



Request for Proposal 08-X-39851

For: Tree Trimming & Pruning Services (Including Removal) DOT & Other Agencies

Event	Date	Time
Bidder's Electronic Question Due Date (Refer to RFP Section 1.3.1 for more information.)	01/31/2008	5:00 PM
Mandatory Pre-bid Conference	Not Applicable	
Mandatory Site Visit	Not Applicable	
Bid Submission Due Date (Refer to RFP Section 1.3.2 for more information.)	03/05/2008	2:00 PM

Dates are subject to change. All changes will be reflected in Addenda to the RFP posted on the Division of Purchase and Property website.

Small Business Set-Aside (Refer to RFP Section 4.4.2.2 for more information.)	Status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	Category <input type="checkbox"/> I
	<input type="checkbox"/> Entire Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> II
	<input type="checkbox"/> Partial Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> III
	<input type="checkbox"/> Subcontracting Only	

RFP Issued By

State of New Jersey
Department of the Treasury
Division of Purchase and Property
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0230

Using Agency/Agencies

State of New Jersey
Cooperative Purchasing Members

Date: 01/08/2008

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1.0 INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

1.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the Purchase Bureau, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury on behalf of the New Jersey Department of Transportation and other State Agencies. The purpose of this RFP is to solicit bid proposals for tree trimming, pruning and removal services.

The intent of this RFP is to award one primary and one secondary contract per county to those responsible bidders whose bid proposals, conforming to this RFP are most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered. However, the State reserves the right to separately procure individual requirements that are the subject of the contract during the contract term, when deemed by the Director to be in the State's best interest.

Awarded contractors will be ranked on the following basis:

- 1) Primary Contractor – The contractor whose bid submission meets all of the mandatory requirements of this RFP and is determined to have the best pricing under the terms as stated in Section 6.0 of this RFP.
- 2) Secondary Contractor – The contractor whose bid submission meets all of the mandatory requirements of this RFP and is determined to have the second best pricing under the terms as stated in Section 6.0 of this RFP.

The NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 will apply to all contracts or purchase agreements made with the State of New Jersey. These terms are in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in this RFP and should be read in conjunction with them unless the RFP specifically indicates otherwise.

The State intends to extend the contract[s] awarded to the Purchase Bureau's cooperative purchasing partners. These partners include quasi-state agencies, counties, municipalities, school districts, volunteer fire departments, first aid squads, independent institutions of higher learning, County colleges and State colleges. Although the State, with the assent of the vendor(s), is making the use of any contract resulting from this RFP available to non-State Agencies, the State makes no representation as to the acceptability of any State RFP terms and conditions under the Local Public Contracts Law or any other enabling statute or regulation.

1.2 BACKGROUND

This is a reprocurement of the Tree Trimming and Removal Services for DOT and Other Agencies term contract, presently due to expire on May 31, 2008. Bidders who are interested in the current contract specifications and pricing information may review the current contract T-0465 at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/contracts.htm>.

1.3 KEY EVENTS

1.3.1 ELECTRONIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

The Purchase Bureau will accept questions and inquiries from all potential bidders electronically via web form. To submit a question, please go to Current Bid Opportunities webpage or to <http://ebid.nj.gov/QA.aspx>

Questions should be directly tied to the RFP and asked in consecutive order, from beginning to end, following the organization of the RFP. Each question should begin by referencing the RFP page number and section number to which it relates.

Bidders are not to contact the Using Agency directly, in person, by telephone or by email, concerning this RFP.

The cut-off date for electronic questions and inquiries relating to this RFP is indicated on the cover sheet. Addenda to this RFP, if any, will be posted on the Purchase Bureau website after the cut-off date (see Section 1.4.1. of this RFP for further information.)

1.3.2 SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSAL

In order to be considered for award, the bid proposal must be received by the Purchase Bureau of the Division of Purchase and Property at the appropriate location by the required time. **ANY BID PROPOSAL NOT RECEIVED ON TIME AT THE LOCATION INDICATED BELOW WILL BE REJECTED. THE DATE AND TIME IS INDICATED ON THE COVER SHEET. THE LOCATION IS AS FOLLOWS:**

BID RECEIVING ROOM - 9TH FLOOR
PURCHASE BUREAU
DIVISION OF PURCHASE AND PROPERTY
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
33 WEST STATE STREET, P.O. BOX 230
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0230

Directions to the Purchase Bureau can be found at the following web address:
<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/directions.htm>.

Note: Bidders using USPS Regular or Express mail services should allow additional time since USPS mail deliveries are not delivered directly to the Purchase Bureau.

Procedural inquiries on this RFP may be directed to RFP.procedures@treas.state.nj.us. This e-mail address may also be used to submit requests to review bid documents. The State will not respond to substantive questions related to the RFP or any other contract via this e-mail address.

To submit an RFP or contract related question, go to the Current Bidding Opportunities webpage or to <http://ebid.nj.gov/QA.aspx>.

1.4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1.4.1 ADDENDA: REVISIONS TO THIS RFP

In the event that it becomes necessary to clarify or revise this RFP, such clarification or revision will be by addendum. Any addendum to this RFP will become part of this RFP and part of any contract awarded as a result of this RFP.

ALL RFP ADDENDA WILL BE ISSUED ON THE DIVISION OF PURCHASE AND PROPERTY WEB SITE. TO ACCESS ADDENDA, SELECT THE BID NUMBER ON THE BIDDING OPPORTUNITIES WEB PAGE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/TREASURY/PURCHASE/BID/SUMMARY/BID.SHTML](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/bid.shtml).

There are no designated dates for release of addenda. Therefore interested bidders should check the Purchase Bureau "Bidding Opportunities" website on a daily basis from time of RFP issuance through bid opening.

It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to be knowledgeable of all addenda related to this procurement.

1.4.2 BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY

The bidder assumes sole responsibility for the complete effort required in submitting a bid proposal in response to this RFP. No special consideration will be given after bid proposals are opened because of a bidder's failure to be knowledgeable as to all of the requirements of this RFP.

1.4.3 COST LIABILITY

The State assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred by a bidder in the preparation and submittal of a bid proposal in response to this RFP.

1.4.4 CONTENTS OF BID PROPOSAL

Subsequent to bid opening, all information submitted by bidders in response to the bid solicitation is considered public information, except as may be exempted from public disclosure by the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq., and the common law. If the State proposes to negotiate and/or pursue a Best and Final Offer, bid proposals will not be made public until the Letter of Intent to Award is issued.

A bidder may designate specific information as not subject to disclosure when the bidder has a good faith legal/factual basis for such assertion. The State reserves the right to make the determination and will advise the bidder accordingly. The location in the bid proposal of any such designation should be clearly stated in a cover letter. **The State will not honor any attempt by a bidder either to designate its entire bid proposal as proprietary and/or to claim copyright protection for its entire proposal.**

By signing the cover sheet of this RFP, the bidder waives any claims of copyright protection set forth within the manufacturer's price list and/or catalogs. The price lists and/or catalogs must be accessible to State using agencies and cooperative purchasing partners and thus have to be made public to allow all eligible purchasing entities access to the pricing information.

All bid proposals, with the exception of information determined by the State or the Court to be proprietary, are available for public inspection. Interested parties can make an appointment with the Purchase Bureau to inspect bid proposals received in response to this RFP.

1.4.5 PRICE ALTERATION

Bid prices must be typed or written in ink. Any price change (including "white-outs") must be initialed. Failure to initial price changes shall preclude a contract award from being made to the bidder.

1.4.6 BID ERRORS

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:12-1.22, "Bid Errors," a bidder may withdraw its bid as follows:

A bidder may request that its bid be withdrawn prior to bid opening. Such request must be made, in writing, to the Supervisor of the Business Unit. If the request is granted, the bidder may submit a revised bid as long as the bid is received prior to the announced date and time for bid opening and at the place specified.

