



**Sonoma
Water**

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TW: 21/22-054

DATE: March 17, 2022

TO: Grant Davis, General Manager

FROM: Brad Sherwood, Project Manager *BS*

**SUBJECT: LIST OF QUALIFIED CONSULTANTS FOR FEDERAL AND STATE
LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH PROGRAM SERVICES**

Sonoma County Water Agency is a California special district with responsibility for wholesale water supply, flood protection, wastewater treatment, and recycled water distribution. Sonoma County Water Agency also operates a hydroelectric plant and allows recreational use over some of its properties. In addition, Sonoma County Water Agency is actively involved in efforts to protect and restore endangered or threatened steelhead and salmon species in the Russian River watershed and in implementing a Biological Opinion from the National Marine Fisheries Service that requires extensive restoration and biological monitoring. A significant effort is underway to increase renewable power production, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide for climate change adaptation. Sonoma County Water Agency is governed by a Board of Directors that consists of members of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Sonoma County Water Agency is implementing Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations and is actively utilizing and supporting atmospheric river research for drought preparedness and water supply management purposes.

Every two years, Sonoma County Water Agency's Board of Directors approves a state and federal legislative platform. The platform serves as the strategic plan for legislative outreach efforts.

Legislative tracking, legislative development, and pursuit of funding to offset costs are essential for success in fulfilling Sonoma County Water Agency's responsibilities.

On February 17, 2022, Sonoma County Water Agency and its affiliated sanitation districts (collectively "Sonoma Water") issued a Request for Statements of Qualifications (RFQ) to the following seven firms:

- Pacific Policy Group, Sacramento, CA
- Conservation Strategy Group, Sacramento, CA
- Onate Group, Sacramento, CA
- Van Ness Feldman LLP, Washington, DC
- Natural Resource Results LLC, Washington, DC
- 9b Group, Washington, DC
- Thorn Run Partners, Washington, DC

The RFQ was also posted on the Sonoma County Water Agency and County of Sonoma Purchasing Department websites and the Association of California Water Agencies' ENews and website.

The six firms listed below submitted Statements of Qualifications (SOQs):

- 9b Group, Inc.
- Conservation Strategy Group, LLC
- Natural Resource Results, LLC
- Pacific Policy Group, LLC
- Thorn Run Partners, LLC
- Van Ness Feldman, LLP

The following criteria were used to evaluate each firm:

- Thoroughness of SOQ
- Professional qualifications and demonstrated ability to perform the work
- Exceptions to standard terms in the sample agreement
- Local Service Provider Preference

Based on the evaluations, the following respondents were selected for the list of qualified consultants:

Name of Firm	DIR Registered? Y/N
9b Group, Inc.	N
Conservation Strategy Group, LLC	N
Natural Resource Results, LLC	N
Pacific Policy Group, LLC	N
Thorn Run Partners, LLC	N
Van Ness Feldman, LLP	N

For projects requiring federal and state legislative outreach program services and related services, Sonoma Water will contact individual firms from the above list to determine availability and potential conflict of interest with other projects that the firm is undertaking, and to prepare a cost proposal to perform the work.

SOQs and evaluation forms have been sent to Central Records.

c: Julie Sykes