

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1

INVITATION FOR BID

DISTRICT-WIDE TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES

IFB #22-702-002

BID SCHEDULE

IFB Posted to BidNet

Questions Due

November 30, 2021

December 7, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m. MT

IFB Closing Date

December 14, 2021 @ 2:00 p.m. MT

Poudre School District Procurement Services IFB #22-702-002

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INVITATION FOR BID DISTRICT-WIDE TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES IFB #22-702-002

Poudre School District (the District) is requesting bids from professional and qualified Contractors to perform tree maintenance services including, but not limited to, tree pruning and removal District-wide as described in this Invitation for Bids (IFB).

The District shall provide copies of this IFB to Contractors through the electronic solicitation platform <u>www.bidnetdirect.com</u> where registered Contractors are required to submit their electronic IFB response along with the first and last name, telephone number and e-mail address of the employee within their organization who will be designated as the District's primary contact with respect to this IFB and the Contractor's response thereto. The District may provide copies of this IFB to other Contractors upon request, who are also requested to provide the first and last name, telephone number and e-mail address of the employee within their organization who are also requested to provide the first and last name, telephone number and e-mail address of the employee within their organization who will be designated as the District's primary contact with respect to this IFB and the contractor's primary contact with respect to this IFB and the contractor's primary contact with respect to this IFB and the contractor's primary contact with respect to this IFB and their response thereto.

Questions regarding this IFB must be in writing and may <u>ONLY</u> be directed to the District via the BidNet platform any time after the issuance of this IFB through and including <u>2:00 p.m.</u> <u>MT on December 7, 2021</u>. Questions received after the date/time and/or not submitted electronically through the BidNet platform may not be addressed.

During the solicitation process and until an award has been announced, communication regarding this IFB will only be permitted with the Procurement Agent named below. Communication with a district employee other than the Procurement Agent named below may disqualify your bid from consideration.

Each question submitted, as well as the District's response thereto, shall be provided in a questions and answers document/addendum via <u>www.bidnetdirect.com</u>

Note: Each question must be submitted individually. Multiple questions per entry will not be answered.

The District will only accept and consider electronically submitted bids from Contractors, which must be submitted and received in the <u>www.bidnetdirect.com</u> electronic solicitation portal on or before <u>2:00 p.m. MT on December 14, 2021</u>, at which time the submission portal will close and no further submissions be allowed or considered.

It is the sole responsibility of the Contractor to see that the bids are submitted through the BidNet portal by the submission deadline.

Sales Prohibited/Conflict of Interest: No officer, employee, or member of the School Board, shall have a financial interest in the sale to the school district of any real or personal property, equipment, material, supplies or services where such officer or employee exercises directly or indirectly any decision-making authority concerning such sale or any supervisory authority over the services to be rendered. This rule also applies to subcontracts with the School District.

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Soliciting or accepting any gift, gratuity favor, entertainment, kickback or any items of monetary value from any person who has or is seeking to do business with the District is prohibited.

Collusive or sham proposals: Any proposal deemed to be collusive or a sham proposal will be rejected and reported to authorities as such. Your authorized signature on this proposal assures that such proposal is genuine and is not a collusive or sham proposal.

The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any irregularities or informalities.

Sincerely,

Jon Babcock Senior Procurement Agent jbabcock@psdschools.org

INVITATION FOR BID DISTRICT-WIDE TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES IFB #22-702-002

1.0 <u>BACKGROUND</u>

Poudre School District is a high-performing district, covering more than 1,800 square miles in northern Colorado with diverse school settings. The District's instructional program is centered around District Ends, under the Policy Governance model, developed to support a comprehensive curriculum.

While more than 70% of the District's families choose to send their children to their neighborhood school, the district does support school choice and offers a wide spectrum of educational programs to fit any child's needs. Program options include International Baccalaureate, Core Knowledge, Bilingual/Dual Language Immersion, Hybrid/Online, Expeditionary Learning, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) along with extra-curriculars and athletics. The District has two (2) LEED certified school buildings and over 30 Energy Star awards and supports operational sustainability in all areas of work.

Our Schools:

- 32 elementary schools
- 10 middle schools
- 4 comprehensive high schools
- 2 additional combined middle/high schools opening in Fall of 2022
- 6 option (100% choice) schools
- 3 alternative high schools
- 5 charter schools
- 1 online school

The District is fully accredited by the Colorado Department of Education Accreditation and Accountability Unit and is subject to periodic monitoring to ensure continued compliance with accreditation standards.

2.0 GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 2.1 This is a solicitation for an offer and is not an offer to contract for goods or services.
- 2.2 These General Terms and Conditions apply to all offers made to the District by all prospective Contractors on behalf of District Solicitations including, but not limited to, Invitations for Bid (IFB), Requests for Documented Quotes (DQ), Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) and Requests for Proposals (RFP).
- 2.3 Submission of a bid is deemed as acceptance of all terms, conditions and specifications contained in the District's solicitation package initially provided to the Contractor. Any proposed modification must be accepted in writing by the District prior to award of the Agreement.
- 2.4 Contractor must provide all requested information. Failure to do so may result in rejection of the proposal at the option of the District.
- 2.5 The District is exempt from City, County, State and Federal Sales/Excise Taxes. Tax Exempt Certificates will be issued upon request. The District's Tax-Exempt Number is: 98-03335.
- 2.6 There is no expressed or implied obligation for the District to reimburse Contractors for any expenses incurred in preparing bids in response to this solicitation.
- 2.7 All chemicals, equipment and materials proposed and/or used by Contractors in satisfaction of the terms of this solicitation shall conform to the standards required by the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Material safety data sheets (MSDS) shall be provided to the District upon request.
- 2.8 Each Contractor (and its employees, representatives and subcontractors) agrees to abide by all applicable Federal, State and Local codes, laws, rules and regulations. The awarded Contractor shall also furnish all supplies, which conform to all applicable safety codes and regulations.
- 2.9 The Contractor, by affixing his signature to this bid, certifies that his bid is made without previous understanding, agreement, or connection either with any persons, firms or corporations offering a bid for the same items or with the District. The Contractor also certifies that his bid is in all respects fair, without outside control, collusion, fraud, or otherwise illegal action.
- 2.10 Notwithstanding any other term or provision of this IFB, the District's obligations hereunder are expressly subject to its budgeting and appropriation of sufficient funds for each fiscal year (July 1 June 30) an Agreement is in effect. In no event shall the District's obligations in an Agreement constitute a multiple-fiscal year direct or

indirect debt or other financial obligation under Article X, Section 20(4)(b) of the Colorado Constitution.

