

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Professional Engineering, Planning, and Environmental Services Jensen Unit Pumping Plant – Phase I

Issued by: Uintah Water Conservancy District

Project Owner: United States Bureau of Reclamation

RFSQ No.: 2026-01

Issue Date: January 14, 2026

Proposals Due: February 20, 2026, 4:00 p.m.



SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY

1.1 Purpose

The Uintah Water Conservancy District (“District”) is soliciting statements of qualifications from professional consulting firms to provide engineering, planning, feasibility, and environmental compliance services for the Jensen Unit Pumping Plant (JUPP), a component of the Jensen Unit of the Central Utah Project.

The services requested under this Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) will support Phase I pre-construction activities, including feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, alternatives evaluation, cost and economic analysis, public and stakeholder outreach, and compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA compliance is anticipated to require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

1.2 Governing Law

This procurement is governed by and conducted in accordance with:

- **Utah Procurement Code**, Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Code Annotated;
- **Utah Administrative Code Rule R33**, as applicable to local public entities;
- **Uintah Water Conservancy District Procurement Policies and Procedures**.

In the event of any conflict, Utah Code shall govern.

1.3 Procurement Method

This procurement is conducted using the Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) method authorized under Utah law and is intended to result in the selection of a firm based primarily on qualifications, experience, and technical merit. This is not a low-bid procurement and is not governed by construction bidding statutes.

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND NEED

2.1 Ownership and Sponsorship

- **Project Owner:** United States Bureau of Reclamation
 - **Sponsoring Repayment and Operating Entity:** Uintah Water Conservancy District
 - **Flood Control Authority:** United States Army Corps of Engineers
 - **Power Coordination:** Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)
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2.2 Project Description and Need

2.2.1 Project Description

The Jensen Unit Pumping Plant (JUPP) is an authorized but unconstructed feature of the Jensen Unit of the Central Utah Project. The Jensen Unit was authorized by the Colorado River Storage Project Act of 1956 and designed and constructed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to provide both irrigation and municipal and industrial (M&I) water supplies to the Ashley Valley and Jensen areas of Uintah County, Utah.

According to Reclamation's Definite Plan Report (December 1975), the Jensen Unit Pumping Plant was intended to:

"pump water from the Green River for the irrigation of lands near Jensen and for municipal and industrial purposes by exchange with water from Big Brush Creek."

The Jensen Unit is owned by the United States, with the District serving as the sponsoring repayment and operating entity. Because Red Fleet Reservoir is an on-stream impoundment facility, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reserves a portion of reservoir capacity for flood control purposes.

The principal features of the Jensen Unit include:

- Red Fleet Dam and Reservoir
- Tyzack Pumping Plant
- Tyzack Aqueduct, Reaches I and II
- Regulating Tank
- Jensen Unit Land Drains

- Jensen Unit Pumping Plant (not completed)

Red Fleet Dam and Reservoir were completed in the 1980s, along with associated conveyance facilities. The Jensen Unit Pumping Plant—sometimes referred to in historical documents as the Burns Pumping Plant—was never constructed.

The Jensen Unit developed both irrigation and M&I project water. Approximately 4,600 acre-feet of irrigation water is delivered annually to about 4,080 acres near Jensen. A majority, 3,640 acres, receives supplemental irrigation water from the project, whereas 440 acres is considered “full service land.” Municipal and industrial water supplies were planned to be developed in two phases:

- Phase I: 6,000 acre-feet developed by Red Fleet Dam and Reservoir
- Phase II: 12,000 acre-feet to be developed by construction of the Jensen Unit Pumping Plant

The Jensen Unit Pumping Plant therefore represents a fully authorized but undeveloped federal water supply feature.

2.2.2 Historical Context

The Jensen Unit, as originally conceived, was greatly influenced by the 1973 federal Project Independence initiative, which anticipated rapid expansion of oil, gas, oil shale, and tar sands development in the Uintah Basin. That expansion did not occur.

On May 2, 1982 (“Black Sunday”), Exxon abandoned its Colorado oil shale project, triggering economic contraction across the region. Population out-migration and reduced water demand left the District with limited M&I customers and significant repayment obligations. In response, the District entered into a 1992 Amendatory Repayment Contract with the United States, assuming repayment responsibility for only 2,000 acre-feet of M&I water. During the negotiation, the conservation pool in Red Fleet Reservoir was increased from 2,000 to 4,000 acre-feet, effectively reducing the available M&I yield in the reservoir by 700 acre-feet.

In 2014, with assistance from Utah’s Permanent Community Impact Board, the District secured the remaining 3,300 acre-feet of developed M&I water in Red Fleet Reservoir and dedicated that supply to its customers.

The Phase II M&I supply associated with the Jensen Unit Pumping Plant remains undeveloped.

2.2.3 Current and Future Water Supply Challenges

As of 2025, District M&I customers—particularly the Ashley Valley Water and Sewer Improvement District—project exhaustion of available supplies during dry-year conditions. Contributing factors include:

- Sustained residential and commercial growth;
- Restricted access to irrigation company water shares for conversion;
- Limited system redundancy and drought-year reliability;
- Anticipated growth related to the Uinta Basin Railway and other infrastructure investments;
- Continued and potential future industrial water demands; and
- The absence of other authorized, large-scale M&I water supply options.

Long-term uncertainty associated with drought, climate variability, and post-2026 Colorado River operating guidelines further underscores the need for comprehensive evaluation.

