

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

## *RFQ FOR CERTIFIED ACCESS SPECIALIST (CASp) INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE ACCESSIBLE FRESNO SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVE*

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The goal of the RFQ was to solicit qualifications from firms to perform Certified Access Specialist (CASp) disabled access inspections and provide inspection reports of results to local businesses, as outlined in the Scope of Services. Proposers were advised that the City intended to award multiple non-exclusive contracts.

Desired attributes and minimum skills of staff included:

- Minimum of one (1) CASp in good standing who can conduct the scope of work
- Administrative and support tasks for the project may be conducted by staff members who are not CASps
- Five (5) years direct experience with providing CASp inspections (preferred)
- Experienced and trained in inspections and report writing
- Good communicators who have the knowledge and customer service skills oriented to answering business owner questions about the inspection report, CRASCA, ADA Title III requirements, and readily achievable barrier removal
- Possess strong understanding and knowledge of state and federal accessibility requirements
- Comprehensive knowledge and experience performing CASp inspections and reports for the following building types:
  - Establishment serving food or drink
  - Sales or rental establishment
  - Service establishment
- The capability to conduct a high volume of inspections with a short turn-around time

A notice inviting statements of qualifications was published on January 11, 2018. Eight proposals were received and opened on February 8, 2018. The eight (8) agencies that submitted proposals were: Apollo Construction Services, CEL Consulting, Christopher Preciado, Jensen Hughes, Lars Andersen & Associates, Robina Wright Architect & Associates, SZS Consulting Group, and The Taylor Group Architects. The Consultant Selection Committee (Committee) consisted of individuals from the following roles/departments/representation: CASp, ADA Coordinator, Building & Safety/Facilities Management, Finance, and an outside representative of the Small Business Community. Once the SOQ Review Process was completed, the Committee determined that all firms should be offered the opportunity to interview with the Selection Committee. The interviews were conducted on February 21 and February 22, 2018.

At the conclusion of the interview process the Committee identified Apollo Construction Services, Lars Andersen & Associates, SZS Engineering Access, Inc., and The Taylor



Group as the most qualified; however, Apollo Construction Services declined to engage in a contract with the City. These firms were selected based on their high level of professionalism, their successful past work, the ability to conduct a high volume of reports, and their ability to communicate effectively with the small business community. Each consultant represents different aspects of access with backgrounds in civil engineering and architecture, which allows the City flexibility to connect local businesses with the consultant that best meet their needs.

**Lars Andersen & Associates, Inc.** is a civil engineering, survey, and access compliance firm based in Fresno. Dan Zoldak, CASp #106, is the ADA expert and Vice President for Lars Andersen & Associates with over 19 years of experience in access compliance. The firm has the capacity to complete up to 20 inspections per week with a one week turn around. This firm has experience working directly with the business community, having consulted for the City of Clovis for a similar program. The firm has previously consulted with the City on accessibility compliance projects.

**SZS Engineering Access, Inc.** (formerly SZS Consulting Group) is an ADA Access Compliance firm based in Sacramento that includes three CASps. Principal Syroun Sanossian, CASp #69, has ICC certification as a plans reviewer/accessibility inspector and an extensive background of involvement in accessibility and compliance. Jing Le Liu, CASp #490, is a civil engineer and project manager with SZS since 2008. Sandra Miles, CASp #346, has been focused on disability access for her full career, with experience as a plan reviewer and building inspector. SZS CASp inspectors and field staff speak fluent Cantonese, Mandarin, Hmong, and Arabic. The firm has the capacity to conduct 10-20 inspections per month with a maximum of two week turn around. This firm has extensive experience with disability access and has worked successfully with the City FAX Department on accessibility planning.

**The Taylor Group Architects** is an architect firm based in Fresno and includes two CASps. Principal Russell Taylor, CASp #557, is a registered architect with over 32 years of experience. Philip Mettler, CASp #704, is a registered architect with over 18 years of experience in construction and architecture. The firm has the capacity to conduct up to 12 inspections per month with a maximum of two week turn around. The firm demonstrated effective communication skills and a significant understanding of the legal landscape facing businesses. This firm has worked successfully on an as-needed basis with the City Facilities Division.