and will not authorize another to, publish or disseminate any commercial advertisements, press releases, feature articles, or other materials using the name of the County without the prior written consent of the County’s Project Director. The County will not unreasonably withhold written consent.

- 8.35.2** The Contractor may, without the prior written consent of County, indicate in its proposals and sales materials that it has been awarded this Master Agreement with the County of Los Angeles, provided that the requirements of this Paragraph 8.35 (Publicity) will apply.

8.36 Record Retention and Inspection-Audit Settlement

The Contractor must maintain accurate and complete financial records of its activities and operations relating to this Master Agreement in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Contractor must also maintain accurate and complete employment and other records relating to its

performance of this Master Agreement. The Contractor agrees that the County, or its authorized representatives, will have access to and the right to examine, audit, excerpt, copy, or transcribe any pertinent transaction, activity, or record relating to this Master Agreement. All such material, including, but not limited to, all financial records, bank statements, cancelled checks or other proof of payment, timecards, sign-in/sign-out sheets and other time and employment records, and proprietary data and information, will be kept and maintained by the Contractor and will be made available to the County during the term of this Master Agreement and for a period of five (5) years thereafter unless the County's written permission is given to dispose of any such material prior to such time. All such material must be maintained by the Contractor at a location in Los Angeles County, provided that if any such material is located outside Los Angeles County, then, at the County's option, the Contractor will pay the County for travel, per diem, and other costs incurred by the County to examine, audit, excerpt, copy, or transcribe such material at such other location.

- 8.36.1** In the event that an audit of the Contractor is conducted specifically regarding this Master Agreement by any Federal or State auditor, or by any auditor or accountant employed by the Contractor or otherwise, then the Contractor must file a copy of such audit report with the County's Auditor-Controller within thirty (30) days of the Contractor's receipt thereof, unless otherwise provided by applicable Federal or State law or under this Master Agreement. The County will make a reasonable effort to maintain the confidentiality of such audit report(s).
- 8.36.2** Failure on the part of the Contractor to comply with any of the provisions of this paragraph will constitute a material breach of this Master Agreement upon which the County may terminate or suspend this Master Agreement.
- 8.36.3** If, at any time during the term of this Master Agreement or within five (5) years after the expiration or termination of this Master Agreement, representatives of the County may conduct an audit of the Contractor regarding the work performed under this Master Agreement, and if such audit finds that the County's dollar liability for any such work is less than payments made by the County to the Contractor, then the difference will be either: a) repaid by the Contractor to the County by cash payment upon demand or b) at the sole option of the County's Auditor-Controller, deducted from any amounts due to the Contractor from the County, whether under this Master Agreement or otherwise. If such audit finds that the County's dollar liability for such work is more than the payments made by the County to the Contractor, then the difference will be paid to the Contractor by the County by cash payment, provided that in no event will the County's maximum obligation for this Master Agreement exceed the funds

appropriated by the County for the purpose of this Master Agreement.

8.37 Recycled Bond Paper

Consistent with the Board of Supervisors' policy to reduce the amount of solid waste deposited at the County landfills, the Contractor agrees to use recycled-content paper to the maximum extent possible on this Master Agreement.

8.38 Subcontracting

8.38.1 The requirements of this Master Agreement may not be subcontracted by the Contractor **without the advance approval of the County**. Any attempt by the Contractor to subcontract without the prior consent of the County may be deemed a material breach of this Master Agreement.

8.38.2 If the Contractor desires to subcontract, the Contractor must provide the following information promptly at the County's request:

- A description of the work to be performed by the subcontractor;
- A draft copy of the proposed subcontract; and
- Other pertinent information and/or certifications requested by the County.

8.38.3 The Contractor must indemnify and hold the County harmless with respect to the activities of each and every subcontractor in the same manner and to the same degree as if such subcontractor(s) were Contractor employees.

