ADDENDUM NUMBER 1
TO MID-RFP# 2017-02
Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI)

November 30, 2017

All Interested Parties

The following described changes, corrections, clarifications, deletions/or additions to the Request for Proposal (RFP) Documents, which comprise Addendum 1, are hereby made part of the RFP and shall be used by bidders to provide proposals to perform the work described. This Addendum Number 1 consists of 54 pages (6 pages of this document and 48 pages for the revised Attachment I). Bidder shall acknowledge receipt of this addendum in a return email.

GENERAL / CLARIFICATION

1. The Due Date for Proposals has been changed to **Thursday, December 21, 2017 @ 2pm PST.**

2. The RFP Timeline as described in Section C on Page 5 of the original RFP is revised as follows:

Tentative Schedule	
Task	**Date**
RFP Released to General Public	10/17/17
Notification of Intent to Bid	10/31/17
Deadline for Questions by Interested Parties	11/15/17
Proposal Due Date and Opening	12/21/17

Tentative Schedule	
Evaluation	2/2/18
Shortlist Presentations	2/12-16/18
Selection of a Vendor for Negotiations	3/2/18
Contract Negotiations	3/5-4/6/18
Board of Director or President/General Manager Approval of Contract	4/27/18

3. Attachment I to the RFP, Tab AMI Communications Network, Requirement CN-2.4 has been revised as described in the Answer to Question #X below.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question #1

The proposal team asked me to inquire about back haul options for meter data. Most customers prefer a cellular backhaul but some have options for fiber or Ethernet comms available at substations they like to leverage.

ANSWER: MID does have private microwave available at the Castle and Cooper substations and fiber available at the Franklin Yard, but still want to consider alternate backhaul options vis cellular communications. Requirement CN-2.4 is changed as follows:

CN-2.4

Vendor is required to provide a complete bid that includes the WAN communications that is required to bring its data from its field network devices to the MID Data Center, including recommended bandwidth and speed. MID has microwave available for backhaul from several substations and fiber from one other location but wants to compare that with cellular backhaul from both a cost and data throughput perspective.

Question #2

Since there are many different options provided by Merced for DCU locations, is there a preferred structure over another? For example, are Substations better than

Towers? Are Towers better than distribution poles. We would only like to use DCU sites that can be installed at a minimum of 70 ft., to help reduce the quantity needed.

ANSWER: Preferred site would be Franklin yard, it has an existing 99FT tower and is in close proximity to Cooper and Castle substations.

Pioneer is scheduled to get a 50 – 80-foot tower next year and this would be another good site.

Question #3

When looking at a managed service solution, are there a minimum number of baseline managed services MID is looking for to be managed by the AMI vendor?

ANSWER: At a minimum, MID is looking for a managed services solution that includes hosting of the AMI Head End system and associated responsibility for installation of updates to the AMI Head End system software. If the bidder has other managed services options (e.g., network monitoring services, etc.), such options should be identified and explained within the proposal.

Question #4

For a managed service solution, would MID like to see a split in responsibilities between hosted services performed by MID employees vs. managed services performed by the AMI vendor, and if so how much?

ANSWER: At a minimum, MID is looking for a managed services solution that includes hosting of the AMI Head End system and associated responsibility for installation of updates to the AMI Head End system software. If the bidder has other managed services options (e.g., network monitoring services, etc.), such options should be identified and explained within the proposal.

Question #5

Will the integration services into GIS, CIS and MDMS, and Distributed Automation systems be offered as part of a managed service solution, or will MID prefer to integrate these using internal staff?

ANSWER: As stated in Sections A, B and Attachment B of the RFP, the primary responsibility for integration will be with the new CIS vendor in coordination with MID. Some support will obviously be necessary from the AMI vendor for integration with the chosen CIS. In addition, there will likely be some integration of meter reads, events and alarms for a subset of meters to the C&I Portal.

Subsequent integration with the MDMS will be the primary responsibility of the MDMS vendor with some obvious support from the AMI vendor.

As is documented in Attachment B, there is no other direct integration with the AMI system. If however, the AMI system includes or supports control of Distribution Automation through the Head End system, integration would need to be further evaluated at such time as Distribution Automation functionality would be considered.

- Lastly, as stated in Section A of the RFP, MID does request input and pricing proposals from AMI solution providers if they have the experience and capability to perform such integrations.

Question #6

Could we please confirm that there are only three communications towers? (Franklin Yard, Cooper, Castle).

ANSWER: Yes, there are only these three communications towers.

Question #7

Are Cooper and Castle the same locations as the Cooper and Castle substations?

ANSWER: Yes.

Question #8

May we obtain the tower structure types, height of towers, and antenna location heights for the three communication towers?

ANSWER: Castle and Cooper substations have 50-foot wood poles available for attachments. Franklin Yard has a 99-foot mono pole available for attachments. The only limitation on antenna location height is for Franklin that the top can't be used as it needs to be open to allow for further extension in the future to 120 feet.

Question #9

May we use Pioneer substation and the currently under construction Lyons substation for network infrastructure locations for our solution?

ANSWER: MID is planning on installing a 50 – 80-foot tower at the Pioneer substation next year and that can be used for network infrastructure. The Lyons substation will have a pole installed, but the timeline has not yet been established and should not be planned for use at this time.

Question #10

If necessary, may we select other utility pole locations in the Merced Irrigation District service territory to install the network infrastructure to ensure network endpoint coverage? Would the utility support installing a taller pole than 35ft in these locations?

ANSWER: MID will support taller pole height. The exact height would be dependent on the specific poles' configuration. If this is proposed, MID will need to consider the additional cost for such an installation in the overall evaluation of bids.

Question #11

For Distribution Automation Pricing is MID just looking for unit pricing for device options for the field and associated software based off an estimated number of units? The reason for the question is I do not see unit quantities or endpoint location data in order to provide a specific Distribution Automation proposal with confirmed infrastructure and devices.

ANSWER: Yes, at this time MID is just looking for unit pricing for field device options and associated software based on a total estimated number of units. MID is not yet in a position to specify locations for those devices nor does the District have specific plans for DA installations but simply wants to understand the capabilities of AMI providers to support DA in the future with overall pricing for such an option.

Question #12

What is Merced's planned duration of the project?

ANSWER: Current plans, which are subject to change, call for initial deployment of the AMI system and network in coordination with the new CIS implementation by May of 2019. This would be followed by a two-month detailed testing effort with system "go live" at the end of July of 2019. Meter deployment would follow in August 2019 – February 2020. Meter Data Management System installation would be starting in parallel with meter deployment with that system being brought on line by mid 2020.