- 2.11 The awarded Contractor(s) will be required to complete, at their own expense, a Criminal record check on all employees working on or reasonably likely to work on school district property for this contract. Employees who have been convicted of, pled nolo contendere to, or received a deferred sentence or deferred prosecution for a felony, or a misdemeanor crime involving unlawful sexual behavior or unlawful behavior involving children, will not be allowed to work on District property for this contract.
 - 2.11.1 The successful Contractor(s) must complete a Verification of Background Check form indicating that they have done a background check on all of their employees working on school district property. The successful Contractor will be responsible to adhere to any Federal, State, and Local privacy and confidentiality requirements and other laws, regulations or policies governing employee background checks.
- 2.12 In the event the District has reasonable grounds to believe that any individual assigned to perform work under this agreement has a criminal record, is a registered sex offender, is under the influence of alcohol or other substance, has exhibited violence or based upon other information the District deems reliable; the District may exclude such individual from any school building or grounds or impose reasonable conditions upon such individual's presence upon any school premises. In the judgment of the District, if the agreement cannot be performed as a result of such action, the agreement may be terminated.
- 2.13 Contractor certifies, represents, warrants and agrees that it will not knowingly employ or contract with a worker without authorization to provide services under this Agreement, and will not enter into a contract with a subcontractor that fails to certify to Contractor that the subcontractor will not knowingly employ or contract with a worker without authorization to provide services under this Agreement. Contractor also certifies, represents, warrants and agrees that it will confirm the employment eligibility of all its employees who are newly hired for employment to provide services under this Agreement through Contractor's participation in either: (a) the E-Verify Program created under federal law and jointly administered by the Department of Homeland Security and the Social Security Administration; or (b) the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment Program ("Department Program") established pursuant to C.R.S. § 8-17.5-102(5)(c).
 - 2.13.1 Contractor shall not use either the E-Verify Program or the Department Program procedures to undertake preemployment screening of job applicants while this Agreement is being performed. If Contractor obtains actual knowledge that a subcontractor providing services under this Agreement

knowingly employs or contracts with a worker without authorization, Contractor shall notify the subcontractor and the District within three (3) days that Contractor has such actual knowledge, and terminate the subcontract within three (3) days of providing the notice if the subcontractor has not stopped employing or contracting with the a worker without authorization. Contractor shall comply with any reasonable request made by the Department of Labor and Employment in the course of an investigation undertaken pursuant to the authority of C.R.S. § 8-17.5-102(5). If Contractor participates in the Department Program, it shall: (a) notify the District and the Department of Labor and Employment of such participation as required by law; and (b) within twenty (20) days after hiring an employee to provide services under this Agreement, provide to the District a written notarized copy of an affirmation that it has examined the legal work status of such employee, retained file copies of the documents required by 8 U.S.C. § 1324a, and not altered or falsified the identification documents for such employee.

- 2.14 Contractor agrees to provide the items covered in this solicitation in strict accordance with the District's specifications and at the price noted for each item.
- 2.15 Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the District, delivery of products shall be FOB destination with all transportation and handling charges paid by the awarded Contractor. The District's acceptance of any offer is made in reliance on Contractor's promised delivery date and/or installation of service performance time, as material and basic to the acceptance. If Contractor fails to deliver as and when promised, the District may, without liability and in addition to its other rights and remedies at law or in equity, cancel the order by notice effective when received by Contractor as to goods not yet delivered and services not yet rendered, and purchase substitute goods or service elsewhere and charge Contractor with any loss incurred.
- 2.16 Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the District, its elected officials, employees and agents against any and all claims, damages, loss, liability and court awards, including costs, expenses and attorney fees, incurred as a result of any act or omission by Contractor, its employees, agents, subcontractors or assignees arising out of or in connection with the IFB. In the event any goods sold or delivered as a result of this IFB are covered by any patent, copyright or trademark, or application therefor, Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the District, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, loss, liability and court awards (including costs, expenses and attorney fees) incurred as a result of any claims, legal actions or judgments based on the actual or alleged manufacture, sales or use of such goods in violation, infringement or the like or rights under such patent, copyright or trademark, or applications therefor.
- 2.17 Contractor shall not assign an agreement, as a result of this solicitation, or any of its rights, interests or obligations without the prior written consent of the District. The

consent may be withheld for any reason or no reason as determined by the District in its sole discretion.

- 2.18 It is agreed that no otherwise qualified Intern shall be excluded from participating in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination, including harassment, under any provision of this Agreement on the basis of race; creed; color; national origin; age; sex; pregnancy; physical recovery from childbirth or a related condition; sexual orientation; marital status; veteran status; religion; genetic information; gender expression; gender identity; ancestry; or disability.
- 2.19 Venue for any and all legal action regarding or arising out of transactions covered herein shall be solely in the District Court in and for Larimer County, State of Colorado. The transactions covered herein shall be governed by the laws of the State of Colorado.
- 2.20 Bids shall contain a signature of an authorized representative in the space provided on the Bid Certification Form. Failure to properly sign bid may result in bid being considered non-responsive.
- 2.21 In the case of conflicts between the IFB and any referenced bid documents, the more stringent requirements shall govern. In all cases, the Contractor is responsible for notifying the District of the conflict.
- 2.22 In the case of conflicts between the General Terms and Conditions and the Specific Conditions outlined in this Solicitation, the Special Conditions shall prevail.
- 2.23 The District shall issue written addenda if substantial changes, which impact the technical submission of bids, are required. Copies of such addenda will be distributed via the BidNet system. In the event of conflict with the original agreement documents, addenda shall govern all other agreement documents to the extent specified. Subsequent addenda shall govern over prior addenda only to the extent specified.
- 2.24 All information and supplemental documentation required in conjunction with this bid shall be furnished by the Contractor with its bid. If the Contractor fails to supply any required information or documents, its bid may be considered non-responsive and ineligible for award.
- 2.25 The accuracy of the bid is the sole responsibility of the Contractor. No changes in the bid shall be allowed after the submission deadline, except when the Contractor can show clear and convincing evidence that an unintentional factual mistake was made, including the nature of the mistake and the price actually intended.