If, after bid opening but before contract award, a bidder discovers an error in its proposal, the bidder may make written request to the Supervisor of the Business Unit for authorization to withdraw its proposal from consideration for award. Evidence of the bidder's good faith in making this request shall be used in making the determination. The factors that will be considered are that the mistake is so significant that to enforce the contract resulting from the proposal would be unconscionable; that the mistake relates to a material feature of the contract; that the mistake occurred notwithstanding the bidder's exercise of reasonable care; and that the State will not be significantly prejudiced by granting the withdrawal of the proposal. Note: a PB-36 complaint form may be filed and forwarded to the Division's Contract Compliance and Administration Unit (CCAU) for handling. A record of the complaint will also be maintained in the Division's vendor performance file for evaluation of future bids submitted.

All bid withdrawal requests must include the bid identification number and the final bid opening date and sent to the following address:

Department of the Treasury
Purchase Bureau, PO Box 230
33 West State Street – 9th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0230
Attention: Supervisor, Business Unit

If during a bid evaluation process, an obvious pricing error made by a potential contract awardee is found, the Director shall issue written notice to the bidder. The bidder will have five days after receipt of the notice to confirm its pricing. If the vendor fails to respond, its bid shall be considered withdrawn, and no further consideration shall be given it.

If it is discovered that there is an arithmetic disparity between the unit price and the total extended price, the unit price shall prevail. If there is any other ambiguity in the pricing other than a disparity between the unit price and extended price and the bidder's intention is not readily discernible from other parts of the bid proposal, the Director may seek clarification from the bidder to ascertain the true intent of the bid.

1.4.7 JOINT VENTURE

If a joint venture is submitting a bid proposal, the agreement between the parties relating to such joint venture should be submitted with the joint venture's bid proposal. Authorized signatories from each party comprising the joint venture must sign the bid proposal. A separate Ownership Disclosure Form, Disclosure of Investigations and Actions Involving Bidder, Affirmative Action Employee Information Report, MacBride Principles Certification, and Business Registration or Interim Registration must be supplied for each party to a joint venture.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

The following definitions will be part of any contract awarded or order placed as result of this RFP.

Addendum - Written clarification or revision to this RFP issued by the Purchase Bureau.

All-Inclusive Hourly Rate – An hourly rate comprised of all direct and indirect costs including, but not limited to: overhead, fee or profit, clerical support, travel expenses, per diem, safety equipment, materials, supplies, managerial support and all documents, forms, and reproductions thereof. This rate also includes portal-to-portal expenses as well as per diem expenses such as food.

Amendment - A change in the scope of work to be performed by the contractor after contract award. An amendment is not effective until signed by the Director, Division of Purchase and Property or his/her designee.

Bidder – A vendor submitting a bid proposal in response to this RFP.

Contract - This RFP, any addendum to this RFP, the bidder's bid proposal submitted in response to this RFP and the Division's Notice of Acceptance.

Contractor - The contractor is the bidder awarded a contract.

Director - Director, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury. By statutory authority, the Director is the chief contracting officer for the State of New Jersey.

Division - The Division of Purchase and Property.

Joint Venture – A business undertaking by two or more entities to share risk and responsibility for a specific project.

May - Denotes that which is permissible, but not mandatory.

Project – The undertaking or services that are the subject of this RFP.

Request for Proposal (RFP) - This document, which establishes the bidding and contract requirements and solicits bid proposals to meet the purchase needs of [the] Using Agency[ies], as identified herein.

Shall or Must - Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement.

Should - Denotes that which is recommended, but not mandatory.

State - State of New Jersey

State Contract Manager – The individual responsible for the approval of all deliverables, i.e., tasks, sub-tasks or other work elements in the Scope of Work as set forth in Sections 8.1, 8.1.1 and 8.1.2.

Subcontractor – An entity having an arrangement with a State contractor, where the State contractor uses the products and/or services of that entity to fulfill some of its obligations under its State contract, while retaining full responsibility for the performance of all of its [the contractor's]

obligations under the contract, including payment to the subcontractor. The subcontractor has no legal relationship with the State, only with the contractor.

Task – A discrete unit of work to be performed.

Using Agency[ies]- The entity[ies] for which the Division has issued this RFP.

2.2 CONTRACT SPECIFIC DEFINITIONS

Caliper – The diameter of a tree at six (6) inches from the root flare.

Department – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)

Foreman – Contractor's employee who is fluent in the English language and who leads and/or is responsible for the crew providing services under the contract.

NJDOT – The New Jersey Department of Transportation

Regional Maintenance Engineer – The NJDOT State Contract Manager who manages the contract and supervises the Resident Engineer.

Resident Engineer – The NJDOT individual assigned to run the project. Oversees the contractor's activities, conducts or is responsible for daily inspections, prepares and maintains monthly estimates, change orders and other reports. Provides and ensures safety at the work site; prepares traffic interference and weekly traffic reports.

Services – For purposes of this RFP, the definition of services shall be expanded to include not only time, labor and effort, but also materials, supplies. Equipment or other tangible items necessary to satisfactorily complete the scope of work required in a satisfactory manner.

3.0 COMMODITY DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 GENERAL

3.1.1 Item A

Work to be performed under this Item A includes the trimming of trees to include the removal of dead, dying, diseased, interfering, objectionable, or weak branches; and/or the complete removal of dead or dangerously growing trees under the direction of the Resident Engineer or an authorized State Representative. In those cases where the complete removal of trees is required, the contractor may be required to remove stumps and all exposed roots to a depth of six (6) inches below the adjacent existing ground surface. The ground surface shall then be leveled with soil, and/or wood chips taken from the stump removal operation. Whenever an agency has requested stump removal as part of Item A, the contractor cannot charge separately for stump removal. Item B pertains to those jobs that require only stump removal. The contractor must provide crew and equipment as described in Section 3.4 of this RFP under Item A.

3.1.2 Trimming of Trees

Trimming of trees shall consist of the following classes of pruning as developed by the National Arborist Association and described as "pruning standards for shade trees."

3.1.2.1 Class II - Standard pruning shall consist of the removal of dead, dying, diseased, decaying, interfering, objectionable, obstructing, and weak branches, as well as selective thinning to lessen wind resistance. The removal of such described branches is to include those on the main trunk, as well as those inside the leaf area.

3.1.2.2 Class III - Hazard pruning shall consist of the removal of dead, diseased, decayed, and obviously weak branches.

3.1.2.3 Class IV - Crown reduction pruning shall consist of the reduction of tops, sides, and individual limbs. It involves the removal of a parent limb or dominant leader at the point of attachment of a lateral branch.

3.1.2.4 With all classes of pruning all cuts shall be made as close to the trunk or parent limb, without cutting into the branch collar or leaving a protruding stub.

3.1.3 Tree Removal

The complete removal of trees shall include the removal of stumps and all exposed roots to a depth of six (6) inches below the adjacent existing ground surface, at the direction of the Resident Engineer, or an authorized State representative.

3.1.4 Item B

Work to be performed under this Item B Includes the removal of already existing stumps and all exposed roots from trees that were not trimmed or removed as work performed under Item A. Stumps shall be removed to a depth of six (6) inches below the adjacent existing ground surface. The ground surface shall then be leveled with soil, and/or wood chips taken from the stump removal operation. Stumping shall be done at the direction of the Resident Engineer, or an authorized State Representative. The contractor must provide crew and equipment as described in Section 3.4 of this RFP.

3.1.5 All of the work listed above shall include the pick up and disposal of all removed wood at the conclusion of each work day, except that the State reserves the right to claim all wood chips

which shall be void of all limbs and un-chipped pieces of wood, together with all other incidental work as provided for in the RFP.

3.2. MAINTENANCE AND PROTECTION OF TRAFFIC

Due to the extremely large volume of traffic at all times on the roadways, maintenance and protection of traffic and employees, with minimum interference, is of prime importance and shall be provided by the contractor.

3.2.1 No work which will interfere with traffic or restrict the width of pavement available for traffic will be permitted. All traffic and working hour restrictions are prearranged by the Office of Traffic Operations, North or South and the Resident Engineer. Major road building construction may be in progress along portions of roadways included within the limits of this contract.

