SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SSJID RFP Questions and Answers

Date: 8-31-2023 – Includes Q&As from August 4, 23, 24, 30, and 31 questions.

The following are questions that were asked regarding the South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Renewable Energy Engineering Services: Repowering An Existing 1.6 MW Solar Farm, along with the answers:

1. Question: Is it possible to get a two-week extension beyond the August 17 deadline?
    - Answer: Yes, we have extended the deadline to August 31 at 3 PM.

2. Question, is it possible to get PG&E billing information?
    - Answer: Yes, please use the link on the SSJID website to access some of our past billing data. This link provides several years of PG&E bills for the solar farm meter. Please be aware that there has been a metering change recently where the metering went from two meters for the solar farm to one meter. It may be difficult to determine solar farm kilowatt-hours.

3. Question: Do you have any electrical engineering drawings for the existing system?
    - Answer: None that are final as-built. Part of this project is to have a set of as-built drawings prepared. If you would like a site visit, please contact me.

4. Question: Can you share the NEM2 application?
    - Answer: Yes, it is attached and located on our website. Please note that the gross nameplate rating of the generating facility is 1.75 MW, and the net nameplate rating of the generating facility is 1.392 MW - see page 2 of 30.

5. Question: Are you open to removing the existing ground mount tracking system to replace it with a new fix tilt?
    - Answer: We are open to any and all innovative options. The options will be evaluated to determine what is the best long-term economic solution for SSJID.

6. Question: Are you looking to sell the remaining stockpile of modules and inverters that are left over after the repowering?
    - Answer: Yes, we are looking to sell the excess modules and inverters. We may wish to keep the inverters for spares, and we are open to creative ideas about using the excess equipment at other SSJID sites.

7. Question: What is the wattage class on the modules you have in boxes and how old are they?
    - Answer: The modules are 375 watts each and the specs are available in the RFP. The modules appear to be approximately two years old, and yes the modules are secured in boxes from the manufacturer and in new condition.

8. Question: Are you open to proposals that include a buy out of your existing system, a re-powering of the system with the SSJID replacement modules, adding a battery, and offering a purchase power agreement (PPA) with SSJID?
    - Answer: We are open to any and all innovative options. The options will be evaluated to determine what is the best long-term economic solution for SSJID.

9. Question: Where did you get the modules and why do you have an excess?
    - Answer: The City of Manteca had a 3.3-megawatt solar project that was designed and purchased, but not installed. We purchased the project to replace modules and inverters at our 1.6-MW solar farm. We have a desire to sell the excess modules, inverters, racking, etc. We may keep all the inverters for replacement and spare inverters.

10. Question: Would the District be willing to entertain alternative proposals for integrated design-build services and/or a funded PPA in lieu of engineering services only?
    - Answer: We are open to any and all innovative options. The options will be evaluated to determine what is the best long-term economic solution for SSJID.

11. If the respondent bids on engineering services only, would they be eligible to bid on future installation and construction work?
    - Answer: Yes

12. Question: Our interpretation is that this RFP is for engineering services, will there be a follow up RFP for installation services?
    - Answer: Yes. We expect the proposals to range from engineering only to full design-build, PPAs, etc. The proposals will be evaluated to determine what is the best long-term economic solution for SSJID and there most likely will be a follow-up RFP for installation services.

13. Question: Is there an expected timeline for completing permit drawings and/or securing permit?
    - Answer: The schedule for completion of engineering and construction drawings is November 15, 2023.

14. Question: Is there an anticipated start time to the project?
    - Answer: Award of the project is expected by the end of September.

Questions and Answers (August 23, 2023, Update): Additional questions were answered on August 23, 2023, and are provided below:

15. What metering change happened at the Solar Farm in 2022?
    - Answer: SSJID received its permission to operate (PTO) from PG&E in November of 2022 after completing metering and wiring changes that placed the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) load on one meter and the two phases of the Solar Farm on a separate meter, directly connected to PG&E, then PG&E "aggregates" the two meters together to determine the net metering for the B6 rate. See the six months of PG&E bills, the one-line diagram, etc. for more information on the recent electrical changes to the Solar Farm, however, this is where I believe I am lacking in construction/as-built drawings (also see the next question).

16. Can you send us the drawings you have on the Solar Farm?
    - Answer: Yes, I searched some more and found quite a bit of drawings, some original and prior to the upgrades that were recently completed in November of 2022. The drawings are available ***(Please contact Bill Schwandt (wschwandt@ssjid.com) for access to this information.)*** There may be a few duplicate drawings and sorry that I do not have the more recent Solar Farm project as-builts for the current configuration.

17. Can you provide PG&E interval metering data and recent billing statements?
    - Answer: Yes, both are available on the link above. Note that the interval data goes back 3 years and the metering change in November of 2022 will complicate your analysis of the data. The billing statements go back six months.

18. Can you clarify the project kW nameplate for the 10 percent upsizing?
    - Answer: If you look at Page 2 of the NEM2 agreement, the Gross Nameplate Rating is 1,750 kW, the Net Nameplate Rating is 1,392 kW, and in the documents, you can observe the total solar panel kW is 1,593.6 kW. In conversations with PG&E, (and I am working to verify this), it appears the number they key on is 1,750 kW. Therefore, it is our understanding that we can upgrade the system by 10 percent to 1,925 kW.

19. **RFP Response Deadline Change:** Please note that we will be extending the deadline for submissions from Thursday, August 31 to ***Friday, September 8, 2023, at 3 pm*** (one week and one day additional time to respond).

