



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL and QUALIFICATIONS (RFP and RFQ) FOR:
The Valley Center Fire Protection District Wildland Firefighting
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The Valley Center Fire Protection District is inviting responses from qualified companies that can provide a bid to the specifications of Valley Center Fire Protection District referencing Exhibit A.

The purpose of this Request for Proposal and Qualifications is for the Valley Center Fire Protection District to obtain proposals, qualifications and contract pricing from companies that have experience in and are capable of building and sizing Wildland Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment to the specifications and needs of the Valley Center Fire Protection District.

Time Schedules:

The following is the Valley Center Fire Protection District's tentative schedule for the selection of a qualified firm:

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|----|--|----------------|
| 1. | RFP/RFQ Mailed or Electronically Sent: | March 9, 2026 |
| 2. | Deadline for Garment walk through: | March 23, 2026 |
| 3. | Deadline for proposals and qualifications: | April 9, 2026 |
| 4. | Staff RFP/RFQ Response Review : | April 13, 2026 |
| 5. | Notification of Award of Contract: | April 16, 2026 |

Prior to 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2026 an original and three (3) Proposals with Professional Qualifications shall be received in a sealed envelope addressed to:

Walk-In Delivery or Courier Service
Valley Center Fire Protection District
Fire Chief Josef G. Napier
28234 Lilac Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

via U.S. Mail
Valley Center Fire Protection District
Attn: Fire Chief Josef G. Napier
28234 Lilac Road
Valley Center, CA 92082

Please clearly identify on the outside of the package: **RFP/RFQ: Valley Center Fire Protection District Wildland PPE RFP/RFQ**

Please call The Valley Center Fire Protection District Monday through Thursday 8am to 5pm with any questions pertaining to this Request for Proposal and Qualifications at (760) 751-7600

Please schedule any Garment walkthrough or questions prior to proposal submission to Fire Captain Joe Menton or Fire Engineer Christian D'Agostino 760-726-1340 ext. 2170.

Sincerely,
Josef G. Napier
Valley Center Fire Protection District



**Valley Center Fire Protection District
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL and QUALIFICATIONS
The Valley Center Fire Protection District Wildland Firefighting Personal
Protective Equipment (PPE)**

VALLEY CENTER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OVERVIEW

The Valley Center Fire Protection District is a Special District governed by a 5 member Board of Directors. The Valley Center Fire Protection District resides within an 84.5 square mile boundary with a population of 23,000. The Valley Center Fire Protection District is framed by a rural backdrop of chaparral covered hillsides, a central business district and agricultural farmland. It has easy access to Interstate 15 to the West and State Route 76 to the North. The Valley Center Fire Protection District takes pride in its ISO Class 2 designation and is the Department of the Quality of Life for everyone who lives, works and plays in the District.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Valley Center Fire Protection District has recently opened its third Fire Station to serve the District. We have hired nine new employees to fulfill the staffing requirement for that new station and are updating and upgrading our Wildland PPE specifications and increasing our quantity to better serve our Firefighters.

INSTRUCTIONS/CONDITIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. The Proposal must include a cover letter introducing the company and provide the company name, address and telephone number of the corporate headquarters and local office, if applicable. The name of one individual who will be the primary contact with the Valley Center Fire Protection District and the names of key personnel and their association with the project shall also be provided.
2. The Proposal must contain a list of client references along with a resume of the company's experience in government or commercial audio and visual systems projects including:
 - Name, address and telephone number of client references who may be contacted, and the company or agency they work for.
 - A brief description of each project explaining the service performed.
3. The RFP/ RFQ response will include an analysis of the various methodologies by which the Valley Center Fire Protection District can meet the needs of our desired Wildland PPE specifications.
4. A sample work schedule and time-line for the various phases of a similar project shall be provided. The company shall provide periodic progress reports and arrange any meetings with the assigned project manager or designee.
5. An estimate shall be provided of the amount of time the Valley Center Fire Protection District might expect to devote to this project, specified by task.