8.38.4 The Contractor will remain fully responsible for all performances required of it under this Master Agreement, including those that the Contractor has determined to subcontract, notwithstanding the County's approval of the Contractor's proposed subcontract.

8.38.5 The County's consent to subcontract will not waive the County's right to prior and continuing approval of any and all personnel, including subcontractor employees, providing services under this Master Agreement. The Contractor is responsible to notify its subcontractors of this County right.

8.38.6 The County's MAPD is authorized to act for and on behalf of the County with respect to approval of any subcontract and subcontractor employees. After approval of the subcontract by the County, Contractor must forward a fully executed subcontract to the County for their files.

8.38.7 The Contractor will be solely liable and responsible for all payments or other compensation to all subcontractors and their officers, employees, agents, and successors in interest arising

through services performed hereunder, notwithstanding the County's consent to subcontract.

- 8.38.8** The Contractor must obtain certificates of insurance, which establish that the subcontractor maintains all the programs of insurance required by the County from each approved subcontractor. Before any subcontractor employee may perform any work hereunder contractor must ensure delivery of all such documents to:

County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, 13th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attention: Contract Manager
E-mail address: contract@planning.lacounty.gov

8.39 Termination for Breach of Warranty to Maintain Compliance with County's Child Support Compliance Program

Failure of the Contractor to maintain compliance with the requirements set forth in Paragraph 8.13 (Contractor's Warranty of Adherence to County's Child Support Compliance Program), will constitute a default under this Master Agreement. Without limiting the rights and remedies available to the County under any other provision of this Master Agreement, failure of Contractor to cure such default within 90 calendar days of written notice will be grounds upon which the County may terminate this Master Agreement pursuant to Paragraph 8.41 (Termination for Default) and pursue debarment of Contractor, pursuant to [County Code Chapter 2.202](#).

8.40 Termination for Convenience

- 8.40.1** County may terminate this Master Agreement, and any Work Order issued hereunder, in whole or in part, from time to time or permanently, when such action is deemed by the County, in its sole discretion, to be in its best interest. Termination of work hereunder will be effectuated by notice of termination to Contractor specifying the extent to which performance of work is terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. The date upon which such termination becomes effective will be no less than ten (10) days after the notice is sent.

- 8.40.2** After receipt of a notice of termination and except as otherwise directed by the County, the Contractor must immediately:

- Stop work under the Work Order or under this Master Agreement, as identified in such notice;
- Transfer title and deliver to County all completed work and work in process; and

- 8.40.3** All material including books, records, documents, or other evidence bearing on the costs and expenses of the Contractor under this Master Agreement or Work Order must be maintained by the Contractor in accordance with Paragraph 8.36 (Record Retention and Inspection/Audit Settlement).

8.41 Termination for Default

- 8.41.1** The County may, by written notice to the Contractor, terminate the whole or any part of this Master Agreement, if, in the judgment of County's Project Director:

- Contractor has materially breached this Master Agreement;
- Contractor fails to timely provide and/or satisfactorily perform any task, deliverable, service, or other work required either under this Master Agreement or any Work Order issued hereunder; or
- Contractor fails to demonstrate a high probability of timely fulfillment of performance requirements of any Work Order issued under this Master Agreement, or of any obligations of this Master Agreement and in either case, fails to demonstrate convincing progress toward a cure within five (5) working days (or such longer period as the County may authorize in writing) after receipt of written notice from the County specifying such failure.

- 8.41.2** In the event that the County terminates this Master Agreement in whole or in part as provided in Paragraph 8.41.1, the County may procure, upon such terms and in such manner as the County may deem appropriate, goods and services similar to those so terminated. The Contractor will be liable to the County for any and all excess costs incurred by the County, as determined by the County, for such similar goods and services. The Contractor will continue the performance of this Master Agreement to the extent not terminated under the provisions of this paragraph.

