



Contra Costa County
Public Works
Department

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June 3, 2026

UPS Overnight: 1Z9703141394795786

Email: ecologicalsol@gmail.com

Ecological Solutions CA
Attn: Jason M. Mills, M.S.
585 Mitchell Way
Sonoma, CA 95476

Re: Your Firm's Appeal Letter Dated 6/1/2026
2026 On-Call Habitat Restoration Services Contract
Project No.: 7520-6B8285

Dear Mr. Mills:

This responds to your June 1, 2026 appeal letter, which was sent in response to the May 27, 2026 letter from our department. Our letter notified your firm of our determination that your bid was non-responsive and incomplete for failure to have the required arborist certification (International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist) and failure to complete and sign two pages of the bid form required by the project specifications and notified you of our intention to recommend that your bid be rejected and that on-call contracts for this project be awarded to three other bidders who complied fully with the project requirements.

In your letter, you appealed our determination (submitted a bid protest). Bid protests are provided for in Section 3-1.04 "Contract Award," which reads:

"Submit any bid protest in writing to the Contra Costa County Public Works Department at 255 Glacier Drive Martinez, CA 94553 to the attention of the Public Works Director before contract award."

As explained below, after carefully reviewing your letter and arguments, I have determined that your June 1, 2026 appeal letter is without merit, that our department's original determination was correct, and that your appeal (bid protest) must be denied.

In your firm's letter, you did not submit any evidence to show that your firm has the arborist certification required in the project specifications. That alone requires that your appeal (bid protest) be denied.

Instead of submitting evidence that your firm has the required arborist certification, your firm instead attempted to argue that your firm has other certifications that are similar

and that the County should accept those other certifications. That argument is contrary to the project specifications, which require that all bidders have the required license and certifications and that compliance with the project specifications is a condition of contract award:

"As a condition of bid responsiveness, the Bidder must possess the following licenses and qualifications at the time the contract is awarded:

- i. C-27 Landscape Contractor license
 - ii. CA Dept of Pesticide Regulation Certified Pesticide Applicator's license
 - iii. CA Dept of Pesticide Regulation Certified Pest Control Advisor
 - iv. International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist"
- (Notice to Bidders, page 1.)

"The award of the contract(s), if it be awarded, will be to the lowest responsible bidder(s) whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed herein."

Each bidder may be awarded only one on-call contract. The award of the first on-call contract, if it be awarded, will be to the lowest responsible bidder whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed in the call for bids and referenced materials. The award of the additional on-call contracts, if they be awarded, will be to the next lowest bidder responsible whose proposal complies with all the requirements prescribed in the call for bids and the referenced materials." (Section 3-1.04.)

Your firm's argument that you have extensive experience and other licenses and certifications does not address the above specification requirements applicable to all bidders. Having put this project out to bid with the above license and certification requirements, we are not at liberty to disregard our own specifications and consider experience and certifications beyond the specifications.

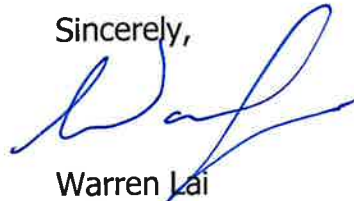
Based on the above, I have determined that, even if the two missing bid form pages could be cured as an irregularity, your firm has still not shown that you possess the arborist certification plainly required by the project specifications. Thus, your firm's appeal (bid protest) is without merit and must be denied.

Our department has thoroughly reviewed and evaluated the bids submitted and determined that on-call contracts should be awarded to three other bidders (Triangle Properties Inc. dba Triangle Land Restoration, Helix Environmental Planning Inc., and RECOIN Environmental Inc.), which have fully complied with all project requirements, including the required license and certifications. Accordingly, I plan to recommend that the contract be awarded to those bidders at the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 9, 2026, which begins at 9:00 a.m. If your firm still disagrees with the determination that

your bid was non-responsive and subject to rejection, you may appear and address the Board at that time.

Although I have denied your appeal (bid protest) on this project, the County appreciates your firm bidding on our projects and hopes you will continue to do so as other projects come up. If so, your firm should of course consider obtaining the International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist certification.

Sincerely,



Warren Lai
Public Works Director
Contra Costa County Public Works

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Cc: D. Schmidt, County Counsel
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