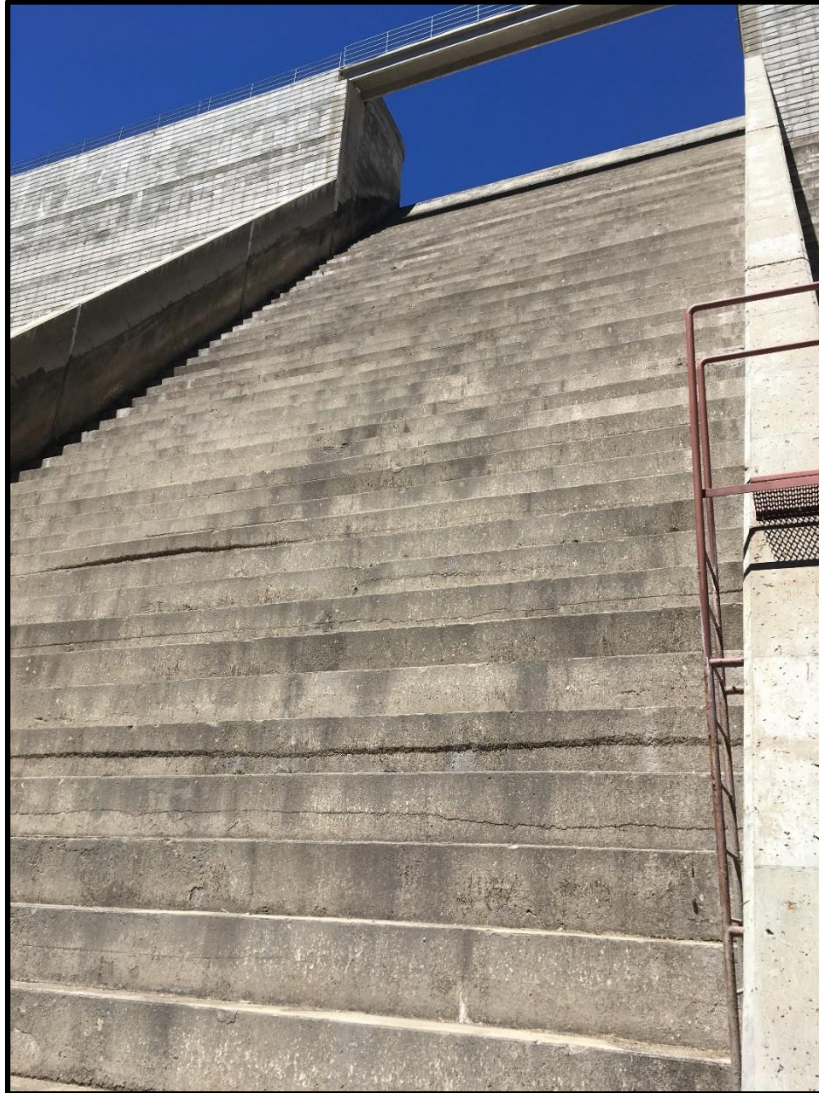




## **Request For Qualifications**

Stagecoach Water Supply Firming



June 29, 2018

# Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

## Request for Qualifications Statements

Professional Services for the firming of water supplies into Stagecoach Reservoir

### Introduction

The Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District (District) was formed in 1966 to develop and operate water conservation projects in the Upper Yampa basin. The District has built and operates Yamcolo and Stagecoach Reservoirs. The District includes most of Routt County and a portion of Moffat County. The District serves household, municipal, industrial, agricultural, recreational, environmental and augmentation raw water needs. Stagecoach Reservoir is a roller compacted concrete structure which impounds approximately 36,460AF of water. The Stagecoach project includes Stagecoach State Park and the 800KW John Fetcher hydropower plant.

The District is undertaking permitting activities necessary to firm supplies of water into Stagecoach Reservoir. The reservoir's current contractual pools account for approximately 18,164 AF of the total capacity. In the drought year of 2002 only approximately 3,000 AF of water was available for storage. The "supply limited" nature of Stagecoach Reservoir has been acknowledged in studies since the inception of the reservoir. The District has engaged in several studies over the years on methods to firm Stagecoach Reservoir's supply. The expectation of future demands within the District, growth in existing needs due to changing temperatures and comparatively small storage supplies in the Yampa basin, make firming of Stagecoach water supplies necessary. Additionally, potential for water demands within the Colorado River Basin to impede the development of supplies within our watershed make this project timely.