- 8.41.3** Except with respect to defaults of any subcontractor, the Contractor will not be liable for any such excess costs of the type identified in Paragraph 8.41.2 if its failure to perform this Master Agreement, including any Work Order issued hereunder, arises out of causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. Such causes may include, but are not limited to: acts of God or of the public enemy, acts of the County in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, acts of Federal or State governments in their sovereign capacities, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes, and unusually severe weather; but in every case, the failure to perform must be beyond the control and without the fault

or negligence of the Contractor. If the failure to perform is caused by the default of a subcontractor, and if such default arises out of causes beyond the control of both the Contractor and subcontractor, and without the fault or negligence of either of them, the Contractor will not be liable for any such excess costs for failure to perform, unless the goods or services to be furnished by the subcontractor were obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit the Contractor to meet the required performance schedule. As used in this Paragraph 8.41.3, the terms "subcontractor" and "subcontractors" mean subcontractor(s) at any tier.

8.41.4 If, after the County has given notice of termination under the provisions of this Paragraph 8.41, it is determined by the County that the Contractor was not in default under the provisions of this Paragraph 8.41, or that the default was excusable under the provisions of Paragraph 8.41.3, the rights and obligations of the parties will be the same as if the notice of termination had been issued pursuant to Paragraph 8.40 (Termination for Convenience).

8.41.5 The rights and remedies of the County provided in this Paragraph 8.41 will not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this Master Agreement.

8.42 Termination for Improper Consideration

8.42.1 The County may, by written notice to the Contractor, immediately terminate the right of the Contractor to proceed under this Master Agreement if it is found that consideration, in any form, was offered or given by the Contractor, either directly or through an intermediary, to any County officer, employee, or agent with the intent of securing this Master Agreement or securing favorable treatment with respect to the award, amendment, or extension of the Master Agreement or the making of any determinations with respect to the Contractor's performance pursuant to the Master Agreement. In the event of such termination, the County will be entitled to pursue the same remedies against the Contractor as it could pursue in the event of default by the Contractor.

8.42.2 The Contractor must immediately report any attempt by a County officer, employee, or agent to solicit such improper consideration. The report must be made to the Los Angeles County Fraud Hotline at (800) 544-6861 or <https://fraud.lacounty.gov/>.

8.42.3 Among other items, such improper consideration may take the form of cash, discounts, services, the provision of travel or entertainment, or tangible gifts.

8.43 Termination for Insolvency

8.4.1 The County may terminate this Master Agreement forthwith in the

event of the occurrence of any of the following:

- Insolvency of the Contractor. The Contractor will be deemed to be insolvent if it has ceased to pay its debts for at least sixty (60) days in the ordinary course of business or cannot pay its debts as they become due, whether or not a petition has been filed under the Federal Bankruptcy Code and whether or not the Contractor is insolvent within the meaning of the Federal Bankruptcy Code;
- The filing of a voluntary or involuntary petition regarding the Contractor under the Federal Bankruptcy Code;
- The appointment of a Receiver or Trustee for the Contractor; or
- The execution by the Contractor of a general assignment for the benefit of creditors.

8.43.2 The rights and remedies of the County provided in this Paragraph 8.43 will not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this Master Agreement.

8.44 Termination for Non-Adherence of County Lobbyist Ordinance

The Contractor, and each County Lobbyist or County Lobbying firm as defined in [County Code Section 2.160.010](#) retained by the Contractor, must fully comply with the County's Lobbyist Ordinance, [County Code Section 2.160.010](#). Failure on the part of the Contractor or any County Lobbyist or County Lobbying firm retained by the Contractor to fully comply with the County's Lobbyist Ordinance will constitute a material breach of this Master Agreement, upon which the County may in its sole discretion, immediately terminate or suspend this Master Agreement.

