

CONTRACT AWARD PROTEST POLICY

(Effective May 15, 2026)

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes SMUD's protest process for competitively awarded service, construction/craft, information technology, materials, supplies, and equipment procurement contracts.

- A. All SMUD solicitations will contain an explanation of SMUD's contract award protest policy ("Policy"). This Policy will be made available to any interested party upon receipt of a written request submitted to the Procurement Manager, SMUD procurement staff, or may be found on www.smud.org.
- B. SMUD reserves the right to:
 - 1) Reject all bids or proposals.
 - 2) Cancel any competitive solicitation.
 - 3) Rebid any competitive solicitation.
- C. At its sole discretion, SMUD may exercise any of the above rights at any time and for any reason including during the protest or appeal process. SMUD's decision to exercise any of the above rights constitutes final agency action and is not subject to further protest, appeal, or agency review.

2. GROUNDS FOR PROTEST

- A. A responsive Bidder or Proposer alleging it would have been awarded the contract but for SMUD's failure to evaluate its bid/proposal/response in accordance with applicable law, evaluation criteria, and/or award procedures specified in the competitive solicitation is eligible to file a protest under this Policy. The protest must allege:
 - 1) that the protesting party should have been awarded the contract; and
 - 2) with reasonable specificity how SMUD's failure to comply with applicable law or to apply the evaluation criteria and/or award procedures specified in the competitive solicitation harmed the protesting party.
- B. A responsive Bidder or Proposer who fails to comply with this Policy waives its right to protest.

3. NO BASIS FOR PROTEST

There is no basis for a protest and SMUD will not consider a protest under the following circumstances:

- A. The protesting party did not participate as a bidder or proposer in the competitive

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solicitation at issue.

- B. The protesting party fails to allege it would have been awarded the contract if SMUD had complied with applicable law, the evaluation criteria and/or award procedures specified in the competitive solicitation.
- C. The protesting party fails to adequately support, through documentation or otherwise, that it would have been awarded the contract if SMUD had complied with applicable law, the evaluation criteria and/or award procedures specified in the competitive solicitation.
- D. The protest or subsequent appeal, if any, was not submitted within the timelines specified in this Policy or otherwise fails to comply with the procedures set forth in this Policy.
- E. The contract award is for a type of contract not subject to this Policy.
- F. SMUD has exercised any of the rights set forth in Section 1(B) of this Policy for the competitive solicitation at issue.

4. EXTENSION OF EXISTING OR AWARDING OF NEW CONTRACTS

At SMUD's sole discretion and during the pendency of a protest, SMUD may extend an existing contract or let a sole source or direct procurement contract as reasonably prudent to ensure there is no interruption of services, availability of equipment supplies or materials, or negative impact to SMUD's business operations. Under normal circumstances, the term of extended or new contracts under this section should not be longer than reasonably necessary to resolve the relevant protest, including the time reasonably necessary to resolve a court challenge related to the protest.

5. NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO AWARD

SMUD's contract award notification requirements are as follows:

- A. Bids Request Process:
 - 1) Bid Requests include Invitation for Bids and Request for Bids. SMUD will post a "Notification of Intent to Award" and "Pricing Abstract" (collectively, the "Bid Results") of the bids received and evaluated on SMUD's solicitation portal ("SMUD Solicitation Portal") at least five (5) business days prior to awarding the contract. The Bid Results will be available to the Bidders who submitted a bid response. If for any reason SMUD does not enter into a contract with a Bidder or Bidders listed on the Notification of Intent to Award, and if SMUD intends to enter into contract negotiations with a different

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Bidder or Bidders, SMUD will post a subsequent Notification of Intent to Award at least five (5) business days prior to awarding a contract to such Bidder(s).

- 2) If SMUD determines that a Bid is either nonresponsive or does not meet the Pass/Fail requirements of the Bid Request and intends to award a contract to another Bidder, SMUD will provide at least five (5) business days' advance notice to the nonresponsive Bidder prior to awarding the contract.

B. Requests for Proposals (RFP) Process:

- 1) SMUD will post a "Notification of Intent to Award" of the proposals received and evaluated on the SMUD Solicitation Portal at least five (5) business days prior to awarding the contract. The Notification of Intent to Award will be available to the Proposers who submitted a proposal response. If for any reason SMUD does not enter into a contract with a Proposer or Proposers listed on the Notification of Intent to Award, and if SMUD intends to enter into contract negotiations with a different Proposer or Proposers, SMUD will post a subsequent Notification of Intent to Award at least five (5) business days prior to awarding a contract to such Proposer(s).
- 2) If SMUD determines that a Proposal is either nonresponsive or does not meet the Pass/Fail requirements of the RFP and intends to award a contract to another Proposer, SMUD will provide five (5) business days' advance notice to the nonresponsive Proposer prior to awarding the contract.

C. Requests for Quotation (RFQ) Process:

- 1) SMUD will post a "Notification of Intent to Award" and "Pricing Abstract" (collectively, the "Bid Results") on the SMUD Solicitation Portal at least two (2) business days before awarding the contract. The Bid Results will be available to the Bidders who provided a bid response. If for any reason SMUD does not enter into a contract with a Bidder or Bidders listed on the Notification of Intent to Award, and if SMUD intends to enter into contract negotiations with a different Bidder or Bidders, SMUD will post a subsequent Notification of Intent to Award at least three (3) business days prior to awarding a contract to such Bidder(s).
- 2) If SMUD determines that the low Bid is nonresponsive and intends to award a contract to another Bidder, SMUD must provide one (1) business day advance notice to the nonresponsive Bidder prior to awarding the contract.