The District has a portfolio of water rights which include conditional rights for Stagecoach firming projects. Stagecoach Reservoir and hydropower plant operates under license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) (project P-9202-CO). It is the District's current understanding that any project that changes inflows of water to Stagecoach reservoir would be required to obtain a FERC license amendment. The District is seeking a consultant or consultant team to aid in the permitting process to firm water supplies into Stagecoach Reservoir.

Consultant selection will be a two-step process with the initial selection based upon submissions showing experience in four areas.

1. Water Resources Planning,
2. Dam and Reservoir Engineering
3. Environmental Permitting
4. FERC licensing

Proposed timeline is as follows in 2018: Initial submittals due July 20. Selection of finalists August 3. Final submittals due August 31. Interviews week of September 10. Final selection September 19.

**Initial Qualification Statements:** Submittals must be received by the UPPER YAMPA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT by July 20, 2018.

Address: Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, P.O. Box 775529, 3310 Clear Water Trail, Steamboat Springs, CO 80488, Attention Kevin McBride, General Manager

Questions should be directed to the District's General Manager, Kevin McBride, P.E. at [kmcbride@upperyampawater.com](mailto:kmcbride@upperyampawater.com) or by phone at (970) 871-1035 ext. 3.

FORMAT – Initial submissions

Provide the following information in the format outlined below:

- Cover Letter
- Experience, Qualifications and Resumes: Include a description of the experience and qualifications of the firm's project manager, key personnel and any subcontractors who will perform work on the project. Please provide references of three entities for which similar work has been performed. Provide rate sheets for individuals that will work on the project along with other charges (travel etc.) expected to be used on the project.
- Include a brief summary of consultant's experience:
  1. Appropriate scale water resources projects including dam and reservoir design and construction.
  2. Water Resources planning, including basin scale analysis in appropriative rights jurisdictions. This should include reservoir operations planning.
  3. Licensing and environmental permitting particularly in FERC/NEPA processes.
  4. References. Include three references appropriate to the factors above.

Review and Evaluation of Qualifications: Each statement will be reviewed by District staff and Board review committee members. Up to three finalists will be selected by August 3, 2018 for a follow up with proposals and interviews.

## **Finalists**

For those selected to participate in the final proposal and interview process, additional familiarity with several planning documents will be important. These are, the District's Water Rights Master Plan, the Colorado Water Plan, and the Yampa White Green Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan. The District's Board of Directors will appoint a review subcommittee for the selection process.

Final selection of the consultant for the project will be based upon the proposals and interviews. Proposals should include a brief discussion of the approach for the tasks outlined below and an initial cost estimate for of the consultant's work effort. Sufficient detail about the consultant's effort required to complete task 1 (and its subtasks) should be presented. Tasks 2 thru 4 will be undetermined until the completion of task 1 so a general approach and range of costs is appropriate for these.

## **Project Tasks**

### **Task 1. Internal Project review and Identification of permitting process**

- 1.1 . Review with UYWCD staff the District's master plan and discuss a purpose and need statement. Also, potentially important to the purpose and need statement are the Yampa/White/ Green Roundtable's "Basin Implementation Plan" and "Colorado's Water Plan".
- 1.2 Review preliminary project alternatives to identify any additional information necessary for cost estimating and environmental scoping for the Morrison/Silver Creek dam and reservoir project, Morrison Creek Upper Diversion canal project, and Morrison Creek Pumpback project.
- 1.3 Determine appropriate permitting process
- 1.4 Refine permitting, design, and construction cost estimates including land needs for project construction and operation.

### **Task 2. Preparation of initial application documentation (NOI and PAD) – (Task premised on FERC ILP process)**

### **Task 3. Scoping and Preparing Study Plan, Conduct Field Studies**

### **Task 4. Final permit application, including related State and local permitting requirements.**

## **Additional Background for Final Submittal and Interviews**

The following provides some background information on items that will be important during the final interview process. This reflects the Districts current ideas and are intended for discussion with the consultants during the interview process.

