

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

NORTHEAST HARNETT REGIONAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT



## I. INTRODUCTION

Harnett Regional Water (HRW) is soliciting Requests for Qualifications (“RFQ”) statements from qualified engineering firms to provide professional services related to planning and designing the full development and construction of the Northeast Harnett Regional Water Treatment Plant (“NHRWTP”) as more fully set forth herein.

The overall intention of this solicitation is to select a consulting engineering firm to first develop a Preliminary Engineering Report (“PER”) of an 8-15 Million Gallons Per Day (“MGD”) water treatment facility in Erwin, N.C. At the County’s option, the selected consulting engineering firm may be requested to provide design services and construction administration for this Project. The selected consultant shall recommend a preferred treatment technology and develop a master site plan to maximize the use of available land for buildout of the facility while identifying the most cost-effective measures to increase the future treatment capacity of the facility. The selected consultant shall also review the existing HRW raw water intake located at the site and determine its viability for expansion and rehabilitation.

A more detailed description of the work to be performed is contained in the enclosed Scope of Work. Firms submitting qualifications statements should use the enclosed Scope of Work as a guide but may develop their own scope based upon their experiences on similar projects. HRW will negotiate and refine a final Scope of Work with the selected firm. The firm’s final contract shall be based on a lump sum amount, inclusive of permit application fees and other expenses (printing, mileage, per diem, etc.) No additional compensation will be made for reimbursable items.

Firms interested in being considered for this work should submit their qualifications statement via UPS, FedEx or hand deliver to:

Harnett County Resource Center & Library  
Attn: Renea Warren-Ford  
Purchasing Specialist  
455 McKinney Parkway  
Lillington, NC 27546

For consideration, three (3) hard copies, one (1) electronic copy and one (1) USB drive, of the response to this Request for Qualifications must be received by Harnett County Finance by **4:30 p.m. EST on July 30, 2025**. HRW will not be responsible for the failure of any mail or delivery service to deliver responses prior to the stated date and time. Regardless of the manner of submission, any responses inconsistent with the required format may be disqualified from consideration.

All questions or comments shall be submitted to Steve Ward at [sward@harnett.org](mailto:sward@harnett.org) by **July 16, 2025**. A copy of all questions, further clarifications, and answers will be made in the form of an

addendum to this RFQ and will be provided to all known interested firms. Firms are responsible for ensuring they have all addenda.

Sections shall be divided by tabs that indicate the title of each section. At a minimum, the qualification should include the following information:

1. The company's full legal name, state of organization or incorporation, primary office location of project personnel, years of experience, and a contact person.
2. Qualifications of the employees who will be assigned to the project. The project manager and other key team members should be clearly identified. If subcontractors are to be used for any portion of the work, they should be identified, and their qualifications included. HRW reserves the right to reject any subcontractors in its sole and absolute discretion.
  - a. The qualifications statement shall clearly indicate who will oversee the project as well as the roles that each individual shall perform.
  - b. Special emphasis shall be provided on the individuals' backgrounds, qualifications, certifications and experience on related or similar projects.
3. Experience on at least three (3) similar projects. The qualifications statement should include a description and contact person for projects that were similar in size and scope to this project. For each project experience listed, list the role played by each of the current team members.
4. A project schedule including key milestones should be included. The project schedule should start from the Notice to Proceed and include two-week review times for HRW staff reviews. A mutually agreed upon project schedule will be included in the contract for this work.
5. A brief description of the project approach to be used by the firm should be included.
  - a. In the firm's own words, describe the understanding of the project, the requirements of the project, the challenges associated with the project, the approach to handling any project challenges, and the anticipated outcome of the project.
  - b. List all assumptions made in preparing the project approach.
  - c. Discuss any additions, deletions, or changes to the Scope of Work which may improve the project. Discuss how these changes will affect the associated resources and schedule.
6. A brief discussion of the firm's ability to properly scope the project should be included. This includes an estimate of man-hours required to complete the various components of

the project. Man-hour estimates should be broken down by tasks with separate columns for labor classifications. Each task shall be subtotaled in addition to project totals.

