

EXHIBIT A

FINDINGS IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-23 No. 1 ADOPTING PUBLIC CONTRACTING CODE RULES

ORS 279B.085 and 279C.335 authorize Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District's (District) Board of Directors, sitting as District's local contract review board, to approve findings submitted and exemptions requested by District's Board of Directors upon adoption of appropriate findings, to establish special selection, evaluation and award procedures for, or exempt from competition, the award of a specific contract or classes of contracts.

Pursuant to that authority, the Board makes the following findings in support of Resolution 2022-23 No.1, which establishes exempt classes of contracts and the solicitation methods for their award:

No Findings Required

Pursuant to ORS 279A.025 and 279A.055, the District is not required to adopt findings with respect to the solicitation methods and awards of the following classes of contracts identified in District's Public Contracting Rules 2022, Class Exemptions:

E-4	Contracts for Price Regulated Items
E-6	Investment Contracts
E-12	Insurance, Employee Benefit
E-17	Personal Service Contracts
E-18	Liability Insurance Contracts

The above Rules govern subjects specifically authorized by state law and, therefore, require no local exemption.

Specific Findings for Public Improvement Class Exemption

The Board approves the following specific findings for the use of a Request for Proposal alternative contracting method for public improvement contracts estimated to cost over \$100,000 and also finds that the establishment of this class of contracts and the method approved for their award:

1. Is unlikely to encourage favoritism in the awarding of public improvement contracts or substantially diminish competition for public improvement contracts; and
2. The awarding of public improvement contracts under each exemption will result in substantial cost savings to District.

These conclusions are based on the following general findings:

- A. Operational, budget, and financial data. Where various criteria, which may or may not include cost, must be weighed in order to select an appropriate contractor for the desired project, the formal competitive bidding process costs of up to \$7,000 are a significant budgetary waste in that the most qualified contractor for the project may not be the lowest responsible bidder;
- B. Public benefits. Exempting contracts from competitive bidding requirements and instead utilizing statutory competitive proposal procedures will protect and preserve public funds, enable greater competition between the most qualified contractors, and result in a better product which meets the public's and District's needs;
- C. Value engineering, Specialized expertise required, Technical complexity. Only through a competitive proposal process can District weigh, evaluate and select the type of expertise needed to address the technical complexities of a particular public improvement project. Competitive proposal allows the District to determine which contractor may best provide such services. These are qualities not reflected in cost, where a determination on cost alone could forfeit these valuable and essential attributes;
- D. Public safety. Utilizing a competitive proposal process as opposed to competitive bidding can ensure high quality, more safely constructed facilities through the construction period, and after completion. Capitalizing upon design and construction planning and compatibility can also allow earlier use of public facilities even while construction continues;
- E. Market conditions. The increased availability of and need for technical expertise, value engineering, or other types of specialized expertise, as well as a need to investigate the compatibility, experience and availability of contractors require that certain public improvement contracts be awarded based upon an evaluation of a number of criteria, rather than simply cost.

Specific Findings for Special Classes and Methods of Award for Contracts Other Than Public Improvements.

The Board approves the specific findings for the establishment of special solicitation methods for the classes of public contracts described below and also finds that the establishment of each class of contracts and methods approved for their award:

1. Is unlikely to encourage favoritism in the awarding of public contracts or substantially diminish competition for public contracts because such exemptions still require alternative contracting procedures, ensuring:

- (1) reasonable competition; (2) the best contract price for the public; and (3) a cost-effective process for both contractors and District;
2. The awarding of public contracts under these exemptions will result in substantial cost savings to District because District will avoid costs associated with unnecessary documentation and procedures, where it is unmerited by the type and/or relatively low cost of the contracts; and
 3. The awarding of public contracts pursuant to any of the requested exemptions substantially promotes the public interest in a manner that could not practicably be realized by formal competitive solicitation procedures, given the fact that such exemptions facilitate smooth operation of District's administration and operations, include procedures and mechanisms to ensure the best product, service or outcome is obtained at the least cost to the public and District, and identified classes address areas of public contracting left unresolved by state statute which are essential for District's operations, such as awarding personal service contracts, purchasing used personal property, and disposing of surplus personal property.

Specifically, the Board finds:

E-2 – Advertising Contracts.

Alternate Award Process. In District's discretion. The process selected may be competitive or non-competitive.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Size of and frequency of average advertisement (including all notices required to be published by District) does not justify the cost of solicitation. Period of time from recognition of need to advertise until advertising date is too short to issue solicitation.

Effect on Competition. The potential market is limited because not all advertisers work in every market. Choice of advertising medium is somewhat price sensitive, but primarily driven by location and size of circulation in comparison with District's target audience.

No Favoritism. Not applicable due to the lack of competitors and specialized contracting needs.

E-3 – Equipment Repair and Overhaul.

Alternate Award Process. As needed, in District's discretion.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits.

1. Pre-contract pricing is difficult to obtain and cannot be relied upon.

2. District has discretion to decide whether costs of solicitation are justified in relationship to size of contract and availability of skilled technicians to repair the specific equipment.
3. Delay required for solicitation would impair District's ability to respond to equipment breakdown and be injurious to the public interest.
4. Experience with contractor is crucial because reliability over the course of several projects is important.

Effect on Competition. Allows contractor to be selected based on ability to provide accurate, reliable and fast service.

Effect on Favoritism. Favoritism will not be greater than if statutory request for proposals process is used.

E-5 - Copyrighted Materials.

Alternate Award Process. As needed, in District's discretion.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Necessary to allow District to acquire special needs products that are unique.