3.2.2 When vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or both, are to be maintained over the highways within the scope of this contract, the contractor shall plan and carry out the work to provide for the safe and convenient passage of such traffic.

3.2.3 The contractor shall adhere to one of the standards listed below, in the following priority order, while working in areas where traffic may be affected and the safety of workers and the motoring public must be considered:

1. NJDOT Maintenance Work Zone Safety Set-Up Guide, current edition. [Mobile, Short Duration and Short-Term Stationary Work] are found on the web at: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/publicat/pdf/WorkZoneSafetySetupGuide.pdf>
2. Standard Roadway Construction/Traffic Control/Bridge Construction Details, current edition. [Intermediate Stationary and Long-Term Stationary Work] are found on the web at www.state.nj.us/transportation/eng
3. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Current Edition.
4. A Traffic Control Plan designed and signed by a representative from the NJDOT Bureau of Traffic Engineering and Safety Programs or the Bureau of Traffic Signals and Safety Engineering.

3.2.4 Traffic Control Devices

All traffic control devices used by the contractor shall be kept clean and in good condition, such as described in the current American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) "Quality Guidelines for Temporary Traffic Control Devices", so that they furnish the fullest effectiveness possible. Traffic control devices shall conform to the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" and meet the NCHRP 350 Crashworthiness Standard. No separate payment will be made for traffic control devices.

3.3 EQUIPMENT AND CREW

A crew shall include both laborers and equipment. The contractor may be required to furnish more than one "crew" at the discretion of the NJDOT or various Using Agencies. As a minimum, the following number of laborers will be required to report with the equipment specified in good working condition to the designated work site with each assignment:

3.3.1 Item A: Tree Trimming And Removal

One (1) foremen-crew leader, one (1) journeyman climber, one (1) ground man, one (1) traffic observer, one (1) tree truck with aerial lift bucket having a minimum reach of not less than fifty (50) feet, automatic unloader and power tools, brush chipper, two (2) power saws with a minimum twenty (20) inch cutting bars, one (1) stump removing machine, and any other incidental tools required to complete this type of work including warning signs, traffic signals and safety devices as may be required and necessary. All crew members shall wear an orange safety vest. Contractor shall have a minimum of fifty (50) twenty-eight (28) inch cones and six (6) "ROAD WORK AHEAD" signs, with stands.

3.3.2 ITEM B: Stump Removal Only:

One (1) foreman-crew leader, one (1) ground man, one (1) traffic observer, one (1) stump removal machine, and any other incidental tools required to complete this work, including warning signs, traffic signals and safety devices as may be required and necessary. All crew members shall wear an orange safety vest.

3.4 INSPECTION AND COMMENCEMENT OF WORK

3.4.1 Equipment will be inspected by the NJDOT (or other Using Agency) Supervisor of Landscape or its designated representative prior to awarding of contracts.

Inspection will take place between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM during the State's regular working days. All equipment offered for inspection shall be located within the State of New Jersey and in one place at the time of inspection. The contractor will be required to show all safety items at the time of inspection, prior to award of contract. The contractor shall give the Supervisor of Landscape seventy-two (72) hours notice as to the location of the equipment and when the inspection can be made to the following.

Department Of Transportation
 Project Engineer
 P.O. BOX 606
 Trenton, N.J. 08625
 Telephone: 609-530-3740

3.4.2 After award of contract, supervision and inspection on the site will be assigned to the Regional Maintenance Engineer responsible for the respective region or such other individuals as may hereafter be designated. All inquires and correspondence shall be directed to the designated representative having responsibility for the various counties.

REGION NORTH:	REGIONAL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER
TELEPHONE:	973-770-5123
COUNTIES:	SUSSEX, WARREN, MORRIS, BERGEN, ESSEX, UNION, HUDSON AND PASSAIC

REGION CENTRAL:	REGIONAL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER
TELEPHONE:	732-308-4100
COUNTIES:	MERCER, MIDDLESEX, MONMOUTH, OCEAN, HUNTERDON AND SOMERSET

REGION SOUTH:	REGIONAL MAINTENANCE ENGINEER
TELEPHONE:	856-486-6607
COUNTIES:	ATLANTIC, BURLINGTON, CAMDEN, CAPE MAY, CUMBERLAND, GLOUCESTER, AND SALEM

3.4.3 Unless otherwise directed, the contractor shall forward all communications with the NJDOT to the Regional Maintenance Engineer. Where communications are directed to persons other than the Regional Maintenance Engineer, a clear copy shall be sent to the Regional Maintenance Engineer.

3.4.4 The contractor shall cooperate with the utility owners concerned and shall notify them not less than one (1) day in advance of beginning work, except immediately in advance during emergency operations, of the time proposed to perform any work that will endanger or affect their facilities.

3.5 WORK SCHEDULES

The contractor will be required to respond to two (2) schedules, as determined by the Resident Engineer, due to existing road conditions, which will be effective throughout the duration of the contract period. Specifically, each schedule is defined as follows:

3.5.1 Normal Work Schedule:

The Resident Engineer, or an authorized State representative will notify the primary contractor prior to the starting date for the tree trimming or tree removal operation. If contact with the contractor is not completed with the initial call, a message will be left with the answering party and the contractor will be required to return the call to the Resident Engineer or the duly authorized representative within twenty-four (24) hours following the initial call. At this time, the Resident Engineer will designate the work site and assignment to the primary contractor who must then commence work operations at the designated site no later than the third State business day thereafter. The primary contractor will be required to conduct its operations, unless otherwise approved by the Resident Engineer, on consecutive State business days, working full eight (8) hours shifts, until the designated work assignment is completed. If the primary contractor fails to comply with the above conditions, the Resident Engineer will authorize the use of the secondary contractor. If, after using the aforementioned procedures with the secondary contractor without successful contact, the contractors assigned to adjoining areas may be used. The primary contractor in the adjoining area must be notified first, following the procedure described in this paragraph.

3.5.2 Emergency Work Schedule

On occasion, due either to unnatural or natural causes, a hazardous condition may exist which imposes an extreme potential danger, in the opinion of the Resident Engineer, to life or property, therefore requiring immediate attention. In such cases the Resident Engineer or the duly authorized representative will notify the primary contractor of the emergency work required. If contact with the primary contractor is not completed with the initial call, a message will be left with the answering party and the primary contractor will be required to return the call to the engineer or his duly authorized representative. At this time, the Resident Engineer will define the designated work site and nature of the emergency work to the primary contractor who must then report to the work site to commence work operations within one and one-half (1 1/2) hours. If the primary contractor fails to comply with the conditions set forth herein or if the Resident Engineer is unable to make initial contact with the primary contractor for two (2) hours with repeat calls, the Resident Engineer will authorize the use of the secondary contractor. If, after using the aforementioned procedures with the secondary contractor without successful contact, the contractors assigned to adjoining areas may be used. The primary contractor in the adjoining area must be notified first, following the procedure described in this paragraph. The contractor utilized will be insured a minimum of four (4) hours payment for emergency work call-out.

3.5.3 Working Hours:

Working hours shall be determined by the Resident Engineer, or the duly authorized representative. The contractor shall report to the job site at the requested time, ready to begin the required work.

Normal working hours are from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, with a one-half (1/2) hour lunch break, Monday through Friday, exclusive of official State holidays. All other hours the contractor is required to work in addition to State holiday time will be considered as overtime work hours. The following State holidays will be observed:

NEW YEARS DAY	LABOR DAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DAY	COLUMBUS DAY
LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	ELECTION DAY
WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	VETERAN'S DAY
GOOD FRIDAY	THANKSGIVING DAY
MEMORIAL DAY	CHRISTMAS DAY
INDEPENDENCE DAY	

3.5.3.1 All work done during normal working hours whether normal or emergency will be considered straight time.

3.5.3.2 In all cases the contractor's time will begin when it reports at the work site fully equipped, as required by these specifications, to commence work. On a normal schedule the contractor is expected to be at the designated work site from 7:30 AM until 4:00 PM.