HRW reserves the right to request financial information for any firm in order to support the viability of the firm.

HRW reserves the right to refuse or reject any or all qualifications and to waive any and all formalities, irregularities, or technicalities. HRW reserves the right to select the firm that best meets its needs and negotiate a final Scope of Work that reflects the work to be done and the budget constraints. Based upon the number of qualifications statements received, HRW may subsequently request oral presentations as a part of the selection process. All firms submitting a qualifications statement will receive notification once the contract has been awarded.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated on the firm's ability to meet the requirements of this Request for Qualifications. Evaluation criteria will include, without limitation:

1. The firm's experience in providing similar services for similar projects.
2. Qualifications and accessibility of key individuals identified in the qualifications statement that will be assigned to the project.
3. Ability to meet established schedules.
4. Capability of firm to manage the work.
5. Ability to deliver within budget.
6. Qualifications statement's appearance and presentation.

HRW will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by any firm in submitting a response. HRW reserves the right to cancel the work described herein prior to the issuance and acceptance of any contractual agreement.

Upon selection of the consultant, contract negotiations will proceed to the first phase of the project. Phase I services are expected to proceed upon completion of negotiations. Following completion of Phase I services, HRW at its sole discretion, choose to move forward with contract negotiations with the consultant for Phase II services.

HRW invites and encourages participation by businesses owned by minorities, women, disabled, disabled business enterprise and non-profit work centers including utilization as subcontractors to perform functions under the engineering services contract.

All responses will be open for inspection and review by HRW staff during the selection process. After the selection, the responses will be available to the public. All materials and information submitted during the qualification process will become the property of HRW to keep or destroy and will not be returned to the respondent. Trade secrets and proprietary information cannot be safeguarded.

## II. TIMEFRAME AND DEMAND PROJECTIONS

### Tentative Completion Dates for Implementation

Selection Process	July 30, 2025
Phase I – Preliminary Engineering Report	July 30, 2026
Phase II – Detailed Design, Permitting, Bidding	July 30, 2027
Construction Completion	December 31, 2029

HRW will provide the selected consultant with updated demand projections during the PER phase.

## III. SCOPE OF WORK

The following is a general outline of the work required. This is not intended to be all-inclusive, as a detailed description of the work requirements will be developed in negotiation with the successful firm. The ultimate design requirements for this project will be discussed with the successful consultant and developed as part of the PER (Phase I).

Specific issues to be developed and evaluated during Phase 1 include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Facility Master Plan: Provide recommendations for the optimum location, footprint and layout for the facility. Provide a proposed overall site plan that includes the new proposed surface water treatment facility, river intake, raw water pump station, raw water transmission, raw water reservoir(s), finished water storage, site piping and other relevant information.
2. Permitting Outline: Work with all relevant NCDEQ, USACE and other applicable agencies to identify the applicable permitting requirements for this project. This task should also include the estimated costs associated with the required permits and an estimated schedule for obtaining these permits.
3. Geotechnical Investigations: Determine the necessary geotechnical subsurface evaluations and testing that are required to complete the tasks required for the project.

4. **Regulatory Review:** Provide a regulatory assessment of the recommended treatment process to evaluate where such processes will satisfy any existing and pending regulations (to specifically include PFAS) to enhance compliance with such.
5. **Alternatives Analysis:** Provide an alternatives analysis to determine optimum facility expansion for NHRWTP, if such capacity expansion is to capacity greater than 15 mgd. Consideration of regulatory compliance, pilot/permitting requirements, surface withdrawal limitations, capital costs, operating costs, compatibility with existing infrastructure, feasibility of construction and future expansion should all be considered in this evaluation.
6. **Project Schedule:** Determine an overall project schedule for the implementation of this project, from permitting to completion. Include a separate proposed schedule for all permits identified in number 2 above, including critical path permits.
7. **Cost Estimating:** Provide estimated construction costs for the project.
8. **Miscellaneous Services:** Other items as determined by HRW and consultant.
9. **Preliminary Engineering Report (“PER”):** Prepare a report summarizing the findings of the Phase I- Northeast Harnett Regional Water Treatment Plant effort.