8.45 Termination for Non-Appropriation of Funds

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Master Agreement, the County will not be obligated for the Contractor's performance hereunder or by any provision of this Master Agreement during any of the County's future fiscal years unless and until the County's Board of Supervisors appropriates funds for this Master Agreement in the County's Budget for each such future fiscal year. In the event that funds are not appropriated for this Master Agreement, then this Master Agreement will terminate as of June 30 of the last fiscal year for which funds were appropriated. The County will notify the Contractor in writing of any such non-allocation of funds at the earliest possible date.

8.46 Validity

If any provision of this Master Agreement or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this Master Agreement and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances will not be affected thereby.

8.47 Waiver

No waiver by the County of any breach of any provision of this Master Agreement will constitute a waiver of any other breach or of such provision. Failure of the County to enforce at any time, or from time to time, any provision of this Master Agreement will not be construed as a waiver thereof. The rights and remedies set forth in this Paragraph 8.47 will not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this Master Agreement.

8.48 Warranty Against Contingent Fees

8.48.1 The Contractor warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this Master Agreement upon any agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business.

8.48.2 For breach of this warranty, the County will have the right to terminate this Master Agreement and, at its sole discretion, deduct from the Master Agreement price or consideration, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee.

8.49 Warranty of Compliance with County's Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program

Contractor acknowledges that County has established a goal of ensuring that all individuals and businesses that benefit financially from County through contract are current in paying their property tax obligations (secured and unsecured roll) in order to mitigate the economic burden otherwise imposed upon County and its taxpayers.

Unless Contractor qualifies for an exemption or exclusion, Contractor warrants and certifies that to the best of its knowledge it is now in compliance, and during the term of this Master Agreement will maintain compliance, with [Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.206](#).

8.50 Termination for Breach of Warranty to Maintain Compliance with County's Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program

Failure of Contractor to maintain compliance with the requirements set forth in Paragraph 8.49 (Warranty of Compliance with County's Defaulted Property Tax Reduction Program) will constitute default under this Master Agreement. Without limiting the rights and remedies available to County under any other provision of this Master Agreement, failure of Contractor to cure such default within 10 days of notice will be grounds upon which County may terminate this Master Agreement and/or pursue debarment of Contractor, pursuant to [Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.206](#).

8.51 Time off For Voting

The Contractor must notify its employees, and must require each subcontractor to notify and provide to its employees, information regarding the time off for voting law ([Elections Code Section 14000](#)). Not less than 10 days before every statewide election, every Contractor and subcontractors must keep posted conspicuously at the place of work, if practicable, or elsewhere where it can be seen as employees come or go to their place of work, a notice setting forth the provisions of [Section 14000](#).

8.52 Compliance with County's Zero Tolerance Policy on Human Trafficking

Contractor acknowledges that the County has established a Zero Tolerance Policy on Human Trafficking prohibiting contractors from engaging in human trafficking.

If a Contractor or member of Contractor's staff is convicted of a human trafficking offense, the County will require that the Contractor or member of Contractor's staff be removed immediately from performing services under the Master Agreement. County will not be under any obligation to disclose confidential information regarding the offenses other than those required by law.

Disqualification of any member of Contractor's staff pursuant to this paragraph will not relieve Contractor of its obligation to complete all work in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Master Agreement.

8.53 This Section is Intentionally Omitted

8.54 Compliance with Fair Chance Employment Hiring Practices

Contractor, and its subcontractors, must comply with fair chance employment hiring practices set forth in California Government Code [Section 12952](#), the California Code of Regulations [Section 11017.1](#), and County Code [Chapter 8.300](#) (Fair Chance Ordinance for Employers). Contractor, and its subcontractor(s), can access fair chance employment resources, including a Fair Chance [Fact Sheet](#) and Workplace Posters ([English/Spanish](#)), and other program material at <https://dcba.lacounty.gov/fairchance/>. Additional compliance resources, including an [Employer Toolkit](#) (Fair Chance Hiring: An Employer's Guide to Hiring System-Impacted Individuals), can be accessed at <https://opportunity.lacounty.gov/fair-chance-hiring-campaign/>.