2.2.4 Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to determine whether construction of the Jensen Unit Pumping Plant—or reasonable alternatives—can provide a reliable, lawful, economically feasible, and environmentally responsible long-term M&I water supply for the Ashley Valley and Jensen areas.

The need for action arises from projected dry-year shortages, lack of authorized alternative supplies, repayment considerations under Reclamation Law, power availability requirements, and the necessity of complying with NEPA before any federal decision regarding construction, modification, or non-development of the authorized facility.

SECTION 3 – SCOPE OF SERVICES

The selected consultant shall perform, at a minimum, the following tasks:

1. Project management and agency coordination
2. Compilation of existing studies and system evaluations
3. Forty-year population and water demand projections
4. Development and evaluation of reasonable alternatives
5. Preliminary engineering and cost estimating

6. Water rights, legal, and repayment analysis
 7. Economic and financial analysis
 8. Public and stakeholder outreach
 9. Preparation of NEPA documentation, anticipated to include an Environmental Impact Statement
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SECTION 4 – NEPA LEAD AGENCY AND THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS

The Bureau of Reclamation is anticipated to serve as the lead federal agency for NEPA compliance. The selected consultant shall act as a third-party contractor consistent with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.5(c) and shall certify independence, objectivity, and lack of financial interest in the outcome of the Project.

SECTION 5 – CONFLICT OF INTEREST REQUIREMENTS

Proposers shall disclose all actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest. Failure to disclose conflicts may result in disqualification or contract termination.

SECTION 6 – DELIVERABLES

Deliverables shall include, at a minimum:

- Feasibility Study
 - Alternatives Analysis
 - Preliminary Engineering Memoranda
 - Cost and Economic Analyses
 - Draft NEPA Documents
 - Public Outreach Materials
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SECTION 7 – PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals shall include:

1. Cover Letter
2. Firm Qualifications and Experience
3. Project Understanding and Technical Approach
4. Project Team and Key Personnel
5. Schedule and Milestones
6. Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure

SECTION 8 – TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The anticipated schedule for this project is shown below.

- RFSQ Available Wednesday, January 14, 2026
- Proposals Due Friday, February 20, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
- Notification of Selection or Short-Listing.....Friday, February 27, 2026
- Possible Oral PresentationThursday, March 5, 2026
- Approval of Award Contract..... Tuesday, March 10, 2026
- Completion of Preliminary Studies November 2026
- Completion of Draft EIS.....December 2027

SECTION 9 – EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The following paragraphs describe the selection process that will be followed in selecting a firm to provide the services described above:

Selection and Notification of Firms – To be responsive to this request for statement of qualifications, the interested firm must submit six (6) hardcopies and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal, to William Merkley, General Manager (wmerkley@uwcd.org), no later than **4:00 p.m., Friday, February 20, 2026**. The proposal should not exceed fifteen (15) single-sided pages in length, not including resumes. The electronic version of the proposal should be in *.pdf format. The information contained in the RFSQ will be the sole determination of selecting the firm for oral interviews or the firm for negotiating the contract.

The District selection team will evaluate each proposal and will notify the selected firm(s) by **Friday, February 27, 2026**, if the selection team determines to have oral interviews of short-listed consultants. Oral interviews are scheduled for **Thursday, March 5, 2026**. In the event of oral interviews, and in anticipation of the short period of time for contract negotiations, each

short-listed firm will bring a detailed draft scope of work and fee proposal in a sealed envelope that includes the following:

1. A not-to-exceed cost estimate for each of the tasks, with a total cost for the project. A cost reimbursement contract is anticipated by the District for this project.
2. A tabulation of billing rates to be used for personnel involved in the project.
3. A tabulation of estimated direct reimbursable expenses.

In the event oral interviews are held, the RFSQs from the short-listed firms will be scored by the selection committee based on the interviews supplemented by the content of the submitted proposal.

The selection team may determine to select a consultant without oral interviews, in which case the District would request the selected firm to submit a draft detailed fee proposal and scope of services no later than **Thursday, March 5, 2026**. The detailed scope of work and fee proposal will be used to negotiate the scope of work with the selected consultant before the UWCD Board of Trustees meeting on **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**.

Proposals will be evaluated pursuant to Utah Code § 63G-6a-1503 using the following criteria:

Criterion	Weight
Federal / Reclamation / NEPA Experience	35%
Technical Approach and Understanding	30%
Project Team Qualifications	30%
Local Knowledge and Stakeholder Experience	5%

The District is committed to protecting the integrity of the competitive qualification-based selection process for professional design services and is respectful of, and grateful for, the resources of firms submitting proposals. To that end, prospective firms are not to have any direct or indirect communications relating to this project with any of the selection committee members. Furthermore, if during the selection process a proposer is contacted by a member of the selection committee directly or indirectly regarding the project or selection process, or if any type of conflict of interest is identified, the proposer shall notify William Merkley, General Manager, of the contact or conflict. This will allow for modifications to the selection committee or other action necessary to preserve the professional integrity of the selection process. The

District reserves the right to award all or a portion of the anticipated Scope of Work for this project.

SECTION 10 – INSURANCE AND CONTRACTUAL REQUIREMENTS

The selected consultant shall maintain professional liability, general liability, and workers' compensation insurance and shall execute a written contract subject to District and, as applicable, Reclamation approval.

SECTION 11 – PROTESTS

Any protest shall be submitted and resolved in accordance with Utah Code Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Part 16, and District policy.