6. Provide a sealed estimate and compensation schedule on the specifications, the schematic diagram, equipment list, labor, trade-in, warranty and scope of work as outlined in Exhibit "A". The proposed fee schedule shall include estimated cost for each separate component of the Wildland PPE ensemble. The Valley Center Fire Protection District reserves the right to clarify and further define the scope of work and the basis for pricing any and all changes.
7. The RFP/RFQ response must contain a description of each component of the PPE product, the assembly of the PPE, procurement and the sizing services to be provided in narrative format, with any exhibits or documentation deemed essential, addressing the scope of work contained in this document.
8. The Vendor shall provide an original and three (3) copies of the RFP/RFQ response. The RFP/RFQ response must be received no later than April 2, 2026 by 5:00 pm. It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to see that his bid is received in the proper time. Late bids will be returned to the bidder unopened. Failure to provide three (3) copies of the RFP/RFQ responses which are received after the deadline may be disqualified from consideration for contract award. Likewise, if information that is requested in this RFP/RFQ is omitted, the RFP/RFQ response may be deemed "non-responsive" and may be eliminated from further consideration.
9. The Valley Center Fire Protection District has outlined the requirements herein in as much detail as is currently known. Please provide any exceptions, additional information, or suggestions that will aid in the Valley Center Fire Protection District's selection process (attachments are acceptable).
10. The Valley Center Fire Protection District reserves the right to negotiate terms and specifications/scope of work with the highest ranked vendor or piggyback on any existing governmental contract. If an agreement cannot be negotiated, the Valley Center Fire Protection District reserves the right to negotiate with any other finalist.
11. Vendor shall identify those services, if applicable, that will be outsourced to a sub-vendor. The prime vendor will be responsible for verifying the qualifications and validity of all licenses, permits and quality of work for any outsourced work to sub-vendors. The prime vendor is also responsible for paying its employees and any sub-vendors the prime vendor hires.
12. The selected vendor is required to comply with all existing State and Federal labor laws. The selected vendor is also responsible for complying with all OSHA standards and requirements. If a vendor outsources any work or job to a sub-vendor, it will be the prime vendor's responsibility to ensure all sub-vendors meet the requirements as stated in this RFP. The selected vendor may not use any sub-vendor outside of the United States or outside the territories of the United States for any portion of the project.
13. A professional services agreement, in a form substantively conforming to that used by the Valley Center Fire Protection District, which will act as the administrative agency, will be offered to the company, agency or firm submitting the most competitively priced and qualified proposal. Although price is of prime consideration, it is not the sole determining factor. The Valley Center Fire Protection District reserves the right to select the appropriate firm based on the most qualified proposal. The determination of the most qualified and most competitively priced proposal may involve all or some of the following factors: price, thoroughness of the proposal package, previous experience and performance, conformity to specifications in Exhibit "A"; terms of payment; outsourced work; other costs; and other objective and accountable factors which are reasonable. The Valley Center Fire Protection

District reserves the right to select a vendor to perform all of the work identified in the RFP/RFQ, or only selected portions based on price and/or other factors.

14. Proposals containing alterations, additions not called for, conditional alternative bids, incomplete bids, or irregularities of any kind may be rejected. The right to reject any and all proposals is reserved to the Valley Center Fire Protection District Board of Directors as is the right to waive any irregularities deemed to be in the best interest of the District.
15. At the time of contract execution, the selected vendor must provide satisfactory evidence of insurance to include coverage for: Workers Compensation, General Commercial Liability, including Automobile Liability, and Professional Liability in amounts to be determined of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
16. Successful bidders shall show proof of OSHA, NIOSH and NFPA Compliance.
17. The successful vendor shall be an independent contractor, and nothing shall be construed to cause the vendor to be deemed or represent itself as an agent or employee of the Valley Center Fire Protection District. The vendor shall defend, indemnify, and hold any of the agencies that make or are a part of the Valley Center Fire Protection District and its officers, agents, volunteers and employees harmless from any and all causes of action or claims and damages arising out of or related to the vendor's performance under this contract.
18. The Valley Center Fire Protection District's terms for payment is net thirty (30) days upon receipt of invoice. Vendors shall submit invoices between the first and fifteenth business day of each month for services provided the previous month. Payment shall be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of each invoice as to all undisputed fees.
19. Vendor is required to carefully and fully investigate all of the requirements of this RFP/RFQ, as well as, the site(s) where the project will take place and all work or arrangements needed to fulfill the terms of the proposal. By submitting a proposal, the vendor represents and certifies to the Valley Center Fire Protection District that such investigation has been completed and that it fully understands the Specifications/Scope of Work.
20. The Valley Center Fire Protection District will not reimburse vendors for any costs involved in the preparation and submission of proposals. Furthermore, this RFP/RFQ does not obligate the Valley Center Fire Protection District to accept or contract for any expressed or implied services.
21. Prohibited Interest – No officer, or employee of the participating agencies in the Valley Center Fire Protection District have any financial interest, direct or indirect, in this Agreement, the proceeds thereof, the Contractor, or Contractor's sub-contractors for this project, during his/her tenure or for one year thereafter. The Contractor hereby warrants and represents to the Valley Center Fire Protection District that no officer or employee of the Valley Center Fire Protection District, any interest, whether contractual, non-contractual, financial or otherwise, in this transaction, or in the business of the Contractor or Contractor's sub-contractors on this project. Contractor further agrees to notify the Valley Center Fire Protection District in the event any such interest is discovered whether or not such interest is prohibited by law or this Agreement.
22. If an Exhibit "A" requirement cannot be met by a vendor, then the vendor should submit a "No Proposal Response" for the items affected. Alternate or equivalent items may be submitted for consideration by the Valley Center Fire Protection District, unless otherwise specified.