- 2.26 The apparent silence or omissions within this solicitation regarding a detailed description of the materials and services to be provided shall be interpreted to mean that only the best commercial practices are to prevail and that only materials and workmanship of first quality are to be used.
- 2.27 Contractor may offer a cash discount for prompt payment; however, such discounts shall not be considered in determining the lowest net cost for bid evaluation purposes.
- 2.28 Any agreement resulting from this solicitation shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado.
- 2.29 Payment for the goods and/or services furnished by the Contractor shall not constitute acceptance thereof. The District shall have the right to inspect such goods and the products of such services, and to reject any or all of which are in the District's judgment defective or nonconforming.
- 2.30 The District may, at its sole and absolute discretion:
 - 2.32.1 Reject any and all or parts of any or all bids submitted by prospective Contractors;
 - 2.32.2 Re-advertise this solicitation;
 - 2.32.3 Postpone or cancel the bid process for this solicitation;
 - 2.32.4 Waive any irregularities or technicalities that are not qualified as a requirement for responsiveness in this bid or in bids received in conjunction with this bid; and/or
 - 2.32.5 Determine the criteria and process whereby bids are evaluated and awarded.
- 2.33 Information and materials submitted in response to this IFB may be considered public records subject to disclosure under the Colorado Open Records Act ("CORA"), C.R.S. §§ 24-72-200.1 to -205.5. Information and materials that Contractor believes are confidential and not subject to disclosure under CORA must be submitted separately with a citation to the section of CORA and any other relevant law under which Contractor believes they are confidential. The District, not Contractor, shall determine whether information and materials so identified will be withheld as confidential, but will inform Contractor in advance of disclosure to give it an opportunity to take legal action to protect its interests vis-à-vis the party making the CORA request.
- 2.34 For the purposes of solicitation evaluation, Contractor must indicate any variances to the specifications and terms and conditions, no matter how slight. If variations are not stated in the Contractor's response, it shall be construed that the response fully complies with the specifications and terms and conditions. Notwithstanding the

above, it is hereby agreed and understood that the District reserves the right to reject these variations if they individually, or as a whole, do not meet the standards established in the specifications.

- 2.35 Appeal of Award. Contractor may appeal the award by submitting, in writing, a request for re-consideration to the District's Strategic Sourcing department within seventy-two (72) hours after the receipt of the notice of award.
- 2.36 Contact with District personnel regarding this IFB, other than inquiries to the specific Procurement Agent identified in this document, may be grounds for elimination from the selection process.
- 2.37 For services requiring Contractor's presence on District property and the project site, the Contractor must provide proof of insurance that meets the insurance requirements stated in section 7.0 of this document.
- 2.38 Contractors must note in the IFB response any intent to use subcontractors. The subcontractor's name, address, phone number and three client references, along with the type of work to be performed must be included. Use of subcontractors may be considered as a factor in the District's evaluation process. If the Contractor fails to notify the District of its intent to use subcontractors in the proposal submittal, the proposal may be considered a void offer. Subcontractors will be allowed only by written permission of the District. The Contractor agrees that it is fully responsible to the District for the acts or omissions of its subcontractors, or any persons employed by them, in the same way as it is for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by the Contractor. Nothing contained in the Contractor and the District.
- 2.39 The District reserves the right to negotiate further with one (1) or more Contractors or to request additional information. The District may make such inquiries and conduct such investigations as it deems necessary to determine the qualifications and ability of the Contractor(s) to provide the services/products called for under the solicitation and/or represented in the Contractor(s)'s response. Contractor(s) shall provide information in a timely manner to the District in connection with such inquiries and investigations.
- 2.40 Should the District determine in its sole discretion that only one (1) Contractor is fully qualified or that one (1) Contractor is clearly more highly qualified than the others under consideration, an Agreement may be negotiated and awarded to that Contractor.
- 2.41 The successful Contractor(s) will be required to enter into a negotiated agreement with the District prior to the start of work.
 - 2.41.1 The agreement language will control over any language contained within this IFB that conflicts with the signed and fully executed agreement.

- 2.42 The initial agreement between the District and the awarded Contractor(s) is planned to commence upon full execution of the agreement and shall continue through and including June 30, 2022, unless terminated earlier by the District as stated in section 2.43 below.
 - 2.42.1 For services provided, and at the option of the District, the agreement may be extended beyond the first term for up to four (4) additional oneyear terms, beginning on July 1 of each subsequent year and is subject to the parties' negotiation of mutually agreed upon amendments to the Agreement for each one (1) year term.
 - 2.42.2 Pricing will remain fixed and firm for the initial term and all extensions of the Agreement.
 - 2.43 Notwithstanding the planned term of an agreement and/or any extensions thereof as provided in sections 2.42, 2.42.1 and 2.42.2, the District may terminate an agreement at any time in its sole discretion for any reason, with or without cause, upon written notice served on the Contractor no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of termination. In the event of such early termination by the District, the Contractor shall be paid up to the date of termination for services performed under and in accordance with this agreement.
- 2.44 Independent Contractor
 - 2.44.1 The Contractor shall provide the services as an independent contractor of the District and the persons performing such services shall not be considered employees of the District. As such, the Contractor shall have the right to determine how and by whom the services will be provided, subject to and consistent with the terms and conditions of this solicitation.
 - 2.44.2 The Contractor shall be exclusively responsible for: (a) all compensation, employment tax withholdings and payments, and all fringe benefits for its employees in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws; (b) all insurance coverages and benefits for its employees in full compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws, including but not limited to pension or retirement benefits, workers' compensation, unemployment compensation, and Social Security benefits; and (c) all payments to its contractors and subcontractors for goods and/or services directly or indirectly related to this solicitation.
 - 2.44.3 Nothing in this solicitation or as a result of this solicitation shall be construed as creating a single enterprise, partnership, joint venture or employeremployee relationship between a future Contractor and the District. The future Contractor will not be considered a partner, agent or representative of the District and will not represent itself to be a partner, agent or representative

of the District. The District is not a partner, agent or representative of any future Contractor and shall not represent itself to be a partner, agent or representative of the Contractor.

