

Business and Non-instructional Operations

Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures

In awarding contracts for public works projects involving district facilities, the Governing Board desires to obtain the best value to the district and ensure the qualifications of contractors to complete the project in a satisfactory manner. The Board has, by resolution, adopted the procedures set forth in the Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act pursuant to Public Contract Code 22030-22045, including the informal bidding procedures when allowed by law.

(cf. 3311 - Bids)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

The Board delegates to the Superintendent or designee the responsibilities to award any contract eligible for informal bidding procedures and to develop plans, specifications, and working details for all public projects requiring formal bidding procedures.

No work, project, service, or purchase shall be split or separated into smaller work orders or projects for the purpose of evading legal requirements for competitive bidding. (Public Contract Code 22033)

Projects awarded through the UPCCAA shall be subject to the cost accounting procedures established by the California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission. (Public Contract Code 22030)

Emergency Actions

When formal bids are required by law but an emergency necessitates immediate repair or replacements, the Board may, upon a four-fifths vote of the Board, proceed to replace or repair a facility without adopting plans, specifications, strain sheets, or working details or giving notice for bids to let contracts. The work may be done by day labor under the direction of the Board and/or contractor. The emergency action shall subsequently be reviewed by the Board in accordance with Public Contract Code 22050 and shall be terminated at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant, so that the remainder of the emergency action may be completed by giving notice for bids to let contracts. (Public Contract Code 1102, 22035, 22050)

(cf. 9323.2 - Actions by the Board)

Legal Reference:

PUBLIC CONTRACT CODE

1102 Definition of emergency

20110-20118.4 Local Agency Public Construction Act; school districts

22000-22020 California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission

22030-22045 Alternative procedures for public projects (UPCCAA), especially:

22032 Applicability of procedures based on amount of project

22034 Informal bidding procedure

22035 Emergency need for repairs or replacement

22037-22038 Formal bidding procedures for projects exceeding \$175,000

22050 Alternative emergency procedures

Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures (Cont.)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION COST ACCOUNTING COMMISSION
PUBLICATIONS

Cost Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual

Frequently Asked Questions

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Association of School Business Officials: <http://www.casbo.org>

California Uniform Construction Cost Accounting Commission:

http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard_cuccac.html

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Procedures for awarding contracts for public works projects shall be determined on the basis of the amount of the project, as follows:

1. Public projects of \$45,000 or less may be performed by district employees by force account, negotiated contract, or purchase order. (Public Contract Code 22032)
2. Contracts for public projects of \$175,000 or less may be awarded through the following informal procedures: (Public Contract Code 22032, 22034, 22038)
 - a. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain a list of qualified contractors, identified according to categories of work.
 - b. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare a notice inviting informal bids which describes the project in general terms, explains how to obtain more information about the project, and states the time and place for submission of bids. The notice shall be disseminated by mail, fax, or email to all contractors on the district's list for the category of work being bid, unless the product or service is proprietary, at least 10 calendar days before bids are due. In addition, the Superintendent or designee may mail, fax, or email a notice inviting informal bids to all construction trade journals identified pursuant to Public Contract Code 22036.
 - c. The district shall review the informal bids and award the contract, except that:
 - (1) If all bids received through the informal process are in excess of \$175,000, the contract may be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, provided that the Governing Board adopts a resolution with a four-fifths vote to award the contract at \$187,500 or less and the Board determines the district's cost estimate is reasonable.
 - (2) If no bids are received through the informal bid procedure, the project may be performed by district employees by force account or negotiated contract.
3. Public projects of more than \$175,000 shall, except as otherwise provided by law, be subject to formal bidding procedures, as follows: (Public Contract Code 22032, 22037, 22038)
 - a. Notice inviting formal bids shall state the time and place for receiving and opening sealed bids and distinctly describe the project. The notice shall be disseminated in both of the following ways:
 - (1) Through publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the district's jurisdiction or, if there is no such newspaper, then by posting the notice in at least three places designated by the district as places for posting its notices. Such notice shall be published at least 14 calendar days before the date that bids will be opened.
 - (2) By mail and electronically, if available, by either fax or email, to all construction trade journals identified pursuant to Public Contract Code 22036. Such notice shall be sent at least 15 calendar days before the date that bids will be opened.

Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Procedures (Cont.)

In addition to the notice required above, the district may give such other notice as it deems proper.

b. The district shall award the contract as follows:

- (1) The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. If two or more bids are the same and the lowest, the district may accept the one it chooses.
- (2) At its discretion, the district may reject all bids presented and declare that the project can be more economically performed by district employees, provided that the district notifies an apparent low bidder, in writing, of the district's intention to reject the bid. Such notice shall be mailed at least two business days prior to the hearing at which the district intends to reject the bid.
- (3) If no bids are received through the formal bid procedure, the project may be performed by district employees by force account or negotiated contract.

(cf. 3311 - Bids)