EXHIBIT A:

Valley Center Fire Protection District Wildland Firefighting PPE Scope of Work, Design and Recommended PPE Specification

I. Task 1: Evaluation of Vendor meeting the Specification Requirements

1. The bidding vendor, company or agency must have the ability to provide Wildland PPE outlined in Exhibit "A."

II. Task 2: Diagram/Schematic of each component of the Wildland PPE ensemble

1. Provide a schematic drawing of each component of the Wildland PPE ensemble.
2. Provide a logical plan for manufacturing Wildland PPE
3. Provide a logical plan for delivering within 90 days.
4. Provide a logical plan for service after sale in the advent of defects.

III. Contract Compliance

1. Once produced, delivered and all invoices are paid, all equipment and associated products produced are owned by the Valley Center Fire Protection District
2. The Valley Center Fire Protection District reserves the right to cancel the contract and retain all plans, data, codes, equipment and associated products installed or produced to another company or agency at its discretion with adequate notification to the company or agency.
3. The Company or agency and its employees shall be bonded and insured.
4. The contract between the bidding company or agency and the Valley Center Fire Protection District will be a performance based contract that could lead to cancellation in the event the company or agency does not meet the obligation of the scope of work in a timely manner or to the quality deemed necessary by the Valley Center Fire Protection District.
5. Provide a line item accounting of deliverables and contract services to the Valley Center Fire Protection District.
6. Provide a warranty of any and all installation materials, equipment and labor against defects in workmanship for a period of no less than one year.

V. Liability

The Valley Center Fire Protection District will assume no liability for a product that does not meet the specific specification of the RFP, a component with a manufactured defect or a product that does not meet OSHA, NIOSH or NFPA Standards.

SCOPE

The purpose of the clothing is to provide protection during wildland fire-fighting operations where there is a threat of fire or when certain physical hazards are likely to be encountered, such as during non-fire-related rescue operations, emergency medical operations, and victim extrication.

STANDARDS

NFPA 1977, Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting, is the primary standard. It defines minimum requirements for flame-resistant clothing, helmets, gloves, footwear, and goggles to protect against heat and flame while minimizing heat stress. The 2022 edition covers wildland and urban interface firefighting, including garment, shelter, and accessory specs.

All components and composites used in the construction of garments shall be third party tested, certified, and listed for compliance to NFPA 1977. The label of the third-party certification organization shall denote certification.

The manufacturer shall be registered to the ISO Standard 9001 to assure a satisfactory level of quality.

COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE

NFPA 1977 sets safety standards for wildland fire PPE, focusing on breathable, flame-resistant gear that balances thermal protection with heat stress management. Key performance requirements include a minimum 7.0 Radiant Protective Performance (RPP) rating for fabrics, at least 450 Total Heat Loss (THL), and high durability against tears, heat shrinkage, and flame exposure, ensuring protection during active fireline duty.

Key NFPA 1977 Performance Requirements

- Radiant Protective Performance (RPP): Minimum RPP rating of 7, which measures the time in seconds to second-degree burns under intense radiant heat.
- Total Heat Loss (THL): Minimum of 450
- to ensure the garment allows body heat to escape, reducing heat stress.
- Flame Resistance: Materials must not have an afterflame of more than 2 seconds, and cannot melt, drip, or show a char length of more than 100 mm (4 inches).
- Thermal Shrinkage: Maximum 10% shrinkage after exposure to 500°F for 5 minutes.
- Material Strength: High tear resistance and seam strength are required for durability in rugged environments.

Components Covered

- Clothing: Specifically designed for wildland and urban interface firefighting to reduce heat stress, unlike the heavier, higher-rated NFPA 1971 structural gear.

OPTIONAL LETTERING

Size 3" letters of organization (VCFPD) shall be set on the back of the coat at shoulder level.

SIZES

Coats shall be made available in Small, Medium, Large and Xtra Large. Pant sizes shall be made available in even waist sizes with inseam lengths available in extra short, short, regular, and long. Male and female sizing is available.

NOTE: All measurements are approximate and have an industry standard +/- tolerance. Positioning of parts on smaller size garments also may vary due to limited space available on smaller chest and waist sizes.

LABELING

Each garment shall have a garment label(s) permanently and conspicuously attached stating at least the following language, as well as detailed warning instructions provided by the manufacturer.

DO NOT REMOVE THIS LABEL.