3.5.3.3 In inclement weather, it will be the decision of the Resident Engineer whether the required operations of the contractors would be hazardous to the general public. If the Resident Engineer determines conditions are such that it is hazardous and not expected to improve for some time, he shall suspend operations for that day. The contractor will be compensated as follows:

- A. If the contractor reports to the designated work site but does not commence work operations, it will be credited with a minimum of two (2) crew hours.
- B. If the contractor commences work operations but it is necessary to suspend work prior to 12:00 noon, it will be credited with a minimum of four (4) crew hours.
- C. If the contractor commences work operations but it is necessary to suspend work after 12:00 noon, it will be credited with the actual number of crew hours worked up to the time work is suspended.

3.6 SUSPENSION OF WORK:

The State reserves the rights to halt, stop, and/or suspend all work immediately if services provided are not performed to the satisfaction of the using agencies.

3.7 SUPERVISION

At least one experienced and responsible English speaking foreman shall be on-site at all times during performance of any work, with a crew large enough to carry out all contract services. The foreman is the contractor's employee who is fluent in the English language and who leads and/or

is responsible for the crew. The foreman must be accessible at all times on site, either in person or by cellular phone.

3.8 CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL

3.8.1 All personnel shall be physically able to do their assigned work and shall be free from communicable disease.

3.8.2 All personnel shall be capable employees thoroughly trained and qualified in the work assigned to them.

3.8.3 The contractor shall provide identification badges to each employee. The badge shall be displayed on the outside of the employee's clothing. The badge shall display the employee's full name and contractor's name.

3.8.4 The contractor shall remove from the work crew any of its personnel who are, in the opinion of the State, guilty of improper conduct or who are not qualified or needed to perform the work assigned to them. Examples of improper conduct include, but are not limited to: insobriety, sleeping on the job, insubordination, theft, tardiness or substandard performance. The Resident Engineer or an authorized State representative may direct that the contractor replace offending personnel at once.

3.8.5 The Resident Engineer may require the replacement and removal from the work crew any employee who is identified as a potential threat to the health, safety, security, general well being or operational mission of the facility and its population. There shall be no consumption of alcoholic beverages while on State property or at any time during the work day.

3.8.6 The contractor's personnel must observe all regulations in effect at the State agency, including security sign-in/sign-out procedures. While on State property, employees are subject to the control of the State. Under no circumstances will the contractor or its personnel represent themselves as employees of the State.

3.8.7 All contractor's employees shall be subject to such security clearance as required by the State Contract Manager. The contractor shall be responsible for insuring that employees have legal immigration status to be working in the United States.

4.0 BID PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

4.1 GENERAL

The bidder is advised to thoroughly read and follow all instructions contained in this RFP, including the instructions on the RFP's signatory page, in preparing and submitting its bid proposal.

Note: Bid proposals shall not contain URLs (Uniform Resource Locators, i.e., the global address of documents and other resources on the world wide web) or web addresses. Inasmuch as the web contains dynamically changing content, inclusion of a URL or web address in a bid response is indicative of potentially changing information. Inclusion of a URL or web address in a bid response implies that the bid's content changes as the referenced web pages change.

4.2 BID PROPOSAL DELIVERY AND IDENTIFICATION

In order to be considered, a bid proposal must arrive at the Purchase Bureau in accordance with the instructions on the RFP signatory page

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>. Bidders are cautioned to allow adequate delivery time to ensure timely delivery of bid proposals. **State regulation mandates that late bid proposals are ineligible for consideration. THE EXTERIOR OF ALL BID PROPOSAL PACKAGES ARE TO BE LABELED WITH THE BID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND THE FINAL BID OPENING DATE OR RISK NOT BEING RECEIVED IN TIME.**

4.3 NUMBER OF BID PROPOSAL COPIES

The bidder must submit **one (1) complete ORIGINAL bid proposal**, clearly marked as the "ORIGINAL" bid proposal. The bidder should submit **two (2) full, complete and exact copies** of the original. The copies requested are necessary in the evaluation of the bid proposal. A bidder failing to provide the requested number of copies will be charged the cost incurred by the State in producing the requested number of copies. It is suggested that the bidder make and retain a copy of its bid proposal.

4.4 BID PROPOSAL CONTENT

4.4.1 FORMS THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH BID PROPOSAL

4.4.1.1 SIGNATORY PAGE

The bidder shall complete and submit the Signatory page provided on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>. The Signatory page shall be signed by an authorized representative of the bidder. If the bidder is a limited partnership, the Signatory page must be signed by a general partner. If the bidder is a joint venture, the Signatory page must be signed by a principal of each party to the joint venture. Failure to comply will result in rejection of the bid proposal.

4.4.1.2 OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM

In the event the bidder is a corporation, partnership or sole proprietorship, the bidder must complete the attached Ownership Disclosure Form. A current completed Ownership Disclosure Form must be received prior to or accompany the bid proposal. Failure to do so will preclude the award of a contract.

The Ownership Disclosure Form is located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

4.4.1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INVESTIGATIONS/ACTIONS INVOLVING BIDDER

The bidder shall provide a detailed description of any investigation, litigation, including administrative complaints or other administrative proceedings, involving any public sector clients during the past five years including the nature and status of the investigation, and, for any litigation, the caption of the action, a brief description of the action, the date of inception, current status, and, if applicable, disposition. The bidder shall use the Disclosure of Investigations and Actions Involving Bidder form located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

4.4.1.5 NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUBCONTRACT FORM

All bidders shall complete the attached Notice of Intent to Subcontract Form <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml> to advise the State as to whether or not a subcontractor will be utilized to provide any goods or services under the contract. If this is a Small Business Subcontracting set-aside contract, the bidder must comply with the Procedures for Small Business Participation as Subcontractors set forth in <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

4.4.1.6 SUBCONTRACTOR UTILIZATION FORM

If the bidder intends to utilize a subcontractor, the Subcontractor Utilization Form <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml> must be completed and submitted with the bid proposal.

4.4.2 PROOFS OF REGISTRATION THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID PROPOSAL

4.4.2.1 BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE FROM THE DIVISION OF REVENUE

FAILURE TO SUBMIT A COPY OF THE BIDDER'S BUSINESS REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE (OR INTERIM REGISTRATION) FROM THE DIVISION OF REVENUE WITH THE BID PROPOSAL MAY BE CAUSE FOR REJECTION OF THE BID PROPOSAL.

The bidder may go to www.nj.gov/njbgs to register with the New Jersey Division of Revenue or to obtain a copy of an existing Business Registration Certificate.

Refer to Section 1.1. of the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

4.4.3 FORMS THAT MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE CONTRACT AWARD AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID PROPOSAL.

4.4.3.1 MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CERTIFICATION

The bidder is required to complete the attached MacBride Principles Certification evidencing compliance with the MacBride Principles. The requirement is a precondition to entering into a State contract. The MacBride Principles Certification Form is located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

4.4.3.2 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The bidder is required to submit a copy of Certificate of Employee Information or a copy of Federal Letter of Approval verifying that the bidder is operating under a federally approved or sanctioned Affirmative Action program. If the bidder has neither document of Affirmative Action evidence, then the bidder must complete the attached Affirmative Action Employee Information Report (AA-302). This requirement is a precondition to entering into a State contract. The Affirmative Action Employee Information Report (AA-302) is located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

4.4.3.3 SERVICES SOURCE DISCLOSURE FORM

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-13.2, the bidder is required to submit with its bid proposal a completed source disclosure form. <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>. Refer to section 7.1.2 of this RFP.

4.4.4 SUBMITTALS

4.4.4.1 BIDDER EXPERIENCE - DATA SHEETS

The bidder must provide all of the information requested in the Bidder's Data Packet located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

4.4.4.2 ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT AND EXPERIENCE

The bidder should include information relating to its organization, personnel, and experience, including, but not limited to, references, together with contact names and telephone numbers, evidencing the bidder's qualifications, and capabilities to perform the services required by this RFP.

4.4.4.3 LOCATION

The bidder should include the location of the bidder's office that will be responsible for managing the contract. The bidder should include the telephone number and name of the individual to contact.