D. The notifications under this Section 5 may be through the SMUD Solicitation Portal, or by electronic mail ("email").

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6. INSPECTION OF BIDS/PROPOSALS

A. Bid Request Process:

- 1) After the Bid Results are posted on the SMUD Solicitation Portal and the contracting process is complete, all portions of bid(s) subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act will be available for public inspection upon written request, referencing the applicable Bid Request Number, to:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Office of the General Counsel
Re: Public Records Act Request
6201 S Street, MS B406
Sacramento, CA 95817

or by email to pra@smud.org

- B. RFP Process: After the "Notification of Intent to Award" is posted on the SMUD Solicitation Portal and the contracting process is complete, all portions of proposal(s) subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act will be available for public inspection upon written request, referencing the applicable RFP number, to the address/email set forth above.
- C. RFQ Process: After the Bid Results are posted on the SMUD Solicitation Portal and the contracting process is complete, all portions of quotations(s) subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act will be available for public inspection upon written request, referencing the applicable RFQ number, to the address/email set forth above.

7. FILING A PROTEST

- A. A protest must be received within the timeline set forth in Section 8.
- B. All protests must be submitted to the Procurement Manager by email to Award.Protest@smud.org.
- C. The protest must specify the Bid Request, RFP or other competitive solicitation which is the object of the protest and the grounds of the protest.
- D. The protest must allege:
 - 1) That the protesting party should have been awarded the contract; and
 - 2) With reasonable specificity how SMUD's failure to comply with applicable law

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or to apply the evaluation criteria and/or award procedures specified in the competitive solicitation harmed the protesting party.

- E. The protest must include a detailed written statement of the protest grounds and provide any documents or other information the protesting party believes is relevant to the protest.
- F. After filing a protest, the protesting party may, within three (3) business days, file a supplemental detailed written statement of the grounds for protest, if the original protest did not contain the complete grounds for the protest, and provide any documents or other information the protesting party believes is relevant to the appeal. Documentation provided by the protesting party after the three (3) business day period is untimely and will not be considered.

8. TIME PERIOD FOR FILING A PROTEST

Protests related to Bid Requests and Requests for Proposals must be received by the Award Protest email inbox within five (5) business days from the most recent Notification of Intent to Award as set forth in Section 5 above. Protests related to Requests for Quotations must be received by the Award Protest email inbox within two (2) business days from the most recent Notification of Intent to Award as set forth in Section 5 above. Failure to file a protest as set forth above will result in the protest being deemed untimely and the protest will not be considered.

9. SUSPENSION OF CONTRACT AWARD

At SMUD's sole discretion, upon receipt of a protest SMUD may suspend the contract award of a competitive solicitation subject to this Policy while the award protest is under review and consideration.

10. PROCUREMENT MANAGER

- A. Upon receipt of a protest the Procurement Manager will:
 - 1) Notify SMUD's Office of the General Counsel of the protest.
 - 2) Send the protesting party an acknowledgment letter by email within two (2) business days of the date the protest was received.
 - 3) Analyze the protest and documentation provided by the protesting party and any other documentation or information deemed relevant to the disposition of the protest, including but not limited to, documents or information requested from or provided by third parties.
- B. The Procurement Manager may also meet informally with a protesting party to

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better understand the claim or attempt to resolve the protest.

- C. Following review of a protest, the Procurement Manager is empowered to:
- 1) Deny the protest on either procedural or substantive grounds, or
 - 2) Grant the protest.

The Procurement Manager's decision will be in writing, will state the basis of the decision, and will be provided to the protesting party and other interested parties by email.

11. APPEALS

- A. The Procurement Manager's decision to grant or deny a protest may be appealed to the Director of the Procurement Department at SMUD ("Procurement Director").
- 1) An appealing party must file its appeal within three (3) business days after receipt of the decision.
 - 2) The appeal must be submitted in writing, referencing the applicable Bid Request or RFP Number, to the Procurement Director's office, with a mandatory copy to the Office of the General Counsel by electronic mail, overnight courier, certified mail, or personal delivery, to the following addresses:

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Director of the Procurement Department
Re: Appeal of the Procurement Manager's Decision
6201 S Street, MS B406
Sacramento, CA 95817

Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Office of the General Counsel
Re: Appeal of the Procurement Manager's Decision
6201 S Street, MS B406
Sacramento, CA 95817
legal@smud.org

Email: Award.Protest@smud.org

- 3) The appeal must set forth the grounds of the appeal and is limited to those issues raised in the original protest.
- 4) On receipt of the appeal from the appealing party, if any, the Procurement Director or delegate will analyze the Procurement Manager's decision, the documentation reviewed by the Procurement Manager in rendering the

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decision, the appeal and documentation provided by the appealing party, and any other documentation or information the Procurement Director or delegate deems relevant to the disposition of the appeal, including but not limited to, documents or information requested from or provided by third parties.

- 5) Following the review of the appeal, the Procurement Director, or delegate, is empowered to: (i) deny the appeal on either procedural or substantive grounds, or (ii) grant the appeal. The Procurement Director's decision will be in writing, will state the basis of the decision, and will be provided to the appealing party and other interested parties by email, overnight courier, certified mail, or personal delivery.
- 6) The Procurement Director's decision constitutes final agency action and is not subject to further protest, appeal, or agency review.