

Juvenile Justice Center Furniture Bid

Background

Some furniture products emit high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) which can reduce indoor air quality and contribute to photochemical smog and pollution. In this bid, we require products to meet a third party audited standard to ensure low VOC emissions. This standard is called [GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified](#). We require lamps installed as an integrated part of the furniture to be energy efficient and to have low mercury content to comply with the County's Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins Resolution. We also ask vendors to report on the amount of recycled content in their products.

This contract was issued in 2005 to furnish a newly built County facility and has since expired. There is no current Alameda County master contract. We typically procure smaller lots of furniture using the [U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance](#) contracts.

Bid Details

Bid Type: Request for Proposal (RFP)

Bid Number: 10197/DO/05

Contract Start Date: August 15, 2005

Contract Duration: Two years

Products Awarded: Work stations, case goods, metal shelving and filing, and various types of seating

Vendor: N/A - Contract has expired. Furniture is generally purchased via the U.S. Communities contract.

More Information: To obtain pricing information, or for a copy of the bid, contract or award summary, call the Alameda County General Services Agency Purchasing Department at (510) 208-9623.

Disclaimer

This document provides an excerpt of the environmental specifications from this bid. It is compiled from the original bid and all addendums issued during the procurement process. It may not include all of the product or service specifications, e.g., those unrelated to environmentally preferable purchasing. It is provided for informational purposes only. Agencies interested in evaluating this bid for a piggybacking opportunity should obtain a full copy of the bid and other relevant documents as they require.

Environmental Specifications Excerpt: RFP No. 10197/DO/05

I. INTENT

It is the intent of these specifications, terms and conditions to describe the requirements of the County of Alameda (County) for the complete furnishing of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center, including planning and installation of vendor supplied furnishings.

It is the intent of these specifications, terms, and conditions to procure environmentally preferable products with equivalent or higher performance and at equal or lower cost than traditional products. The County is building the Juvenile Justice Center to a LEED® Silver standard and intends on purchasing furniture that helps meet the overall environmental objectives of this project.

III. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

J. GREENGUARD and Mercury-Containing Lighting Requirements

1. The furniture products purchased under this contract must be, at a minimum, GREENGUARD registered and preferably have full GREENGUARD certification at the time the final product purchase is made by the County. It is highly preferable that the products are either GREENGUARD certified or registered at the time of bid submission, however products that do not yet meet these criteria will be considered for contract award. Such products however will NOT be purchased by the County for use in the Juvenile Justice Center under this contract unless they are fully GREENGUARD certified or registered at the time of purchase. Information on GREENGUARD can be found at www.Greenguard.org.
2. The County passed a resolution to eliminate or reduce the purchase of products that contain persistent bioaccumulative toxins such as mercury. Furniture systems that contain fluorescent lighting will be delivered with lower-mercury lamps. Furniture systems using lighting will contain newer lamp technologies such as T8 and not T12 lamps.

K. General Environmental Requirements

The requirements outlined in this section shall apply to all product categories contained in this bid:

1. Green Building: The County passed a green building ordinance in the year 2002 that requires County construction projects to be built to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver standard and diversion of construction materials from landfill. Procurement of materials used in the construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings as well as furniture, fixtures, and other interiors will emphasize purchasing of recyclable, durable, energy-efficient and low-environmental impact products. Furniture purchased for use in this building will be, at a minimum, GREENGUARD registered and preferably GREENGUARD certified as outlined in the "Specific Requirements" section. The purpose of requiring GREENGUARD registered or certified furniture is to improve the indoor air quality in the facility and to reduce the amount of toxic chemicals, such as formaldehyde and other volatile organic compounds, in the indoor environment. It is preferable that products contain the highest level of post consumer recycled content that is practicable.
2. Environmental Performance Documentation and Reporting: The Bidders should indicate in Exhibit B whether the product is GREENGUARD certified "C", registered "R", or not yet registered or certified "N" at the time of bid submission. The County may require the Bidders to provide evidence of GREENGUARD registration or certification at any time during the contracting process or after contract award. Additionally, it is desirable for Bidders to provide specific information on the post-consumer recycled content of the furniture bid. This information should be provided in Exhibit B though Bidders should feel free to provide additional information in their bid submissions if they choose. It is highly desirable for vendors to provide annual environmental performance reports describing the vendor's environmental performance of their products and operations if available.

3. Regulatory Compliance: Manufacturers and service providers will be in compliance with all local, state, and federal environmental and worker health and safety regulations that apply to their operation.
4. Source Reduction and Packaging: The County has a strong commitment to waste reduction, recycling, and to reducing the County's expenditure on waste disposal. Bidders shall make every effort to minimize the amount of packaging and shall provide bulk and reusable packaging whenever possible in providing products to the County. The County prefers that the packaging be both made from recycled materials and be recyclable. Contractors should explore and provide opportunities for the reuse of packaging materials. In the bid response, Bidders shall include a brief description of their planned efforts to minimize the amount of packaging and shipping materials and should describe the post-consumer recycled content of those materials.

Packaging shall not contain inks, dyes, pigments, stabilizers, or any other additives to which any lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium has been intentionally introduced. The sum of the concentration levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, and hexavalent chromium shall not exceed one hundred (100) parts per million by weight. Packaging is discussed further in the "Technical and Performance Specification" section.

5. Pallets and Large-Volume Packaging: Pallets and large-volume packaging materials will be taken back by the Contractors. The County encourages the use of pallets that meet the EPA's minimum post-consumer recycled content guidelines for pallets that can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/procure/products/pallets.htm>. In the case of large-volume packaging, the County prefers that the vendor reuse or recycle the material.
6. Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins: In January 2002, the County passed a resolution "to encourage the reduction and where feasible, the elimination of [persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic chemical] (PBT) emissions..." The United States Environmental Protection Agency has established a list of twelve priority PBTs including dioxins, polychlorinated biphenyls, mercury and its compounds, lead and others. The most current list can be found at the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/opptintr/pbt/. Additionally, PBTs are listed in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) in Section 66261.24.

Contractors must provide products and services that allow the County to comply with the PBT Resolution and must complete the certification statement included in the Attachments. The Resolution requires that the County eliminate and reduce the procurement of products and services which contain or cause the generation and release of PBTs into the environment during their manufacture, use, or destruction/disposal. Bidders should provide products that do not contain, use, or generate PBTs. If no alternative materials are available, Bidders should notify the County in writing prior to providing such materials to the County or using these materials when providing services to the County.