- 2.45 The District may make such reasonable investigations as deemed proper and necessary to determine the ability of the Contractor to perform the work and the Contractor shall furnish to the District all such information and data for this purpose as may be requested. The District further reserves the right to reject any proposal if the evidence submitted by, or investigations of, such Contractor fails to satisfy the District that such Contractor is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the Agreement and to complete the work/furnish the item(s) contemplated therein.
- 2.46 Although this solicitation specifies the number of goods/services intended to be purchased by the District, it is understood and agreed that the District may, during the term of the Agreement, adjust the quantity of goods/services at the Agreement price from the awarded Contractor. The option, if exercised, is the prerogative of the District and shall be honored by the Contractor as a condition of the Agreement award.
- 2.47 The Contractor shall be responsible to correct, at its expense, any problems, defects and/or deficiencies in service reported which do not meet the specifications set forth in the Scope of Work.
- 2.48 The awarded Contractor shall be held entirely responsible for any and all damage to District property, accidents or injuries to employees and the public by reason of work contracted under terms of this IFB. The Contractor shall be required to take safety precautions in an effort to protect persons and District property. Each Contractor (and its employees, representatives and subcontractors) agrees to abide by all applicable Federal, State and Local codes, laws, rules and regulations, and OSHA. The awarded Contractor shall also furnish all supplies, which conform to all applicable safety codes and regulations. Any fines levied by the above-mentioned authorities because of inadequacies to comply with these requirements shall be borne solely by the Contractor. Barricades shall be provided by the Contractor when work is performed in areas traversed by persons or when deemed necessary by the District's Project Manager.
- 2.49 Contractor warrants that all goods and/or services furnished as a result of this solicitation shall conform to District specifications and to industry standards and shall be free from defects in material and workmanship. Contractor warrants that all goods and/or services furnished as a result of this solicitation shall be merchantable and shall be safe and appropriate for the purpose for which goods and/or services of like kind are normally used. If Contractor knows or has reason to know the particular purpose for which the District intends to use the goods and/or services, Contractor warrants that such goods and/or services shall be fit for that particular purpose. Contractor warrants that all goods furnished as a result of this solicitation shall be new unless otherwise specified by the District, and that the title conveyed regarding

such goods shall be good and its transfer rightful. Contractor agrees to promptly replace or correct defects in any goods or services not conforming to the foregoing opportunity to do so. In the event of Contractor's failure to promptly replace or correct defects in nonconforming goods and services or make such corrections and charge Contractor its costs incurred therefor.

3.0 SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- 3.1 The District is committed to be a responsible steward of its natural resources and believes that public education should provide leadership in developing an ethic of sustainability in all its practices. In the District we have both Energy Conservation and Waste Management policies and espouse these values, making environmental stewardship an integral part of the physical plant operation.
- 3.2 All changes in Bid Documents shall be through written addendum or Q&A results posted on BidNet.
- 3.3 For services requiring Contractor's presence on District Property, the successful Contractor must provide proof of insurance that meets the insurance requirements stated in the Insurance section of this Bid document. Contractor must maintain required insurance during the term of the contract.
- 3.4 During the performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees to provide a "drug-free workplace." For the purposes of this section, a "drug-free workplace" means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to the contractor. The Contractor's employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance during the performance of this Contract.
- 3.5 If the Contractor experiences a back order of items from its Supplier or Distributor, the Contractor shall ensure that such back orders are filled within a reasonable period of time. The Contractor shall not invoice the District for back ordered items until items are delivered and accepted by an authorized District representative. The District shall determine what constitutes a reasonable period of time and may verbally cancel back orders, seek the items from another Contractor, and charge the Contractor for any re-procurement costs.
- 3.6 The District will provide access to the premises and related facilities for regular working hours or outside regular working hours and days as requested by the District.
- 3.7 The District will respond in a timely manner to requests by the Contractor in cases where there are ambiguities in the work to be performed or resources to be supplied by the District that are not available.

4.0 <u>CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES</u>

- 4.1 The Contractor shall furnish all labor, materials and equipment, necessary for satisfactory Contract performance.
- 4.2 Upon request, proof shall be available that the Contractor possesses adequate and sufficient equipment and resources to perform quality service and to commence work once the contract has been fully executed.
- 4.3 Contractor shall be responsible for all site cleanups, including trash and debris. District dumpsters are not to be used. The building(s) and property of the District shall be left in an acceptable, as found condition. The Contractor shall remove all unusable materials and debris from the District premises. At completion, the Contractor shall thoroughly clean up all areas where work has been involved.
- 4.4 The Contractor shall be responsible for disposing environmentally hazardous waste materials in a manner that is consistent with regulations stipulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as well as, with any State or locally prescribed procedures. Any costs associated with disposal of above stated materials shall be at the expense of the Contractor.
- 4.5 All work shall be performed in full compliance with all applicable EPA, OSHA, DOT and State regulations.
- 4.6 Contractor shall be solely responsible for the safety of its work, materials, equipment, tools, etc. on the site and shall, if deemed necessary or expedient, employ, at its own expense, the services of a competent watchman. The District disclaims all responsibility for the safety of the work, materials, equipment tools, etc. or for any damage, which may be done to same due to theft, or any other cause until such time as the District formally accepts the completed work.
- 4.7 Contractor will be responsible for all necessary licenses and any necessary permits.
- 4.8 Contractor agrees that it is fully responsible to the District for the acts or omissions of its subcontractors or of persons employed by them, in the same way as it is for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by the Contractor. Noting contained in the contract or any subcontract shall create any contractual relation between any subcontractor and the District.
- 4.9 Project estimates, schedules, work activity, other trades not included in the Contract, inspections, and payment requests must be approved by the District Project Manager.
- 4.11 Contractor shall visit the project site prior to commencement of work to verify working area project scope and potential safety issues.
- 4.12 Contractor shall furnish all required personal safety equipment.