4.4.4.4 ORGANIZATION CHART (CONTRACT SPECIFIC)

The bidder should include a contract organization chart, with names showing management, supervisory and other key personnel (including sub-vendor's management, supervisory or other key personnel) to be assigned to the contract. The chart should include the labor category and title of each such individual.

4.4.5 FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE BIDDER

In order to provide the State with the ability to judge the bidder's financial capacity and capabilities to undertake and successfully complete the contract, the bidder should submit two years of certified financial statements that include a balance sheet, income statement and statement of cash flow, and all applicable notes for the most recent calendar year or the bidder's most recent fiscal year. If certified financial statements are not available, the bidder should provide either a reviewed or compiled statement from an independent accountant setting forth the same information required for the certified financial statements, together with a certification from the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, that the financial statements and other information included in the statements fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the bidder as of, and for, the periods presented in the statements. In addition, the bidder should submit a bank reference.

If the information is not supplied with the bid proposal, the State may still require the bidder to submit it. If the bidder fails to comply with the request within seven (7) business days, the State may deem the proposal non-responsive.

The bidder may designate specific financial information as not subject to disclosure when the bidder has a good faith legal/factual basis for such assertion. The bidder may submit specific

financial documents in a separate, sealed package clearly marked “Confidential-Financial Information” along with its Bid Proposal.

The State reserves the right to make the determination whether to accept the bidder’s assertion of confidentiality and will advise the bidder accordingly.

4.4.6 PRICING

The bidder must submit its pricing using the format set forth in the State supplied price sheet(s) attached to this RFP. Failure to submit all information required will result in the bid being considered non-responsive. Each bidder is required to hold its prices firm through issuance of contract.

4.4.7 METHOD OF BIDDING

The bidder may bid for one or more counties in order to be considered for award. However, for each county chosen, the bidder must submit prices for both straight time and overtime rates for Item “A” (tree trimming and removal) and Item “B” (stump removal) in order to be considered for award for a total of four line items per county. Failure to submit prices for either straight time or overtime rate for Item “A” or Item “B” will result in the bid proposal being rejected for that county.

For example:

Line #	County	Description	Unit	Price
00001	Atlantic	Item A - Tree trimming and removal	Straight time rate	\$100/hour
00002	Atlantic	Item B - Stump removal	Straight time rate	\$50/hour
00003	Atlantic	Item A – Tree trimming and removal	Overtime Rate	\$150/hour
00004	Atlantic	Item B – Stump removal	Overtime Rate	\$100/hour

The contractor may be required to perform tree trimming and pruning services (including removal) in one or all counties awarded simultaneously.

4.4.8 SUBCONTRACTOR(S)

A. **All bidders** must complete the **Notice of Intent to Subcontract Form** whether or not they intend to utilize subcontractors in connection with the work set forth in this RFP. If the bidder intends to utilize subcontractor(s), then the **Subcontractor Utilization Plan** must also be submitted with the bid.

B. Should the bidder propose to utilize a subcontractor(s) to fulfill any of its obligations, the bidder shall be responsible for the subcontractor’s(s): (a) performance; (b) compliance with all of the terms and conditions of the contract; and (c) compliance with the requirements of all applicable laws.

C. The bidder must provide a detailed description of services to be provided by each subcontractor, referencing the applicable Section or Subsection of this RFP.

D. The bidder should provide detailed resumes for each subcontractor’s management, supervisory and other key personnel that demonstrate knowledge, ability and experience relevant to that part of the work which the subcontractor is designated to perform.

E. The bidder should provide documented experience to demonstrate that each subcontractor has successfully performed work on contracts of a similar size and scope to the work that the subcontractor is designated to perform in the bidder’s proposal.

F. In addition, primary contractors must provide, on a monthly and cumulative basis, a breakdown in accordance with the budget submitted, of all monies paid to any subcontractor registered as a small business with the New Jersey Commerce, Economic Growth and Tourism Commission. This breakdown shall be sent to the Purchase Bureau Business Unit, Set-Aside Coordinator.

5.0 SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1 PRECEDENCE OF SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall consist of this RFP, addendum to this RFP, the contractor's bid proposal and the Division's Notice of Award.

Unless specifically stated within this RFP, the Special Contractual Terms and Conditions of the RFP take precedence over the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including the Special Contractual Terms and the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07, and any Addendum to this RFP, the Addendum shall govern.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including any Addendum to this RFP, and the bidder's bid proposal, the RFP and/or the Addendum shall govern.

5.2 CONTRACT TERM AND EXTENSION OPTION

The term of the contract shall be for a period of **two (2) years**. The anticipated "Contract Effective Date" is provided on the signatory page of this RFP: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>. If delays in the procurement process result in a change to the anticipated Contract Effective Date, the bidder agrees to accept a contract for the full term of the contract. The contract may be extended for all or part of **two (2) one-year periods**, by the mutual written consent of the contractor and the Director.

5.3 CONTRACT TRANSITION

In the event that a new contract has not been awarded prior to the contract expiration date, as may be extended herein, it shall be incumbent upon the contractor to continue the contract under the same terms and conditions until a new contract can be completely operational. At no time shall this transition period extend more than **ninety (90)** days beyond the expiration date of the contract.

5.4 CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Any changes or modifications to the terms of the contract shall be valid only when they have been reduced to writing and signed by the contractor and the Director.

5.5 CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The contractor shall have sole responsibility for the complete effort specified in the contract. Payment will be made only to the contractor. The contractor shall have sole responsibility for all payments due any subcontractor.

The contractor is responsible for the professional quality, technical accuracy and timely completion and submission of all deliverables, services or commodities required to be provided under the contract. The contractor shall, without additional compensation, correct or revise any errors, omissions, or other deficiencies in its deliverables and other services. The approval of deliverables furnished under this contract shall not in any way relieve the contractor of responsibility for the technical adequacy of its work. The review, approval, acceptance or payment for any of the services shall not be construed as a waiver of any rights that the State may have arising out of the contractor's performance of this contract.

5.6 SUBSTITUTION OF STAFF

If it becomes necessary for the contractor to substitute any management, supervisory or key personnel, the contractor will identify the substitute personnel and the work to be performed.

The contractor must provide detailed justification documenting the necessity for the substitution. Resumes must be submitted evidencing that the individual(s) proposed as substitution(s) have qualifications and experience equal to or better than the individual(s) originally proposed or currently assigned.

The contractor shall forward a request to substitute staff to the State Contract Manager for consideration and approval. No substitute personnel are authorized to begin work until the contractor has received written approval to proceed from the State Contract Manager.

5.7 SUBSTITUTION OR ADDITION OF SUBCONTRACTOR(S)

This Subsection serves to supplement but not to supersede Section 3.11 of the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage.

If it becomes necessary for the contractor to substitute a subcontractor, add a subcontractor or substitute its own staff for a subcontractor, the contractor will identify the proposed new subcontractor or staff member(s) and the work to be performed. The contractor must provide detailed justification documenting the necessity for the substitution or addition.

The contractor must provide detailed resumes of its proposed replacement staff or of the proposed subcontractor's management, supervisory and other key personnel that demonstrate knowledge, ability and experience relevant to that part of the work which the subcontractor is to undertake.

The qualifications and experience of the replacement(s) must equal or exceed those of similar personnel proposed by the contractor in its bid proposal.

The contractor shall forward a written request to substitute or add a subcontractor or to substitute its own staff for a subcontractor to the State Contract Manager for consideration. If the State Contract Manager approves the request, the State Contract Manager will forward the request to the Director for final approval.

No substituted or additional subcontractors are authorized to begin work until the contractor has received written approval from the Director.