20. **Site Visit is available:** If you would like to arrange a site visit, please tell me and I can arrange a time. I will **not** be available for site visits during the week of September 4-8.

21. **Previous Questions and Responses and Other Information Are Available:** The previous Questions and Responses, Interconnection Agreements, etc. are available on the SSJID.com website homepage under "Requests For Proposals": Requests for Proposal – SSJID

Questions and Answers (August 24, 2023, Update): Additional questions were answered on August 24, 2023, and are provided below:

22. Question: Can you provide pictures of the SSJID acquired solar equipment?
    - Yes, they are available ***(Please contact Bill Schwandt (wschwandt@ssjid.com) for access to this information.)***

23. **November 16, 2022, PG&E Permission To Operate (PTO) Email:** Included in the linked information above is an email that contains the PG&E Permission to Operate (PTO) for the Solar Farm from November 16, 2022.

Questions and Answers (August 30, 2023, Update): Additional questions were answered on August 30, 2023, and are provided below:

24. What equipment does SSJID currently own that is contemplated as an option to install at the project? Specifically, equipment other than modules and inverters that was purchased from the City of Manteca.
    - The entire list of purchased equipment from the City of Manteca (a complete 3.3-MW project) is included in the RFP but I will summarize here as well:
        i. 8912 – 374-watt JA Solar Modules (Panels)
        ii. 40 -- 60-kilowatt SunGrow Inverters
        iii. 2 – 3-phase Pad-Mounted Cooper Power Transformers, 1000 and 1750 kVa
        iv. RBI Racking Equipment for the entire 3.3 MW Manteca Solar Project
        v. Specifically, I would not expect SSJID to have to utilize the 2 power transformers or the racking for the re-powering of the SSJID Solar Farm. In addition, increasing the size of the project by 10% will utilize approximately 1.8 MW of the 3.3 MW Manteca solar equipment, leaving roughly 45% of the solar modules and inverters available for sale or other projects.
        vi. I have included in the attachments a detailed analysis by SSJID consultant Mel Bradley that outlines how Manteca solar modules will be installed on the existing SSJID articulating racking.

vii. Mel Bradley's contact information: Cell: 209.765.7009 and email: mgb33@msn.com

25. Where is this equipment currently stored?
    - The 8912 solar modules are inside in a high-quality warehouse facility in San Leandro.
    - The inverter equipment is located inside two storage units at Storage Pros in Manteca.
    - The 2 power transformers and racking equipment are stored outside at the City of Manteca Water Quality Treatment Facility in Manteca.
26. Can the District provide spec sheets for transformers and racking listed in the RFP solicitation?
    - Yes, they are attached and will also be on the linked website.
27. Was the racking listed in the RFP designed for the JA modules acquired from the City of Manteca?
    - Yes
28. Were the foundations and the racking designed for this location (geotech) and these modules (wind speed)?
    - Yes, the 3.3 MW City of Manteca project was expected to be located next to the Water Quality Treatment Facility
29. What was the intent of purchasing 2 480-17kV transformers? Can you provide the rating of each transformer?
    - The spec sheets are attached. 1000 and 1750 kVa.
30. There has been questions during site visits about the existing SSJID Solar Farm racking and how the City of Manteca solar modules will fit onto the racking. SSJID consultant Mel Bradley has done some analysis (a portion of which I have attached to this email). The analysis gives a broad overview of the size of the City of Manteca solar modules and an analysis of how they would be arranged on the existing SSJID racking. Feel free to contact Mel Bradley with questions. Mel Bradley's contact information is: Cell: 209.765.7009 and email: mgb33@msn.com.

Questions and Answers (August 31, 2023, Update): Additional questions were answered on August 31, 2023, and are provided below:

31. Question: Has there been any update on the 10% increase in the sizing of the SSJID Solar Farm?
    - Thanks for this follow-up question. We did some research and our understanding on the sizing increase, it's 10% of the dc size, therefore, current 1,593 kWdc + 10% = 1,752 kWdc maximum increase (See PG&E Electric Schedule NEM2 below).
    - PG&E Tariff, NEM2 Legacy Provision, Section 8. 1. b. "Modifications. Renewable Electric Generating Facilities (REGFs) eligible for the 20-year transition period outlined above that are modified and/or repaired shall remain eligible for the remainder of their 20-year transition period as long as the modifications and/or repairs do not increase the REGF by

more than the greater of: 1) 10 percent of the REGF's nameplate rating capacity, as established when the REGF was originally interconnected, or 2) 1 kW; and provided the modifications and/or repairs do not result in the REGF exceeding the Customer's annual onsite load. Pursuant to D.22-12-056, the addition of energy storage to the Customer's existing Generating Facility shall not disqualify Customer from the remainder of their 20-year Transition Period on this Schedule."

32. Question: Is SSJID open to a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)?
    - SSJID is open to any and all options for the project, (see also Question 10).

33. Regarding the structure of the current solar arrangement with PG&E, it looks like from the provided single line in the RFP this is a Net Metering Aggregation (NEMA) arrangement. Is that right?
    - Correct.

34. If so, is there actual load on the second meter, or does it just tie to the solar and virtually credit the larger load meter?
    - No load, simply for aggregation.

35. Is each meter on rate B6? Even (what appears to be) the meter will the large facility load tied into it? Any color you could give to the structure of this arrangement in more detail would be very helpful.
    - Yes, SSJID is on the B-6 rate and it is noted in the NEM2 agreement.