- 4.13 Contractor will be responsible for providing a clean and safe environment surrounding the work area at all times, including, if necessary, fencing of equipment, storage and work area. The buildings and property of the District shall be left in an acceptable as found condition.
- 4.14 Health Standards. The Contractor shall have and maintain a set of protocols and guidelines to meet evolving health and safety requirements and implement communicable diseases protocols, which shall follow guidance and orders from state and/or local public health officials and shall be no less strict than the District's protocols.
 - 4.14.1 Contractor shall ensure all individuals providing Services under this agreement for the Contractor wear appropriate personal protective equipment as designated in this solicitation, at all times while on District property.
 - 4.14.2 If the District is directed, or the District determines to limit or restrict access to any or all of its facilities or District Location due to a public health or safety concern, the District may, at its discretion, temporarily delay or stop Contractor's services, with or without prior notice.

5.0 <u>SCOPE AND SPECIFICATIONS</u>

The District is requesting bids for tree maintenance work that includes, but is not limited to, tree pruning, and tree removal as identified in this IFB.

- 5.1 Minimum qualifications. Submit proof of each of the following with bid submittal:
 - 5.1.1 Contractor has at least one (1) person on staff that has a general Arborist Certification through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).
 - 5.1.2 Contractor has at least one (1) person on staff that has a Tree Worker/Climber Specialist Certification through the ISA.
 - 5.1.3 Contractor must hold a current Arborist license from the City of Fort Collins and have the proper license for the work to be performed.
 - 5.1.4 Contractor shall have at least three (3) years of experience pruning and removing trees larger than 30 inches in diameter. Contractors must have successfully completed jobs similar to this bid in terms of specifications, in the past three (3) years. The District retains the right to field test any contractor to determine that contract pruning standards will be met.
 - 5.1.5 Owners, Operations Managers or Field Crew Supervisors of each contracting company must hold current Arborist Certification with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and provide their certification numbers in the Bid Form Section 11.

- 5.1.6 At least one person with the ISA Arborist Certification and the Tree Worker/Climber Specialist certification will need to be on-site while tree pruning, or removal work is occurring with a 3 or 4-person crew. A 2-person crew must have at least one ISA Certified Arborist or Certified Tree Worker/Climber Specialist on site while pruning or removal work is being performed. It is preferable that each person performing pruning or removal work on trees have the ISA Arborist or the ISA Tree Worker Certification. Exceptions to the certification requirements must be authorized by the District prior to the start of pruning or removal work.
- 5.2 Pruning and removal cuts shall be performed by an arborist or arborist trainee under the direct supervision of an arborist. These are generic titles based on competency and experience, but they need not be the actual position titles. Groundwork (an example is brush hauling/chipping) does not need to be performed by an arborist or arborist trainee.
- 5.3 If a sub-contractor will be used to make tree pruning or removal cuts under this bid, that sub-contractor must hold a current Arborist License from the City of Fort Collins and have the proper license for the work to be performed. A contractor may use a sub- contractor that will not perform any of the actual tree pruning or removal cutting, such as a crane company, without that subcontractor needing an arborist license.
- 5.4 In conducting tree pruning or removal operations, all work shall be performed using methods and equipment in such a manner so as to avoid and prevent damage to other plants (except minor damage to turf), properties, structures, or persons. If damages do occur, it will be the contractor's responsibility to conduct or facilitate acceptable repairs of such damages at their expense.
- 5.5 Tree pruning and removal work shall comply with the most recent edition of ANSI Z133.1 for Arboricultural Operations-Safety Requirements.
- 5.6 Tree pruning and removal operations shall comply with all current federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- 5.7 During an emergency, tree work often needs to be performed as quickly as possible. At such times, it may be necessary, because of safety and the urgency of the operation, to deviate from the use of proper pruning techniques as defined in this standard. Following the emergency, corrective pruning should be completed as necessary.
- 5.8 Safety of the work crews and the public (persons & property) are of primary concern. However, quality application of industry pruning standards is also extremely important. Tree work crews of any licensed arborist company shall stop work on a job site when directed by District staff for possible violations of the safety, pruning or topping standards. Work shall remain stopped until the possible violation is discussed and/or corrected. Repeated violations may result in the termination of the contractor

as a viable contractor on this and other bids. Damages may be assessed for improper pruning.

- 5.9 Specifications Pertaining to Tree Removals
 - 5.9.1 Completely remove trees and debris, leaving the stump as low to the ground as possible.
 - 5.9.2 Properly dispose of all logs, limbs, and brush from each removal.
 - 5.9.3 Cleanup of branches, logs and other debris resulting from tree removals shall be promptly accomplished. The work area shall be kept safe at all times until the cleanup operation is completed. Under no condition shall the accumulation of brush, limbs, logs or other debris be allowed to result in a hazardous condition.
 - 5.9.4 All severed, or partially severed, limbs or trunk sections shall be removed from the tree before the contractor's tree workers leave the scene of the operation. Exceptions must be approved by a District representative.
 - 5.9.5 Proper and safe securing and lowering methods shall be applied during removal or pruning operations involving large tree sections.
 - 5.9.6 At least one responsible worker shall serve to coordinate safe operations on the ground at all times when work operations are in progress.
 - 5.9.7 Vehicles that have a winch, or other leveraging device, must not be secured or anchored to utility poles, fence posts, trees or other easily damaged objects during tree pruning or removal operations.
 - 5.9.8 All elm wood (of the Ulmus genus) and all spruce wood (of the Picea genus) shall be chipped or hauled immediately to the Larimer County Landfill for proper disposal. The District may place this restriction, or other restrictions, upon other species as the need arises (i.e. ash infested with Emerald Ash Borer, or walnut infected with Thousand Cankers Disease). The District may approve alternate drop off points for logs and brush from these and other species (examples: the Hoffman-Mill site or a lumber milling site).
- 5.10 Specifications Pertaining to Pruning of Trees
 - 5.10.1 No tree shall be cut in such a manner that its health or eventual safety will be impaired. Exceptions will be made only in cases of tree pruning or removal for emergency relief of immediate danger to persons or property. Any such emergency procedures must be reported promptly to the District with plans for completion or follow-up work submitted for approval.
 - 5.10.2 A reduction pruning cut removes the terminal portion of a stem or branch. This type of cut is used to maintain height, correct storm damage, subordinate

competing limbs and to reduce the perimeter of a crown. The cut is made back to a living side branch that is at least $\frac{1}{3}$ (minimum) to $\frac{1}{2}$ (optimal) the diameter of the cut branch. Such cuts shall be considered proper only when such remaining limb is vigorous enough to maintain adequate foliage to produce woody growth capable of closing the pruning cut within a reasonable period of time.