5.8 OWNERSHIP OF MATERIAL

All data, technical information, materials gathered, originated, developed, prepared, used or obtained in the performance of the contract, including, but not limited to, all reports, surveys, plans, charts, literature, brochures, mailings, recordings (video and/or audio), pictures, drawings, analyses, graphic representations, software computer programs and accompanying documentation and print-outs, notes and memoranda, written procedures and documents, regardless of the state of completion, which are prepared for or are a result of the services required under this contract shall be and remain the property of the State of New Jersey and shall be delivered to the State of New Jersey upon 30 days notice by the State. With respect to software computer programs and/or source codes developed for the State, the work shall be considered "work for hire", i.e., the State, not the contractor or subcontractor, shall have full and complete ownership of all software computer programs and/or source codes developed. To the extent that any of such materials may not, by operation of the law, be a work made for hire in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, contractor or subcontractor hereby assigns to the State all right, title and interest in and to any such material, and the State shall have the right to obtain and hold in its own name and copyrights, registrations and any other proprietary rights that may be available.

Should the bidder anticipate bringing pre-existing intellectual property into the project, the intellectual property must be identified in the bid proposal. Otherwise, the language in the first paragraph of this section prevails. If the bidder identifies such intellectual property ("Background IP") in its bid proposal, then the Background IP owned by the bidder on the date of the contract, as well as any modifications or adaptations thereto, remain the property of the bidder. Upon contract award, the bidder or contractor shall grant the State a non-exclusive, perpetual royalty free license to use any of the bidder/contractor's Background IP delivered to the State for the purposes contemplated by the Contract.

5.9 DATA CONFIDENTIALITY

All financial, statistical, personnel and/or technical data supplied by the State to the contractor are confidential. The contractor is required to use reasonable care to protect the confidentiality of such data. Any use, sale or offering of this data in any form by the contractor, or any individual or entity in the contractor's charge or employ, will be considered a violation of this contract and may result in contract termination and the contractor's suspension or debarment from State contracting. In addition, such conduct may be reported to the State Attorney General for possible criminal prosecution.

5.10 NEWS RELEASES

The contractor is not permitted to issue news releases pertaining to any aspect of the services being provided under this contract without the prior written consent of the Director.

5.11 ADVERTISING

The contractor shall not use the State's name, logos, images, or any data or results arising from this contract as a part of any commercial advertising without first obtaining the prior written consent of the Director.

5.12 LICENSES AND PERMITS

The contractor shall obtain and maintain in full force and effect all required licenses, permits, and authorizations necessary to perform this contract. The contractor shall supply the State Contract Manager with evidence of all such licenses, permits and authorizations. This evidence shall be submitted subsequent to the contract award. All costs associated with any such licenses, permits and authorizations must be considered by the bidder in its bid proposal.

5.13 CLAIMS AND REMEDIES

5.13.1 CLAIMS

All claims asserted against the State by the contractor shall be subject to the New Jersey Tort Claims Act, N.J.S.A. 59:1-1, et seq., and/or the New Jersey Contractual Liability Act, N.J.S.A. 59:13-1, et seq.

5.13.2 REMEDIES

Nothing in the contract shall be construed to be a waiver by the State of any warranty, expressed or implied, of any remedy at law or equity, except as specifically and expressly stated in a writing executed by the Director.

5.13.3 REMEDIES FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH MATERIAL CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS

In the event that the contractor fails to comply with any material contract requirements, the Director may take steps to terminate the contract in accordance with the State administrative code and/or authorize the delivery of contract items by any available means, with the difference between the price paid and the defaulting contractor's price either being deducted from any monies due the defaulting contractor or being an obligation owed the State by the defaulting contractor.

5.14 LATE DELIVERY

The contractor must immediately advise the State Contract Manager of any circumstance or event that could result in late completion of any task or subtask called for to be completed on a date certain. Notification must also be provided to the Director at the address below:

The State of New Jersey
Director, Division of Purchase and Property
Purchase Bureau
PO Box 230
33 West State St.
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0230

5.15 RETAINAGE

Not applicable to his procurement.

5.16 STATE'S OPTION TO REDUCE SCOPE OF WORK

The State has the option, in its sole discretion, to reduce the scope of work for any task or subtask called for under this contract. In such an event, the Director shall provide advance written notice to the contractor.

Upon receipt of such written notice, the contractor will submit, within five (5) working days to the Director and the State Contract Manager, an itemization of the work effort already completed by

task or subtask. The contractor shall be compensated for such work effort according to the applicable portions of its price schedule.

5.17 SUSPENSION OF WORK

The State Contract Manager may, for valid reason, issue a stop order directing the contractor to suspend work under the contract for a specific time. The contractor shall be paid until the effective date of the stop order. The contractor shall resume work upon the date specified in the stop order, or upon such other date as the State Contract Manager may thereafter direct in writing. The period of suspension shall be deemed added to the contractor's approved schedule of performance. The Director and the contractor shall negotiate an equitable adjustment, if any, to the contract price.

5.18 CHANGE IN LAW

Whenever an unforeseen change in applicable law or regulation affects the services that are the subject of this contract, the contractor shall advise the State Contract Manager and the Director in writing and include in such written transmittal any estimated increase or decrease in the cost of its performance of the services as a result of such change in law or regulation. The Director and the contractor shall negotiate an equitable adjustment, if any, to the contract price.

5.19 CONTRACT PRICE INCREASE (PREVAILING WAGE)

If the Prevailing Wage Act (N.J.S.A. 34:11-56 et seq.) is applicable to the contract, the contractor may apply to the Director, on the anniversary of the effective date of the contract, for a contract price increase. The contract price increase will be available only for an increase in the prevailing wages of trades and occupations covered under this contract during the prior year. The contractor must substantiate with documentation the need for the increase and submit it to the Director for review and determination of the amount, if any, of the requested increase, which shall be available for the upcoming contract year. No retroactive increases will be approved by the Director.

5.20 PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT-ADDITIONAL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REQUIREMENT

N.J.S.A. 10:5-33 requires that:

"During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

a) The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the contracting officer setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause;

b) The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive

consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex;

c) The contractor or subcontractor where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment."

5.21 ADDITIONAL WORK AND/OR SPECIAL PROJECTS

The contractor shall not begin performing any additional work or special projects without first obtaining written approval from both the State Contract Manager and the Director.

In the event of additional work and/or special projects, the contractor must present a written proposal to perform the additional work to the State Contract Manager. The proposal should provide justification for the necessity of the additional work. The relationship between the additional work and the base contract work must be clearly established by the contractor in its proposal.

The contractor's written proposal must provide a detailed description of the work to be performed broken down by task and subtask. The proposal should also contain details on the level of effort, including hours, labor categories, etc., necessary to complete the additional work.

The written proposal must detail the cost necessary to complete the additional work in a manner consistent with the contract. The written price schedule must be based upon the hourly rates, unit costs or other cost elements submitted by the contractor in the contractor's original bid proposal submitted in response to this RFP. Whenever possible, the price schedule should be a firm, fixed cost to perform the required work. The firm fixed price should specifically reference and be tied directly to costs submitted by the contractor in its original bid proposal. A payment schedule, tied to successful completion of tasks and subtasks, must be included.

Upon receipt and approval of the contractor's written proposal, the State Contract Manager shall forward same to the Director for the Director's written approval. Complete documentation from the Using Agency, confirming the need for the additional work, must be submitted. Documentation forwarded by the State Contract Manager to the Director must include all other required State approvals, such as those that may be required from the State of New Jersey's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Information and Technology (OIT).

No additional work and/or special project may commence without the Director's written approval. In the event the contractor proceeds with additional work and/or special projects without the Director's written approval, it shall be at the contractor's sole risk. The State shall be under no obligation to pay for work performed without the Director's written approval.

5.22 FORM OF COMPENSATION AND PAYMENT

This Section supplements Section 4.5 of the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07, located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>. The contractor must submit official State invoice forms to the Using Agency with supporting documentation evidencing that work for which payment is sought has been satisfactorily completed. Invoices must reference the tasks or subtasks detailed in the Scope of Work section of the RFP and must be in strict accordance with the firm, fixed prices submitted for each task or subtask on the RFP pricing

sheets. When applicable, invoices should reference the appropriate RFP price sheet line number from the contractor's bid proposal. All invoices must be approved by the State Contract Manager before payment will be authorized.

In addition, primary contractors must provide, on a monthly and cumulative basis, a breakdown in accordance with the budget submitted, of all monies paid to any small business subcontractor(s). This breakdown shall be sent to the Purchase Bureau Business Unit, Set-Aside Coordinator.