Contractor's violation of this paragraph of the Master Agreement may constitute a material breach of the Master Agreement. In the event of such material breach, County may, in its sole discretion, issue administrative penalties and/or seek additional remedies as provided within [Section 8.300.100](#) of the Fair Chance Ordinance for Employers, and/or terminate the Master Agreement.

8.55 Compliance with the County Policy of Equity

The Contractor acknowledges that the County takes its commitment to preserving the dignity and professionalism of the workplace very seriously, as set forth in the County Policy of Equity (CPOE) (<https://ceop.lacounty.gov/>). The contractor further acknowledges that the County strives to provide a workplace free from discrimination, harassment, retaliation and inappropriate conduct based on a protected characteristic, and which may violate the CPOE. The Contractor, its employees and subcontractors acknowledge and certify receipt and understanding of the CPOE. Failure of the contractor, its employees or its subcontractors to uphold the County's expectations of a workplace free from harassment and discrimination, including inappropriate conduct based on a protected characteristic, may subject the contractor to termination of contractual agreements as well as civil liability.

8.56 Prohibition from Participation in Future Solicitation(s)

A Proposer, or a Contractor or its subsidiary or Subcontractor ("Proposer/Contractor"), is prohibited from submitting a bid or proposal in a County solicitation if the Proposer/Contractor has provided advice or consultation for the solicitation. A Proposer/Contractor is also prohibited from submitting a bid or proposal in a County solicitation if the Proposer/Contractor has developed or prepared any of the solicitation materials on behalf of the County. A violation of this provision will result in the disqualification of the Contractor/Proposer from participation in the County solicitation or the termination or cancellation of any resultant County contract.

8.57 Injury and Illness Prevention Program

Contractor will be required to comply with the State of California's Cal OSHA's regulations. [California Code of Regulations Title 8 Section 3203](#) requires all California employers to have a written, effective Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) that addresses hazards pertaining to the particular workplace covered by the program.

8.58 Campaign Contribution Prohibition Following Final Decision in Master Agreement Proceeding

Pursuant to [Government Code Section 84308](#), Contractor and its Subcontractors, are prohibited from making a contribution of more than \$500 to a County officer for twelve (12) months after the date of the final decision in the proceeding involving this Master Agreement. Failure to comply with the provisions of [Government Code Section 84308](#) and of this paragraph, may be a material breach of this Master Agreement as determined in the sole discretion of the County.

8.59 Budget Reductions

In the event that the County's Board adopts, in any fiscal year, a County Budget which provides for reductions in the salaries and benefits paid to the

majority of County employees and imposes similar reductions with respect to County agreements, the County reserves the right to reduce its payment obligation under this Master Agreement correspondingly for that fiscal year and any subsequent fiscal year during the term of this Master Agreement (including any extensions), and the services to be provided by the Contractor under this Master Agreement will also be reduced correspondingly. The County's notice to the Contractor regarding said reduction in payment obligation will be provided within thirty (30) calendar days of the Board's approval of such actions. Except as set forth in the preceding sentence, the Contractor must continue to provide all of the services set forth in this Master Agreement.

9.0 UNIQUE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

9.1 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

- 9.1.1** Contractor expressly acknowledges and agrees that the provision of services under this Agreement does not require or permit access by Contractor or any of its officers, employees, or agents, to any patient medical records/patient information. Accordingly, Contractor must instruct its officers, employees, and agents that they are not to pursue, or gain access to, patient medical records/patient information for any reason whatsoever.
- 9.1.2** Notwithstanding the forgoing, the parties acknowledge that in the course of the provision of services hereunder, Contractor or its officers, employees, and agents, may have inadvertent access to patient medical records/patient information. Contractor understands and agrees that neither it nor its officers, employees, or agents, are to take advantage of such access for any purpose whatsoever.
- 9.1.3** Additionally, in the event of such inadvertent access, Contractor and its officers, employees, and agents, must maintain the confidentiality of any information obtained and must notify the Director that such access has been gained immediately, or upon the first reasonable opportunity to do so. In the event of any access, whether inadvertent or intentional, Contractor must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless County, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any and all liability, including but not limited to, actions, claims, costs, demands, expenses, and fees (including attorney and expert witness fees) arising from or connected with Contractor's or its officers', employees', or agents', access to patient medical records/patient information. Contractor agrees to provide appropriate training to its employees regarding their obligations as described hereinabove.