- 5.10.3 A thinning pruning cut removes a branch back to its parent stem or the trunk. The purpose is to reduce canopy density and eliminate conflicts or competition between limbs. Such cuts shall be considered proper only when the natural bark protection zone is not breached, nor a stub left.
- 5.10.4 Crown topping, heading, lion's tailing, tipping or rounding-over shall be considered improper pruning methods and shall not be employed to any degree unless specifically required by the District. The exception is that a one-year-old shoot may be headed back to a bud where appropriate.
- 5.10.5 All final tree trimming cuts shall be made in such a manner as to favor the earliest possible closure of the wound by natural callous growth. Flush cuts shall not be made.
- 5.10.6 Flush cuts are defined as pruning cuts made to the inside of the branch collar. All final cuts should be made just outside the natural branch collar without leaving a stub.
- 5.10.7 All cutting tools and saws used in making tree pruning cuts shall be kept adequately sharpened to result in final cuts with a smooth wood surface and secure bark remaining around the perimeter of the cut.
- 5.10.8 Whenever pruning cuts are to be made while removing limbs too large to hold securely in one hand during the cutting operation, the limb should be cut using a three-cut method. The first cut will be an under-cut made one to two feet beyond the intended final cut. The second cut should be beyond the under-cut and remove the limb from that point out. The final cut shall be made at the branch collar and in such a manner as to prevent unnecessary tearing back of the bark and wood.
- 5.11 Description of Complete Prune:
 - 5.11.1 A complete prune shall consist of the general removal of dead, dying, diseased, damaged, conflicting, broken, and structurally unsound limbs to improve the overall health, safety, structure, and aesthetics of each tree.
 - 5.11.2 Specifications:

- 1. Properly remove all dead, dying or weakened branches of ³/₄ inch or greater diameter. This specification may change based on the objectives of each project as determined by the District representative.
- 2. Thinning is a component of a complete prune and shall consist of selective pruning to reduce density of live branches. The result should be an even distribution of branches on individual limbs extending to each branch tip, and throughout the crown. Branch tips, down to approximately ¹/₂ inch in diameter, should be included in the thinning process to reduce the chance of excess loading. The ¹/₂ inch diameter criteria may vary by job.
- 3. Remove all broken branches or any loose branches lodged in the tree
- 4. Remove any live branches which interfere with the tree's structural strength and healthy development which will include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Limbs which rub and abrade a more important branch.
 - b. Limbs of weak structure which are not important to the structural or aesthetic framework of the tree.
 - c. Limbs forming multiple or co-dominant leaders, particularly those that are five (5) inches or less in diameter and have junctures with included bark. Select the best leader and subordinate or remove those limbs that compete with that leader.
 - d. Limbs which, if allowed to grow, would wedge in the junction of more important branches where more than one scaffold branch arise from the same area of the trunk. An example would be where three scaffold branches arise in close proximity to each other on the trunk so that there is very little room for proper branch collar development as each branch grows in diameter.
 - e. Limbs with twigs and foliage that obstruct the development of a more desirable branch.
 - f. Smaller limbs and twigs near the end of supporting branches which contribute to excessive weight or wind resistance at the branch end or prevent adequate light penetration to the interior of the canopy.
 - g. Undesirable adventitious shoots, suckers and water sprouts in the bottom 1/3 of the crown.

- h. Remove stubs or broken limbs back to developing branches or leaders.
- i. Subordinate or remove limbs that compete with the developing leader or a more desirable branch.
- j. Selectively prune branches which project significantly beyond the symmetrical form of the canopy.
- 5.12 Standards for Workmanship
 - 5.12.1 Authorized work from this bid neither expresses nor implies a right to violate any law of the land while in process of performing such work.
 - 5.12.2 All such work shall be conducted in a manner as to minimize interference with or annoyance to others.
 - 5.12.3 Inadequately or improperly trained personnel, including sub-contractors, shall not be utilized for work on or with trees or shrubs beyond their known capacity or ability to perform properly or safely.
 - 5.12.4 A qualified arborist with the appropriate ISA certification credentials shall be present at all times when work is being performed except that he may be absent for short periods during the day, when necessary, because of emergencies or other urgent matters. Such periods of absence must be communicated (preferably prior to the absence) to the District project manager as soon as possible.
 - 5.12.5 Any injury to persons or damages to any improvement, property, plant or structure while working on this job shall be promptly reported to the District. It shall be the responsibility of the contractor to make proper restoration and/or repairs when damages do occur.
 - 5.12.6 Any use of tools or equipment in unsafe conditions or any application of techniques or methods deemed unsafe to life, limb or property is forbidden. Inspection of tools and equipment to ensure that they are in safe and operable condition shall be the duty of each successful contractor. The District will not be held liable for the condition of any contractor's tools or equipment.
 - 5.12.7 The Contractor may be required to coordinate traffic control for some jobs.
 - 5.12.8 During all tree work operations, adequate staff, barricades and warning devices shall be utilized as necessary or specified by code for the continual safety of persons and vehicles in or near the work zone.
 - 5.12.9 Whenever utilities or other facilities/improvements, public or private, will be implicated or jeopardized by any authorized tree or shrub work, the proper authorities of the utility, facility and/or property owner involved shall be

consulted prior to performing any work. All requested precautions by any such authority shall be complied with.