Effect on Competition. None. There is no competitive market for a unique product. Copyrighted materials are generally acquired from a sole-source copyright holder, as used property, or by donation.

No Favoritism. Not applicable due to the lack of competitors and specialized contracting needs.

E-7 – Requirements Contracts.

Alternate Award Process. Original contract must be based on a competitive process.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Size and frequency of procurements does not justify the cost of solicitation. Period of time from recognition of need until good or service required too short to issue solicitation.

Effect on Competition. Minimal, due to underlying competitive process and requirement to renew contract via formal solicitation at least every five years.

Effect on Favoritism. Minimal, due to underlying competitive process and requirement to renew contract via formal solicitation at least every five years.

E-8 – Office Copier Purchases.

Alternate Award Process. Original contract must be based on a competitive process.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Size and frequency of procurements does not justify the cost of solicitation. Period of time from recognition of need until good or service required too short to issue solicitation.

Effect on Competition. Minimal, due to underlying competitive process and requirement to renew contract via formal solicitation at least every five years. In addition, rule requires evaluation and award based upon multiple factors, not just cost.

Effect on Favoritism. Minimal, due to underlying competitive process and requirement to renew contract via formal solicitation at least every five years. In addition, rule requires evaluation and award based upon set factors, in addition to cost.

Other Factors. Allows Contracting Agency to address emergency circumstances. Cannot anticipate when immediate replacement or repairs will be needed to ensure normal operations.

E-9 - Manufacturer Direct Supplies.

Alternate Award Process. Subject to cost saving analysis.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Allowed only after a formal solicitation is completed and manufacturer's price is less than offers received. Cost of formal solicitation, therefore not merited.

Effect on Competition. None. Allowed only after assessment of manufacturer's costs to distributor within the same pool of potential contractors that would be qualified to respond to an invitation to bid.

Effect on Favoritism. None. Allowed only after assessment of manufacturer's costs to distributor within the same pool of potential contractors that would be qualified to respond to an invitation to bid.

Other Factors. Allowed on a contract-by-contract basis and shall not result in an ongoing price agreement, further fostering competition.

E-10 – Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Heating Oil, Lubricants and Asphalt.

Alternate Award Process. Intermediate procurement process.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Frequency and amount of exempt item purchases do not justify the cost of solicitation. Period of time from recognition of need through contract award too long for needed purchases of exempt fungible goods.

Effect on Competition. Minimal. Intermediate procurement process surveys market and ensures level of competition appropriate for these frequently purchased goods.

Effect on Favoritism. Purchase based on cost. Intermediate procurement process sufficiently avoids any favoritism.

E-11 – Hazardous Material Removal; Oil Cleanup.

Alternate Award Process. Rule encourages competitive procedures to the extent reasonable under the circumstances.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Avoids unnecessary cost and delay associated with procurement procedures when most qualified available contractor required for immediate performance. Primary consideration is public safety and compliance with hazardous material laws.

Effect on Competition. Minimal, given competitive procedures encouraged by Rule and supporting findings describing circumstance requiring clean up.

Effect on Favoritism. Minimal, given competitive procedures encouraged by Rule and supporting findings describing circumstance requiring clean up.

Other Factors. Exemption necessary to ensure District's ability to comply with State law governing hazardous materials.

E-13 – Medical and Laboratory Supplies.

Alternate Award Process. Direct award to different vendors allowed, following initial competitive solicitation process.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Frequency and amount of exempt item purchases do not justify the cost of solicitation. Period of time from recognition of need through contract award too long for needed purchases of exempt fungible goods.

Effect on Competition. Minimal. Intermediate procurement process surveys market and ensures level of competition appropriate for these frequently purchased goods.

Effect on Favoritism. Purchase based on cost. Intermediate procurement process sufficiently avoids any favoritism.

E-14 – Concession Agreements.

Alternate Award Process. When in District’s best interest, a competitive proposal solicitation will be used.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Allows District to take advantage of unique revenue opportunities.

Effect on Competition. Responds to unique opportunities for which the number of competitors may range from none to many.

Effect on Favoritism. No impact. Responds to unique opportunities.

Other Factors. Not a contract for the acquisition or disposal of goods, or services or public improvements. Most similar to personal services contract because the quality of the concession may be more important than price factors. Variation in types and sizes of concession opportunities is too great to provide a single method of solicitation. Statutory public contracting requirements may not apply. May not be a public contract. Most similar to personal services contract. Findings may not be required.

E-15 – Used Personal Property, Purchase of.

Alternate Award Process. Rule requires individualized ORS 279B.085 findings and an intermediate procurement process, where feasible.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits. Allows District to take advantage of unique opportunity to acquire needed goods and services for discounted prices.

Effect on Competition. No impact. Responds to unique opportunities.

Effect on Favoritism. No impact. Responds to unique opportunities.

E-16 – Surplus Personal Property, Disposition of.

Alternate Award Process. Any means in District’s best interest, after making individualized ORS 279B.085 findings. Items with a residual value of more than \$10,000 require local contract review board prior authorization.

Cost Savings and Other Benefits.

1. Avoids unnecessary solicitation expense by allowing District to determine whether cost of solicitation is justified by value of surplus property.
2. Allows District to establish programs for donation to charitable organizations.

Effect on Competition. No impact. Responds to unique opportunities.

Effect on Favoritism. No impact. Responds to unique opportunities.

Other Factors. Variations in the type, quantity, quality and opportunities for recycling of surplus property are too large to have this class of contracts governed by a single solicitation method.