Invoices must also be submitted for any special projects, additional work or other items properly authorized and satisfactorily completed under the contract. Invoices shall be submitted according to the payment schedule agreed upon when the work was authorized and approved. Payment can only be made for work when it has received all required written approvals and has been satisfactorily completed.

5.22.1 PAYMENT TO CONTRACTOR - OPTIONAL METHOD

The State of New Jersey now offers State contractors the opportunity to be paid through the MasterCard procurement card (p-card). A contractor's acceptance and a State agency's use of the p-card, however, is optional.

P-card transactions do not require the submission of either a contractor invoice or a State payment voucher. Purchasing transactions using the p-card will usually result in payment to a contractor in three days.

A contractor should take note that there will be a transaction-processing fee for each p-card transaction. To participate, a contractor must be capable of accepting the MasterCard. Additional information can be obtained from banks or merchant service companies.

5.23 MODIFICATIONS AND CHANGES TO THE NJ STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS VERSION 07/27/07

NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 are located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage
<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

5.24 CONTRACT ACTIVITY REPORT

In conjunction with the standard record keeping requirements of this contract, as required by in paragraph 3.19 of the NJ Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07, located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage
<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>, contractor(s) must provide, on a calendar quarter basis, to the Purchase Bureau buyer assigned, a record of all purchases made under their contract award resulting for this Request for Proposal. This includes purchases made by all using agencies including the State and political sub-divisions thereof. This reporting requirement includes sales to State using agencies and, if permitted under the terms of the contract, sales to counties, municipalities, school districts, volunteer fire departments, first aid squads and rescue squads, and independent institutions of higher education. The requirement also includes sales to State and County Colleges and Quasi-State Agencies. Quasi-State Agencies include any agency, commission, board, authority or other such governmental entity which is established and is allocated to a State department or any bi-state governmental entity of which the State of New Jersey is a member.

This information must be provided in a tabular format such that an analysis can be made to determine the following:

- Contractor's total sales volume to each purchaser under the contract, subtotaled by product, including, if applicable, catalog number and description, price list with appropriate page reference and/or contract discount applied.
- Total dollars paid to subcontractors.

Submission of purchase orders, confirmations, and/or invoices do not fulfill this contract requirement for information.

Contractors are strongly encouraged to submit the required information in electronic spreadsheet format. The Purchase Bureau uses Microsoft Excel.

Failure to report this mandated information will be a factor in future award decisions.

6.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION

6.1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to evaluate all bid proposals that meet the requirements of this RFP. The criteria are not necessarily listed in order of importance:

6.1.1 Price

6.1.2 Experience of the bidder

6.1.3 The bidder's past performance under similar contracts, including if applicable, the Division's vendor performance database.

For evaluation purposes, a model will be developed in which bidders will be price ranked according to the lowest total cost of several predetermined bid price lines selected from the Price Sheet located on the located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage, <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>

The MODEL will be developed prior to the receipt of bid proposals and be made available to bidders at the public bid opening.

6.2 ORAL PRESENTATION AND/OR CLARIFICATION OF BID PROPOSAL

After the submission of bid proposals, unless requested by the State as noted below, vendor contact with the State is still not permitted.

The bidder may be required to give an oral presentation to the State concerning its bid proposal. The State may also require the bidder to submit written responses to questions regarding its bid proposal.

The purpose of such communication with the bidder, either through an oral presentation or a letter of clarification, is to provide an opportunity for the bidder to clarify or elaborate on its bid proposal. Original bid proposals submitted, however, cannot be supplemented, changed, or corrected in any way. No comments regarding other bid proposals are permitted. Bidders may not attend presentations made by their competitors.

It is within the State's discretion whether to require the bidder to give an oral presentation or require the bidder to submit written responses to questions regarding its bid proposal. Action by the State in this regard should not be construed to imply acceptance or rejection of a bid proposal.

The Purchase Bureau buyer will be the sole point of contact regarding any request for an oral presentation or clarification.

6.3 BID DISCREPANCIES

In evaluating bids:

- Discrepancies between words and figures will be resolved in favor of words.
- Discrepancies between unit prices and totals of unit prices will be resolved in favor of unit prices.
- Discrepancies in the multiplication of units of work and unit prices will be resolved in favor of the unit prices.
- Discrepancies between the indicated total of multiplied unit prices and units of work and the actual total will be resolved in favor of the actual total.
- Discrepancies between the indicated sum of any column of figures and the correct sum thereof will be resolved in favor of the corrected sum of the column of figures.

7.0 CONTRACT AWARD

7.1 DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BEFORE CONTRACT AWARD

7.1.1 REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13-25 (FORMERLY EXECUTIVE ORDER 134)

In order to safeguard the integrity of State government procurement by imposing restrictions to insulate the negotiation and award of State contracts from political contributions that pose the risk of improper influence, purchase of access, or the appearance thereof, the Legislature enacted N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 – 25 on March 22, 2005 (the "Legislation"), retroactive to October 15, 2004, superseding the terms of Executive Order 134. Pursuant to the requirements of the Legislation, the terms and conditions set forth in this section are material terms of any contract resulting from this RFP:

7.1.1.1 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this section, the following shall be defined as follows:

a) Contribution – means a contribution reportable as a recipient under "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act." P.L. 1973, c. 83 (C.19:44A-1 et seq.), and implementing regulations set forth at N.J.A.C. 19:25-7 and N.J.A.C. 19:25-10.1 et seq. Through December 31, 2004, contributions in excess of \$400 during a reporting period were deemed "reportable" under these laws. As of January 1, 2005, that threshold was reduced to contributions in excess of \$300.

b) Business Entity – means any natural or legal person, business corporation, professional services corporation, Limited Liability Company, partnership, limited partnership, business trust, association or any other legal commercial entity organized under the laws of New Jersey or any other state or foreign jurisdiction. The definition of a business entity includes (i) all principals who own or control more than 10 percent of the profits or assets of a business entity or 10 percent of the stock in the case of a business entity that is a corporation for profit, as appropriate; (ii) any subsidiaries directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity; (iii) any political organization organized under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code that is directly or indirectly controlled by the business entity, other than a candidate committee, election fund, or political party committee; and (iv) if a business entity is a natural person, that person's spouse or child, residing in the same household.

7.1.1.2 BREACH OF TERMS OF THE LEGISLATION

It shall be a breach of the terms of the contract for the Business Entity to (i)make or solicit a contribution in violation of the Legislation, (ii)knowingly conceal or misrepresent a contribution given or received; (iii)make or solicit contributions through intermediaries for the purpose of concealing or misrepresenting the source of the contribution; (iv)make or solicit any contribution on the condition or with the agreement that it will be contributed to a campaign committee or any candidate of holder of the public office of Governor, or to any State or county party committee; (v)engage or employ a lobbyist or consultant with the intent or understanding that such lobbyist or consultant would make or solicit any contribution, which if made or solicited by the business entity itself, would subject that entity to the restrictions of the Legislation; (vi)fund contributions made by third parties, including consultants, attorneys, family members, and employees; (vii)engage in any exchange of contributions to circumvent the intent of the Legislation; or (viii)directly or indirectly through or by any other person or means, do any act which would subject that entity to the restrictions of the Legislation.