- 5.12.10 It shall be unlawful for any business to engage in the business of cutting, trimming, pruning, or removing trees, where such work must occur at a height of ten (10) feet or greater above the ground, within City limits without first procuring an Arborist License from the City of Fort Collins.
- 5.12.11 All motor vehicles and other major equipment of any licensed person used in conducting the licensed business shall be clearly identified with the name and phone number of the licensee.
- 5.12.12 The contractor can dispose of, or use, brush and logs in any acceptable manner except brush or logs of the Ulmus (elm) genus or of the Picea (spruce) genus which must be either chipped on site or hauled to the Larimer County Landfill. If, in the duration of this contract, a pest or another genus or species of tree represents a threat to community forest health, such wood will be disposed of in the recommended fashion.
- 5.12.13 Successful contractors are expected to fully cooperate and coordinate all work activities with the District representative.
- 5.12.14 The District will work to give successful contractor(s) advanced notice of work to be conducted. However, there are times when an immediate response and mobilization may be required.
- 5.12.15 Circumstances may arise that would necessitate the utilization of one or more (2), (3) or (4) person crews for longer periods of time. The extent and duration of such time frames would be negotiable.
- 5.13 Definitions and Clarifications:
 - 5.13.1 Emergency Work
 - 1. Any unscheduled work that needs a quick response and arises unexpectedly after normal work hours, on weekends or Holidays. Emergency rates will only be used if a contractor is called out after normal work hours, on a non-scheduled weekend or Holiday. Rates should reflect the cost of mobilization and over-time pay for personnel; hourly equipment costs shall not be increased. The billable hours for emergency work will commence when a crew leaves their shop or staging area and will end when the crew returns to the shop (based on the crew leaving the job site and going directly back to their shop or staging area). The travel time is equal to mobilization costs.
 - 5.13.2 Normal Work Hours

1. Any hours worked in a standard workday. A standard workday will normally be based on 8 hours, but may, upon mutual consent of contractor and the City, be set at 10 hours. Anything over 10 hours per day will be considered over-time for personnel. Whenever possible, the City will try and fill an 8-hour day with work for a contractor, but a full work day cannot be guaranteed for any contractor.

5.13.3 Climber

- 1. As used in the bid schedule, the term climber implies that an arborist is qualified to operate and work from an aerial lift device as well as perform rope and saddle work in trees.
- 5.13.4 Log Loader Truck
 - 1. A log loader truck refers to any piece of powered equipment that is used for brush clean up or to load logs and debris from pruning or removal work. Examples would be a grapple truck or a small crane truck.
- 5.13.5 Stump Grinding
 - 1. An hourly price for stump grinding is included in this bid as a pricing source for City departments who have need of a stump grinder and operator.
- 5.14 Pruning Crew Clarifications
 - 5.14.1 4 person pruning crew includes 3 persons working in the trees, (climbing or lift truck) with 1 person acting as the ground crew to handle brush/cleanup. The hourly price shall incorporate equipment to support a 4-person crew with at least 1 aerial lift truck, plus a log loader truck or chipper & truck.
 - 5.14.2 3 person pruning crew includes 2 persons working in the trees, (climbing or lift truck) with 1 person acting as the ground crew to handle brush/cleanup. The hourly price shall incorporate equipment to support a 3-person crew with at least 11ift truck, plus a log loader truck or chipper & truck.
 - 5.14.3 2 person pruning crew includes 1 person working in the trees, (climbing or lift truck) with 1 person acting as the ground crew to handle brush/cleanup. The hourly price shall incorporate equipment to support a 2-person crew with at least 11ift truck, plus a log loader truck or chipper & truck.
 - 5.14.4 Any contractor desiring to provide extra workers, in excess of the four-person crew, must receive authorization from District prior to each job.
 - 5.14.5 The breakout prices may be utilized to accomplish specific work objectives.

6.0 EVALUATION AND AWARD

- 6.1 Responses to this IFB will be independently evaluated.
- 6.2 This IFB may be awarded to one (1) Contractor, meeting the specifications and deemed to be in the best interests of the District. Final evaluation may be based on, but not limited to, any or all of the following: price, adherence to specifications, previous experience with similar projects, reference checks and delivery timeline. Those that are clearly non-responsive to the stated requirements may be eliminated prior to this evaluation.
- 6.3 Amendments or clarifications to the submitted Bids not requested by the District will not be accepted, nor considered following the opening of the Bid.

7.0 <u>WARRANTIES</u>

- 7.1 The Contractor warrants that all parts, material, components, equipment and other items used to perform the work shall be new and suitable for the purpose used and will be of good quality, free from faults and defects and all Work will be free of defects and in conformance with the Contract Documents. The Contractor also warrants that its workers will be sufficiently skilled to produce the highest quality of work, which is free from faults and defects. Work not so conforming to these requirements, including substitutions not properly approved and authorized, may be considered defective. The Contractor further warrants that the construction processes and methods employed to perform the work shall be suitable for the results required.
- 7.2 The Contractor shall promptly repair, replace, or otherwise correct any of its workmanship and any parts, materials, components, equipment or other items in the work which contain faults or defects, whether such failures are observed by the District, Consultant, or Contractor before or after Final Completion. The Contractor shall bear all costs of correcting such work covered by the warranties.
- 7.3 The Contractor shall further warrant that all work shall be free of defects of material and workmanship for a period of one (1) years minimum and/or as required in the Bid Documents. The Contractor agrees it will, at its own expense, repair and replace all such defective work and all other work damaged thereby which become defective during the term of the Guarantee Warranty. Whenever guarantees or warranties are required by the specifications for a longer period than the one (1) year warranty, such period shall govern. The District shall have the full benefit of longer warranties provided by the Contractor/Manufacturer.
- 7.4 Upon discovery of any warranty defect, the District shall give written notice to the Contractor and state the time frame in which the repairs shall be made.

7.5 The Contractor, at its own expense, shall repair or replace any damages to equipment, facilities, or other personal or real property owned by the District which is damaged as a result of any such fault or defect, at no cost to the District.