THIS WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING PROTECTIVE GARMENT MEETS THE GARMENT REQUIREMENTS OF NFPA 1977, 2022 EDITION. MADE IN THE U.S.A.

PACKAGING

Each Coat and Pant shall be packaged in accordance with the manufacturer's specification in order to provide protection during shipping and prior to first use.

USER INFORMATION GUIDE

Each garment shall include a hang tag with a website address that links to an online, electronic User Information Guide with information required by NFPA 1977. This guide shall include:

A. PRE-USE INFORMATION

- Safety considerations
- Limitations of use
- Garment marking recommendations and restrictions
- A statement that most performance properties of the garment cannot be tested by the user in the field
- Warranty information

B. PREPARATION FOR USE

- Sizing/adjustment
- Recommended storage practices

C. INSPECTION

- Inspection frequency and details

D. USE

- Proper use consistent with NFPA 1977, Standard on Fire Department, Occupational Safety and Health Program, and 29 CFR 1910, 132

E. MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

- Cleaning instructions and precautions with a statement advising users not to use garments that are not thoroughly cleaned and dried
- Inspection details
- Maintenance criteria and methods of repair where applicable
- Decontamination procedures for both chemical and biological contamination

F. RETIREMENT AND DISPOSAL

- Retirement and disposal criteria and considerations for the NFPA and manufacturers suggested useful life, degradation or damage of the garment.

WARRANTY

Each garment shall have a limited lifetime warranty against defects in material and workmanship.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

The garments shall be manufactured in the United States of America.

WILDLAND SINGLE LAYER COAT

COAT CONSTRUCTION

The single-layer CAL FIRE spec wildland jacket is an NFPA1977-certified, yellow garment designed for high breathability and, specifically, comfort during, high-exertion, wildland firefighting. It typically features a dual-fabric design (e.g., 7.0 oz Sigma™ or TenCate 362/469) for increased protection on arms, featuring a bi-swing back, articulated elbows, radio/patch pockets, and reflective trim.

Key Features and Specifications:

- **Fabric & Design:** Uses a single-layer, lightweight, and breathable material, such as 7.0 oz. Sigma™ fabric. Some may use a dual-fabric system (TenCate Style 362 for the body and more durable 469 for the arms).
- **Certification:** Certified to NFPA 1977 (Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Firefighting).
- **Mobility:** Features a bi-swing back for increased range of motion and double-pleated, articulated elbows.

- **Pockets & Storage:** Includes an angled radio pocket with drain holes, a patch chest pocket with hook-and-loop closure, and mic tabs on the left chest.
- Pocket and flap with hook-and-loop closure on the right chest.
- **Visibility & Protection:** Equipped with 2-inch reflective triple trim on the hem and forearms for visibility. Features a stand-up collar with a hook-and-loop closure for throat protection.
- **Closure:** Zippered front closure with protective flap.
- 3M Scotchlite reflective materials on sleeves
- Self-storing collar
- Rectangular suppression tab with 1.5 in. beige hook loop
- Single ply articulated elbow pleats
- Bi-swing back from shoulder to waist for increased movement
- Two microphone clips on shoulders (left and right)
- Body Fabric: 7 oz. Sigma Flame Resistant Twill
- Body Blend: 51% Aramid / 32% Lyocell / 17% Polyamide
- Closure: Vislon zipper closure on center front
- NFPA 1975 certified

WILDLAND SINGLE LAYER PANT

PANT CONSTRUCTION

Single-layer CAL FIRE spec wildland firefighting pants must meet the NFPA 1977 Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting. These garments, often constructed from flame-resistant materials like Nomex® or Sigma™, are designed to offer thermal protection, resist melting, and reduce heat stress.

Key Features and Specifications:

- **Compliance:** Many models are dual-compliant with NFPA 1975 (Station/Work Uniforms).
- **Materials:** Typically made from Nomex® IIIA, Tecgen51, or Sigma™ fabric blends.
- **Features:** Often include reinforced knees, heavy-duty stitching, hook-and-loop ankle straps, and large cargo pockets.

- **Testing:** Certified to pass strict tests for heat resistance, flame resistance, and thermal shrinkage.
- Contoured waistband
- Triple-needle felled side and seat seams offer superior durability
- Articulated knees for ease of movement
- Adjustable ankle straps to secure leg bottom around work boots
- Two slack-style front pockets with utility notches
- Two rear welt pockets with closures
- Two ergonomic cargo pockets with hook-and-loop flap closures
- **Fabric:** Body: 7.5 oz. (254 g/square m.) Nomex IIIA Flame Resistant Twill
- **Blend:** Body: 93% Nomex Aramid / 5% Kevlar Aramid / 2% Other Fibers
- NFPA 1975 certified