9.2 Contractor's Charitable Activities Compliance

The County seeks to ensure that all County Contractors which receive or raise charitable contributions comply with California law, including the "Nonprofit Integrity Act of 2004", as approved and codified in California Government Code, [Sections 12580-12599.10](#), in order to protect the County and its taxpayers. The Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act regulates entities receiving or raising charitable contributions. A Contractor which receives or raises charitable contributions without complying with its obligations under California law commits a material breach subjecting it to either Master Agreement termination or debarment proceedings or both. ([County Code Chapter 2.202](#))

9.3 Ownership of Materials, Software and Copyright

- 9.3.1** County will be the sole owner of all right, title and interest, including copyright, in and to all software, plans, diagrams, facilities, and tools (hereafter "materials") which are originated or created through Contractor's work pursuant to this Master Agreement. Contractor, for valuable consideration herein provided, must execute all documents necessary to assign and transfer to, and vest in the County all Contractor's right, title and interest in and to such original materials, including any copyright, patent and trade secret rights which arise pursuant to Contractor's work under this Master Agreement.
- 9.3.2** During the term of this Master Agreement and for five (5) years thereafter, Contractor must maintain and provide security for all Contractor's working papers prepared under this Master Agreement. County will have the right to inspect, copy and use at any time during and subsequent to the term of this Master Agreement, any and all such working papers and all information contained therein.
- 9.3.3** Any and all materials, software and tools which are developed or were originally acquired by Contractor outside the scope of this Master Agreement, which Contractor desires to use hereunder, and which Contractor considers to be proprietary or confidential, must be specifically identified by Contractor to County's Project Manager as proprietary or confidential, and must be plainly and prominently marked by Contractor as "Propriety" or "Confidential" on each appropriate page of any document containing such material.
- 9.3.4** County will use reasonable means to ensure that Contractor's proprietary and/or confidential items are safeguarded and held in confidence. County agrees not to reproduce, distribute or disclose to non-County entities any such proprietary and/or confidential items without the prior written consent of Contractor.

- 9.3.5** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Master Agreement, County will not be obligated to Contractor in any way under Paragraph 9.3.4 for any of Contractor's proprietary and/or confidential items which are not plainly and prominently marked with restrictive legends as required by Paragraph 9.3.3 or for any disclosure which County is required to make under any state or federal law or order of court.

9.4 Patent, Copyright and Trade Secret Indemnification

- 9.4.1** Contractor must indemnify, hold harmless and defend County from and against any and all liability, damages, costs, and expenses, including, but not limited to, defense costs and attorneys' fees, for or by reason of any actual or alleged infringement of any third party's patent or copyright, or any actual or alleged unauthorized trade secret disclosure, arising from or related to the operation and utilization of Contractor's work under this Master Agreement. County will inform Contractor as soon as practicable of any claim or action alleging such infringement or unauthorized disclosure, and will support Contractor's defense and settlement thereof.

- 9.4.2** In the event any equipment, part thereof, or software product becomes the subject of any complaint, claim, or proceeding alleging infringement or unauthorized disclosure, such that County's continued use of such item is formally restrained, enjoined, or subjected to a risk of damages, Contractor, at its sole expense, and providing that County's continued use of the system is not materially impeded, will either:

- Procure for County all rights to continued use of the questioned equipment, part, or software product; or
- Replace the questioned equipment, part, or software product with a non-questioned item; or
- Modify the questioned equipment, part, or software so that it is free of claims.