Task 1.1 - For the final interview process the District's Water Rights Master Plan will be important to understanding the purpose and need of firming supplies in Stagecoach Reservoir. The District's "Water Supply and Water Rights Master Plan" explains the need for additional water supplies during drought periods in the Yampa Basin. The Consultant will need to understand the modelling effort behind the

Water Rights Master Plan. The Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable's current Basin Implementation Plan and its relationship to the State Water Plan may also be helpful in purpose and need formulation.

Task 1.2 – Currently identified project alternatives are the Morrison/Silver Creek Reservoir project, the Morrison Creek Upper Diversion and the Morrison Creek Pump back. Currently available information on these projects will be made available to the finalists.

Task 1.3 - Currently we expect a FERC process to be the lead permitting process in firming Stagecoach Reservoir, however, this must be confirmed in task one by the selected firm in consultation with FERC, other key agencies, and the District Board. Thus, Experience with the FERC will be an important consideration in the final selection process. The consultant should exhibit an understanding of the design and permitting of water resource projects including NEPA, USACE 404 permitting. State of Colorado and local Routt County permitting processes including State CDPHE 401 and Routt County 1041 processes should be discussed in considerations regarding permitting processes.

Task 1.4 – A budget level estimate for the permitting processes and comparative estimate for anticipated alternative projects will be required in this step. The consultant should discuss an approach for estimating costs for regulatory applications understanding the open ended nature of such processes. The Board will use this information as a decision point in pursuing firming projects.

Tasks 2 thru 4. The approach presented in tasks 2 thru 4 is based upon FERC's ILP process but this will be confirmed during task 1. In discussing task 2 thru 4, we expect guidance from the consultant as to the cost and time required to prepare the appropriate documents based upon previous experience. The District recognizes the limitations of predicting the regulatory processes. The final contract with the selected consultant will be time and materials based and selection will be partly based on clarity of approach presented by the consultant through all tasks. The contract will allow the Board to terminate work at any time.

We require a project manager to be assigned from the consultant team as a point of communication for the project to the District staff. A listing of key people who will be working directly under that project manager for the duration of each task will be required. We expect continuity from the team from task to task and continuation of engagement will depend upon communication and continuity through each task. We understand that there will be variation from these tasks presented moving through the permitting process once communication with the agencies is underway. However, an initial estimate of the timeline and project staff assigned to various topics is required.

The selection committee will consist of the executive committee of the District's Board of Directors, the General Manager and District Engineer.

### **Proposal REQUIREMENTS for Finalist Submissions and Interviews**

Following selection of finalists, we will allow 4 weeks for final submittals, due August 31, 2018. Interviews will be tentatively scheduled the Week of September 10. Interviews will focus on detail for task 1, including familiarity with the District's plans and level of effort to complete task 1. For tasks 2 to

4 the clarity of approach from the consultant (or consultant team) will be the primary consideration. Submissions shall include:

- Task 1 Planning and Scheduling: Include a list of key personnel, project manager and specific task leads (e.g. dam design, hydrologic planning, Environmental review, budgeting). Timeline should be proposed for completion of each subtask in task 1. Personnel resources and availability to meet the project milestones should be presented and will be discussed in the interview.
- Task 1 Estimated Project cost Including cost estimates for each subtask in task 1

For tasks 2 through 4, an overall timeline should be presented and will be discussed during the interview process. We recognize that tasks 2 through 4 are dependent on findings of agencies during the permitting process. However, a clear approach to management of the variety of consultant services through the process should be discussed with the review team. Magnitude of costs for tasks 2 thru 4 should be presented and discussed during the interview. Key permitting processes should be discussed, including how to coordinate effectively between agencies.

**Final Review and Selection:** Pre-interview proposals will be due from the finalists by August 31, 2018. The selection committee is expected to make a recommendation to the full Board following interviews in early September. The Board is scheduled to make a final selection on September 19, 2018. The District may reject any or all proposals at its discretion.