8.0 <u>INSURANCE</u>

Contractor shall procure and maintain the required insurance specified below for the duration of this Agreement, which insurance shall be written for not less than the amounts specified or greater if required by law. The District's receipt of a Certificate of Insurance from the Contractor with limits and or coverages that do not meet the requirements does not waive the requirements and the Contractor shall still be responsible for the limits and coverages stated in this Agreement. Specified coverages and amounts may be provided by a combination of a primary policy plus an umbrella or following form excess policy. All insurance shall be with a carrier licensed in the state of Colorado and shall have a minimum A.M. Best rating of A-VII. Contractor shall furnish the District's Director of Records and Risk Management with certificates of the required insurance prior to the District's approval and signing of this Agreement, and with renewal certificates prior to the expiration of any required insurance that expires during the term of this Agreement. Memorandums of Insurance will not be accepted. Certificates of Insurance and all communication regarding insurance shall be sent to:

Poudre School District Attention: Risk Management 2407 Laporte Ave Ft. Collins, CO 80521 Please Email Certificates to: risk@psdschools.org

Any insurance and/or self-insurance carried by the District is excess of the coverage extended to the District by Contractor. Contractor shall provide at least thirty (30) days' advance written notice to the District prior to cancellation, change of coverage, or non-renewal. The insurance requirements specified in this section 8.0 shall not reduce the indemnification liability that Contractor has assumed in section 8.1.

Commercial General Liability

Minimum Limits

•	Each Occurrence Bodily Injury & Property Damage	\$2,000,000
•	General Aggregate	\$3,000,000
•	Products/Completed Operations Aggregate	\$3,000,000
•	Personal/Advertising Injury	\$2,000,000

- Coverage must be written on an "occurrence" basis.
- Poudre School District R-1 and its elected officials, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be named as an additional insured or covered as an additional insured by way of a blanket endorsement and shall be insured to the full limits of liability purchased by the Contractor even if those limits of liability are in excess of those required by this Agreement.

Commercial Automobile Liability Providing Coverage for Owned, Non-Owned, and Leased or Hired Vehicles

- Bodily Injury & Property Damage **Combined Single Limit Minimum \$1,000,000**
- If Contractor operates vehicles in performing any services under this Contract, the ٠ policy shall be endorsed to include the following additional insured language: "Poudre School District R-1, its elected officials, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be named as an additional insured with respect to liability arising out of the activities performed by, or on behalf of the Contractor" and shall be insured to the full limits of liability purchased by the Contractor even if those limits of liability are in excess of those required by this Contract. Copy of policy endorsement must be attached to the Certificate of Insurance.

Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability

If Contractor is exempt under the Colorado Workers' Compensation Act, this requirement will be waived if proof a current Workers' Compensation Coverage Rejection is on file with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Worker's Compensation and a copy is submitted to the District.

Minimum Limits

a. State of Colorado	Statutory	
b. Employer's Liability	\$100,000 Each Accident	
	\$500,000 Disease – Policy Limit	
	\$100,000 Disease – Each	
	Employee	
c. Waiver of subrogation in favor of Poudre School District R-1.		

Waiver of subrogation in favor of Poudre School District R-1.

8.1 Indemnification

Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the District and the District's Board members, employees, representatives and agents from and against any and all liability arising from any suit, action, grievance, charge or proceeding brought in connection with or related to Contractor's operations, provision of services and/or conduct of any of its employees, volunteers, agents or representatives. The indemnification and hold harmless obligation hereunder shall include all attorney fees, costs and expenses incurred by the District and/or the District's Board members, employees, representatives and/or agents in defense of said suits, actions, grievances, charges and/or proceedings. Nothing in this section or otherwise in this Agreement shall be construed in any way or applied in any manner as a compromise or waiver of the District's rights and protections under the Colorado Constitution or the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act.

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9.0 <u>REFERENCES</u>

References are mandatory – List three (3) references for which your company has completed similar services for projects of similar scope. Colorado K-12 public school references are preferred, if available.

9.1	Company Name	
	Address	
	Contact Person	
	- 1 1	
	Email	
	Describe type of v	work/service performed or items supplied
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	Contact Person	
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10.0 **<u>BID CERTIFICATION FORM</u>**

DISTRICT-WIDE TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES IFB #22-702-002

The District will only accept and consider electronically submitted proposals from Contractors, which must be submitted and received in the <u>www.bidnetdirect.com</u> electronic solicitation portal on or before <u>December 14, 2021, 2:00 p.m. MT.</u>

The undersigned hereby affirms that:

- Contractor is a duly authorized agent of the company issuing this Bid and that all information provided in the Bid is true and accurate.
- Contractor has read the conditions and technical specifications, which were made available to the company in conjunction with this IFB, and fully understands and accepts these terms unless specific variations have been expressly listed in the Bid.
- Contractor will adhere to all terms and conditions and provide, at a minimum, all services as expressed in the IFB and/or the company's Bid responding to the IFB.
- Contractor meets or exceeds all of the required criteria as specified by this IFB, or if not, has submitted a Justification for Consideration addressing any failure to meet the criteria.
- Contractor's Bid is being offered independently of any other Contractor and in full compliance with the terms specified in the IFB.
- Contractor will accept any awards made to it, as a result of this IFB for a minimum of ninety (90) calendar days following the date and time of the IFB closing.

Company Name:	
Signature of Agent:	
Printed Name:	
Title:	
E-mail address:	
Mailing address:	
Phone Number:	
Contact Person:	
	nt – include e-mail address and phone number)

NOTE: Bids submitted without the signature of an authorized agent of the company may be considered non-responsive and ineligible for the award.

11.0 **BID FORM**

DISTRICT-WIDE TREE MAINTENANCE SERVICES IFB #22-702-002

Provide the information requested. Poudre School District reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or any parts thereof. This IFB may be awarded to one (1) Contractor. Contractor agrees to furnish all labor and materials to complete the execution of the scope described in the Bid Documents and any relating Q&A/addenda. All fees must be included in the table below that could relate to services.

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ISA Certification #(s)

Confirm the Q&A Document/Addenda have been received. The modifications to the Bid Documents noted in all Addenda issued have been considered and all costs are included in the above cost(s). It is the responsibility of the Contractor to confirm all project Addenda have been received and included in the submitted Bid (and alter the list below).

	Q&A/Addendum #	Dated	Signature
Com	pany Name:		
Auth	orized Agent's Name:		
Auth	orized Agent's Signature:		
Ema	il:		Date:

¹ Please note that 3 climbers can be reduced to 2 if an extra aerial lift device is used. The overall cost for a 4-person crew will not change; this is just an option based on the needs of each job.