- 9.4.3** Contractor will have no liability if the alleged infringement or unauthorized disclosure is based upon a use of the questioned product, either alone or in combination with other items not supplied by Contractor, in a manner for which the questioned product was not designed nor intended.

9.5 Local Small Business Enterprise (LSBE) Preference Program

- 9.5.1** This Master Agreement is subject to the provisions of the County's ordinance entitled LSBE Preference Program, as codified in [Chapter 2.204 of the Los Angeles County Code](#).

9.5.2 The Contractor must not knowingly and with the intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, retain, attempt to obtain or retain, or aid another in fraudulently obtaining or retaining or attempting to obtain or retain certification as a LSBE.

9.5.3 The Contractor must not willfully and knowingly make a false statement with the intent to defraud, whether by affidavit, report, or other representation, to a County official or employee for the purpose of influencing the certification or denial of certification of any entity as a LSBE.

9.5.4 If the Contractor has obtained certification as a LSBE by reason of having furnished incorrect supporting information or by reason of having withheld information, and which knew, or should have known, the information furnished was incorrect or the information withheld was relevant to its request for certification, and which by reason of such certification has been awarded this Master Agreement to which it would not otherwise have been entitled, will:

- Pay to the County any difference between the Master Agreement amount and what the County's costs would have been if the Master Agreement had been properly awarded;
- In addition to the amount described in subdivision (1), be assessed a penalty in an amount of not more than ten (10) percent of the amount of the Master Agreement; and
- Be subject to the provisions of [Chapter 2.202 of the Los Angeles County Code](#) (Determinations of Contractor Non-responsibility and Contractor Debarment).

The above penalties will also apply to any business that has previously obtained proper certification, however, as a result of a change in their status would no longer be eligible for certification, and fails to notify the State and the Department of Economic Opportunity of this information prior to responding to a solicitation or accepting a Master Agreement award.

9.6 Social Enterprise (SE) Preference Program

9.6.1 This Master Agreement is subject to the provisions of the County's ordinance entitled SE Preference Program, as codified in [Chapter 2.205 of the Los Angeles County Code](#).

9.6.2 Contractor must not knowingly and with the intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, retain, attempt to obtain or retain, or aid

another in fraudulently obtaining or retaining or attempting to obtain or retain certification as a SE.

9.6.3 Contractor must not willfully and knowingly make a false statement with the intent to defraud, whether by affidavit, report, or other representation, to a County official or employee for the purpose of influencing the certification or denial of certification of any entity as a SE.

9.6.4 If Contractor has obtained County certification as a SE by reason of having furnished incorrect supporting information or by reason of having withheld information, and which knew, or should have known, the information furnished was incorrect or the information withheld was relevant to its request for certification, and which by reason of such certification has been awarded this Master Agreement to which it would not otherwise have been entitled, Contractor will:

- Pay to the County any difference between the Master Agreement amount and what the County's costs would have been if the Master Agreement had been properly awarded;
- In addition to the amount described in subdivision (1) above, the Contractor will be assessed a penalty in an amount of not more than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the Master Agreement; and
- Be subject to the provisions of [Chapter 2.202 of the Los Angeles County Code](#) (Determinations of Contractor Non-responsibility and Contractor Debarment).

The above penalties will also apply to any entity that has previously obtained proper certification, however, as a result of a change in their status would no longer be eligible for certification, and fails to notify the Department of Economic Opportunity of this information prior to responding to a solicitation or accepting a Master Agreement award.

9.7 Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Preference Program

9.7.1 This Master Agreement is subject to the provisions of the County's ordinance entitled DVBE Preference Program, as codified in [Chapter 2.211 of the Los Angeles County Code](#).

9.7.2 Contractor must not knowingly and with the intent to defraud, fraudulently obtain, retain, attempt to obtain or retain, or aid another in fraudulently obtaining or retaining or attempting to obtain or retain certification as a DVBE.