7.1.1.3 CERTIFICATION AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

a) The State shall not enter into a contract to procure from any Business Entity services or any material, supplies or equipment, or to acquire, sell or lease any land or building, where the value of the transaction exceeds \$17,500, if that Business Entity has solicited or made any contribution of money, or pledge of contribution, including in-kind contributions to a candidate committee and/or election fund of any candidate for or holder of the public office of Governor, or to any State or county political party committee during certain specified time periods

b) Prior to awarding any contract or agreement to any Business Entity, the Business Entity proposed as the intended awardee of the contract shall submit the Certification and Disclosure form, certifying that no contributions prohibited by the Legislation have been made by the Business Entity and reporting all contributions the Business Entity made during the preceding four years to any political organization organized under 26 U.S.C.527 of the Internal Revenue Code that also meets the definition of a “continuing political committee” within the mean of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3(n) and N.J.A.C. 19:25-1.7. The required form and instructions, available for review on the Purchase Bureau website at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms.htm#eo134>, shall be provided to the intended awardee for completion and submission to the Purchase Bureau with the Notice of Intent to Award. Upon receipt of a Notice of Intent to Award a Contract, the intended awardee shall submit to the Division, in care of the Purchase Bureau Buyer, the Certification and Disclosure(s) within five (5) business days of the State’s request. Failure to submit the required forms will preclude award of a contract under this RFP, as well as future contract opportunities.

c) Further, the Contractor is required, on a continuing basis, to report any contributions it makes during the term of the contract, and any extension(s) thereof, at the time any such contribution is made. The required form and instructions, available for review on the Purchase Bureau website at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms.htm#eo134>, shall be provided to the intended awardee with the Notice of Intent to Award.

7.1.1.4 STATE TREASURER REVIEW

The State Treasurer or his designee shall review the Disclosures submitted pursuant to this section, as well as any other pertinent information concerning the contributions or reports thereof by the intended awardee, prior to award, or during the term of the contract, by the contractor. If the State Treasurer determines that any contribution or action by the contractor constitutes a breach of contract that poses a conflict of interest in the awarding of the contract under this solicitation, the State Treasurer shall disqualify the Business Entity from award of such contract.

7.1.1.5 ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT OF P.L. 2005, C. 271

Contractor is advised of its responsibility to file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), pursuant to P.L. 2005, c. 271, section 3 if the contractor receives contracts in excess of \$50,000 from a public entity in a calendar year. It is the contractor's responsibility to determine if filing is necessary. Failure to so file can result in the imposition of financial penalties by ELEC. Additional information about this requirement is available from ELEC at 888-313-3532 or at www.elec.state.nj.us.

7.1.2 SOURCE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

7.1.2.1 REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.S.A. 52:34-13.2

Under the referenced statute, effective August 3, 2005, all contracts primarily for services awarded by the Director shall be performed within the United States, except when the Director certifies in writing a finding that a required service cannot be provided by a contractor or subcontractor within the United States and the certification is approved by the State Treasurer.

7.1.2.2 SOURCE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the statutory requirements, the intended awardee of a contract primarily for services with the State of New Jersey must disclose the location by country where services under the contract, including subcontracted services, will be performed. The Source Disclosure Certification form is located on the Advertised Solicitation, Current Bid Opportunities webpage <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/08x39851.shtml>.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT SOURCING INFORMATION WHEN REQUESTED BY THE STATE SHALL PRECLUDE AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO THE BIDDER.

If any of the services cannot be performed within the United States, the bidder shall state with specificity the reasons why the services cannot be so performed. The Director shall determine whether sufficient justification has been provided by the bidder to form the basis of his certification that the services cannot be performed in the United States and whether to seek the approval of the Treasurer.

7.1.2.3 BREACH OF CONTRACT OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 129

A SHIFT TO PROVISION OF SERVICES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES DURING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT SHALL BE DEEMED A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

If, during the term of the contract, the contractor or subcontractor, who had on contract award declared that services would be performed in the United States, proceeds to shift the performance of any of the services outside the United States, the contractor shall be deemed to be in breach of its contract, which contract shall be subject to termination for cause pursuant to Section 3.5b.1 of the Standard Terms and Conditions version 07/27/07 of the RFP, unless previously approved by the Director and the Treasurer.

7.2 FINAL CONTRACT AWARD

Contract award[s] shall be made with reasonable promptness by written notice to that responsible bidder(s), whose bid proposal(s), conforming to this RFP, is(are) most advantageous to the State,

price, and other factors considered. Any or all bid proposals may be rejected when the State Treasurer or the Director determines that it is in the public interest to do so.

7.3 INSURANCE CERTIFICATES

The contractor shall provide the State with current certificates of insurance for all coverages required by the terms of this contract, naming the State as an Additional Insured.

7.4 PERFORMANCE BOND

Not applicable to this procurement.

8.0 CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

8.1 CONTRACT MANAGER

The State Contract Manager is the State employee responsible for the overall management and administration of the contract.

The State Contract Manager for this project will be identified at the time of execution of contract. At that time, the contractor will be provided with the State Contract Manager's name, department, division, agency, address, telephone number, fax phone number, and email address.

8.1.1 STATE CONTRACT MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

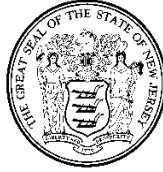
For an agency contract where only one State office uses the contract, the State Contract Manager will be responsible for engaging the contractor, assuring that Purchase Orders are issued to the contractor, directing the contractor to perform the work of the contract, approving the deliverables and approving payment vouchers. The State Contract Manager is the person that the contractor will contact **after the contract is executed** for answers to any questions and concerns about any aspect of the contract. The State Contract Manager is responsible for coordinating the use and resolving minor disputes between the contractor and any component part of the State Contract Manager's Department.

If the contract has multiple users, then the State Contract Manager shall be the central coordinator of the use of the contract for all Using Agencies, while other State employees engage and pay the contractor. All persons and agencies that use the contract must notify and coordinate the use of the contract with the State Contract Manager.

8.1.2 COORDINATION WITH THE STATE CONTRACT MANAGER

Any contract user that is unable to resolve disputes with a contractor shall refer those disputes to the State Contract Manager for resolution. Any questions related to performance of the work of the contract by contract users shall be directed to the State Contract Manager. The contractor may contact the State Contract Manager if the contractor can not resolve a dispute with contract users.

February 5, 2008



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
DIVISION OF PURCHASE AND PROPERTY
PURCHASE BUREAU
P.O. BOX 230
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0230

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

R. DAVID ROUSSEAU
Acting State Treasurer

To: All Interested Bidders

RE: RFP # 08-X-39851
TREE TRIMMING & PRUNING SERVICES (INCLUDING REMOVAL)
DOT and Other Agencies

Bid Due Date: March 5, 2008 (2:00 p.m.)

ADDENDUM #1

The following constitutes Addendum #1 to the above referenced solicitation. This addendum is divided into the following parts:

Part 1: Answers to questions.

Part 2: Additions, deletions, clarifications and modifications to the RFP

It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that all changes are incorporated into the original RFP.

All other instructions, terms and conditions of the RFP shall remain the same.

**PART 1
TREE TRIMMING & PRUNING SERVICES
(INCLUDING REMOVAL) DOT & OTHER AGENCIES
Bid Number 08-X-39851**

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Note: Some of the questions have been paraphrased in the interest of readability and clarity. Each question is referenced by the appropriate RFP page number(s) and section where applicable.

#	Page #	RFP Section Reference	Question	Answer
1	11	3.3.1	Contract does not specify price quote for tree removal when a crane may be the only option. Please advise regarding this matter.	The Using Agency does not require the use of a crane for tree trimming and removal in this RFP. If a special project occurs where a crane may be the only option for tree trimming and removal, this project shall be procured using Delegated Purchasing Authority (DPA) procedures, it shall not be provided under the terms of this contract.
2			How would you get knowledge of the prevailing wage for a state contract?	Prevailing wage rates can be obtained by contacting the Department of Labor and Workforce Development at the following website http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/wagehour/wagerate/wage_rates.html .
3			Is the request for bids concern 40 hour work weeks or work when requested.	Tree trimming and removal services shall be scheduled on an as needed basis; bids shall not be based on a standard 40 hour work week.
4			Is the unit price per man or per crew? Example, unit price of \$70 for the whole crew for four or is it \$280 because the contract requires a four man crew.	The unit price is the hourly all-inclusive rate that shall include all equipment, crew, maintenance, etc. as specified in the RFP.

**PART 2
TREE TRIMMING & PRUNING SERVICES
(INCLUDING REMOVAL) DOT & OTHER AGENCIES
Bid Number 08-X-39851**

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CLARIFICATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE RFP

#	Page #	RFP Section Reference	Additions, Deletions, Clarifications and Modifications
			NONE