



Department of County Assets
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 400
Portland, Oregon 97214

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Sherry Swackhamer, Department Director *Sp*

RE: Request for Exemption to County RFP Requirements

DATE: July 11, 2016

The Department of County Assets (DCA) is requesting a formal exemption from competitive procurement. The exemption request would allow the Department of County Assets to extend our current contract with ViaWest for the lease and services of the County Data Center Co-location. This request is made under PCRB Rule 47-0275-Sole Procurements.

BACKGROUND:

In June, 2011 DCA Information Technology (DCA-IT) awarded a five (5) year RFP #P11-10418 for Data Center Co-location Lease and Services to ViaWest, Inc. Contract #4400001341 (formerly 4600008842) was executed with ViaWest, Inc. on 9/30/2011 for a total of \$1,522,567.50.

The ViaWest disaster recovery Data Center, our secondary data center, is located in Hillsboro, Oregon. The County's primary Data Center, located in the East County Courthouse (ECC) and the ViaWest location are separated by 40 miles. During the RFP development in 2011, DCA-IT made a strategic decision to keep its secondary data center regional and within a maximum driving distance of 100 miles from the our primary data center. The co-location data center's primary purpose was to host the County's sub-production environments with added capability for disaster recovery efforts. At the time, convenient physical access to systems was a minimum requirement. However, a minimum driving distance of 15 miles was considered sufficient geographic diversity to mitigate local environmental disaster and/or service disruption. Subsequent to the adoption of this strategy, it has become necessary for the County to reconsider its disaster recovery posture.

As part of the ongoing development of the County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), departments are identifying operations and services that could be impacted by a Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) earthquake.

In early 2015, DCA-IT began researching and compiling specifications with the intent to award a formal solicitation prior to the expiration of RFP #P11-10418. As both data centers are currently in the CSZ, DCA-IT has made the decision to relocate the secondary data center outside the State of Oregon. This will require additional research to build new specifications.

IMPACT TO COUNTY:

The ViaWest space was configured specifically to meet County requirements. If unable to stay in that location during the procurement and contracting processes, the County would need to source, build, and relocate to an interim local location. This temporary solution would involve substantial cost to the County and disruption of services.

The executed agreement with ViaWest automatically renews at the end of our initial Service Term, under the same terms, conditions, and pricing, for up to two (2) additional one (1) year terms and thereafter, on a month-to-month basis. The fixed rate is \$25,390/mo. To avoid incurring additional cost noted above, and the associated risks involved with a hurried relocation, based on the renewal terms of the ViaWest agreement, DCA-IT recommends that the disaster recovery data center remain at the current ViaWest location until the solicitation and contracting for the out of state move is completed.

EXEMPTION PERIOD:

DCA-IT is requesting a three (3) year exemption for the period 9/30/16-9/29/19, which would allow sufficient time to plan, develop and award a formal solicitation, and implement the new disaster recovery data center. The total amount needed for the term of this exemption based on our fixed rate with ViaWest would be \$914,040.