9.7.3 Contractor must not willfully and knowingly make a false statement with the intent to defraud, whether by affidavit, report, or other representation, to a County official or employee for the purpose of influencing the certification or denial of certification of any entity as a DVBE.

9.7.4 If Contractor has obtained certification as a DVBE by reason of having furnished incorrect supporting information or by reason of having withheld information, and which knew, or should have known, the information furnished was incorrect or the information withheld was relevant to its request for certification, and which by reason of such certification has been awarded this Master Agreement to which it would not otherwise have been entitled, Contractor will:

- Pay to the County any difference between the Master Agreement amount and what the County's costs would have been if the Master Agreement had been properly awarded;
- In addition to the amount described in subdivision (1) above, the Contractor will be assessed a penalty in an amount of not more than 10 percent of the amount of the Master Agreement; and
- Be subject to the provisions of [Chapter 2.202 of the Los Angeles County Code](#) (Determinations of Contractor Non-responsibility and Contractor Debarment).

Notwithstanding any other remedies in this Master Agreement, the above penalties will also apply to any business that has previously obtained proper certification, however, as a result of a change in their status would no longer be eligible for certification, and fails to notify the State and the Department of Economic Opportunity of this information prior to responding to a solicitation or accepting a Master Agreement award.

9.8 Digital Accessibility Requirements

For any and all websites, webpages, and mobile applications that Contractor designs, hosts, implements or manages on behalf of the County, Contractor must comply with Exhibit H (Digital Accessibility Requirements) all applicable accessibility laws, rules, regulations, and industry standard guidelines including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) (WCAG 2.1), as they may be amended or updated from time to time. Contractor must also promptly comply, without additional cost to County, with any amendments or updates

to these accessibility laws, rules, regulations, or industry standard guidelines that become effective during the term of the Contract.

10.0 Survival

In addition to any terms and conditions of this Agreement that expressly survive expiration or termination of this Agreement by their terms, the following provisions will survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement for any reason:

Paragraph 1.0	Applicable Documents
Paragraph 2.0	Definitions
Paragraph 3.0	Work
Paragraph 5.4	No Payment for Services Provided Following Expiration/Termination of Agreement
Paragraph 7.6	Confidentiality
Paragraph 8.1	Amendments
Paragraph 8.2	Assignment and Delegation/Mergers or Acquisitions
Paragraph 8.18	Fair Labor Standards
Paragraph 8.19	Force Majeure
Paragraph 8.20	Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue
Paragraph 8.22	Indemnification
Paragraph 8.23	General Provisions for all Insurance Coverage
Paragraph 8.24	Insurance Coverage
Paragraph 8.25	Liquidated Damages
Paragraph 8.32	Notices
Paragraph 8.36	Record Retention and Inspection/Audit Settlement
Paragraph 8.40	Termination for Convenience
Paragraph 8.41	Termination for Default
Paragraph 8.46	Validity
Paragraph 8.47	Waiver
Paragraph 8.56	Prohibition from Participation in Future Solicitation(s)
Paragraph 8.58	Campaign Contribution Prohibition Following Final Decision in Master Agreement Proceeding
Paragraph 9.10	Digital Accessibility Requirements
Paragraph 10.0	Survival

**AUTHORIZATION OF MASTER AGREEMENT FOR
AS-NEEDED PLANNING CONSULTANT SERVICES
(SERVICE CATEGORY)**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles has caused this Master Agreement to be executed by the Director of Regional Planning or designee and approved by County Counsel, and Contractor has caused this Master Agreement to be executed in its behalf by its duly authorized officer, this _____ day of _____, 2026.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

By _____
Amy J. Bodek, Director

Department of Regional Planning

By _____
Contractor

Signed: _____

Printed: _____

Title: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

By _____
Deputy County Counsel