

**Request for Proposals:**  
**Drain Cleaning and Mechanical Vegetation Management**  
**Colorado River Irrigation Project**

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES



26600 MOHAVE ROAD

PARKER, AZ 85344

Submit Proposals On or Before:

03/01/2026

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## 1 Introduction

The Colorado River is sacred to the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT or Tribes), a federally recognized sovereign tribal nation. One of the ways that CRIT exercises its sovereignty and cares for the Colorado River is through use of the waters of the Colorado River for irrigation of agricultural land. The functional operation of the canals of the Colorado River Indian Irrigation Project (CRIP) is essential to these activities. The purpose of this document is to solicit proposals from suitably qualified and experienced contractors to perform drain cleaning and vegetation management in open surface drains on the CRIP near Parker and Poston, Arizona. The Tribes are procuring services for this work on the CRIP. The work is funded via a Public Law 93-638 contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and is subject to the availability of federal funds. The Contractor will be required to collaborate with the BIA for any contract activities on the CRIP and with CRIT's farming operation, 'Amat Kuhwely, for any contract activities which could impact farming operations. This Request for Proposals (RFP) provides a description of the contracted activities, including scope, time limitation, and performance requirements.

Summary of Contract Scope: The contract will require the Contractor to provide expertise, licensing, experienced manpower, and all necessary materials and equipment to competently perform drain cleaning (removal of debris, tules and submerged vegetation, sediment, and other obstructions) working from one side of the drain, and mechanical vegetation management on both banks of the drains, year round. The Contractor will provide all necessary labor, materials, and equipment to remove debris and vegetation as needed for each location, while preventing damage to the canals, levees, roads, and other CRIP infrastructure. The Contractor's available heavy equipment must have a minimum reach of 25 feet for some drain locations.

Proposals should follow the guidelines provided in this RFP and be submitted in digital electronic (PDF) format to the persons listed below:

<https://www.bidnetdirect.com/arizona/coloradoriverindiantribes>

<https://www.constructconnect.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CRITMedia1>

**Dillon Esquerra** ([Dillon.Esquerra@crit-nsn.gov](mailto:Dillon.Esquerra@crit-nsn.gov))  
Director, Water Resources Department

**Rebecca Loudbear** ([Rebecca.Loudbear@crit-nsn.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Loudbear@crit-nsn.gov))  
CRIT Attorney General

**Travis Nez** ([Travis.Nez@crit-nsn.gov](mailto:Travis.Nez@crit-nsn.gov))  
CRIT Deputy Attorney General

**Proposals are due no later than 5 pm MST March 1st, 2026.** Late proposals will not be considered. CRIT reserves the right to disqualify any proposal deemed incomplete and reject any proposal for any reason deemed not within CRIT's interest. Proposals will become the property of CRIT, will be kept confidential consistent with the provisions of this RFP, and will not be returned.

Proposal evaluation will begin immediately following the proposal submission deadline. Evaluation factors will include technical capability, understanding of project requirements, ability to professionally perform all requirements within the time requirements and limitations for project completion, project management capacity, relevant prior experience, and cost.

CRIT anticipates releasing notification of a successful proposal and award by 03/20/2026.

## **2 Project Description**

### **2.1 Responsibilities**

#### **2.1.1 CRIT Representative**

The CRIT contract Awarding Official will designate an Awarding Official's Technical Representative (AOTR) referred to herein as the CRIT Representative. The CRIT Representative is the CRIT Water Resources Department Director. The CRIT Representative has the authority to review all work performed and ensure that all work is in compliance with plans and specifications.

#### **2.1.2 BIA Representative**

The BIA may designate a representative to represent its interests in the CRIP or to coordinate contracted activities. The CRIP and all related facilities are owned and operated by the BIA. The Contractor shall coordinate dates and locations for work to avoid interference with BIA's operations of the CRIP. The Contractor shall refer any conflicts or concerns about coordinating with BIA that it is unable to resolve with BIA to the CRIT Representative.

#### **2.1.3 Contractor**

The Contractor has a contractual agreement with CRIT for performing the work set forth in the scope of work. The Contractor shall not make changes to work plans without the approval of the CRIT Representative. The Contractor shall comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable permitting, licensing, and reporting requirements for the use of materials and equipment for drain cleaning and vegetation removal.

#### **2.1.4. Farming Operations Coordination**

The Contractor shall coordinate dates and locations for work to avoid interference with any local farming activities. The Contractor shall refer any conflicts or concerns about coordinating with farmers that it is

unable to resolve directly with the farmers to the CRIT Representative.

## **2.2 Scope of Work**

The Contractor will provide expertise, licensing, manpower, and all necessary materials and equipment to competently perform drain cleaning (removal of debris, tules and submerged vegetation, sediment, and other obstructions) within the drain, and mechanical vegetation management on both banks of each drains. Drain cleaning and vegetation management activities shall be performed in a manner that does not impair or damage CRIP infrastructure including canal linings, embankments, roads, gates and gate controls, and in a manner that does not threaten or damage irrigated land or crops. Debris, sediment, vegetation, and other obstructions have significant accumulation that must be cleared to reach a maintenance level of effort. The Contractor will provide drain cleaning and vegetation management year-round to achieve a maintenance level of effort. The RFP response must recognize that the drains are in varying conditions due to a lack of maintenance by the BIA, and that CRIT has no liability for the system. The final professional services agreement between CRIT and the Contractor must contain a release of liability for CRIT.

The Contract shall include:

- At least one monthly progress report meeting between the Contractor and the CRIT Representative;
- The Contractor shall remove debris, sediment, vegetation, and other obstructions from drains. Contractor shall prioritize drain cleaning based on existing conditions in consultation with the CRIT Representative;
- The Contractor shall remove salt cedar and other vegetation using knifing or similar services along both drain banks;
- The Contractor shall perform drain cleaning and vegetation management on a maintenance basis and as requested by the CRIT Representative;
- Annual reporting of activities and anticipated needs, including costs, for the following year.

This is an initial approximately 10 month contract for the remainder of 2026 after the effective date of the contract, with an option to renew annually in December of each year for a total contract period of up to five (5) years, contingent on the availability of federal funding. Performance will be reviewed after a base period of 90 days and the parties will have the option to extend the contract each year. Contractor shall request renewal at least 90 days before the expiration of the contract, unless otherwise agreed to by the CRIT Representative and the Contractor in writing.

## **2.3 Location**

The location of the drain cleaning and vegetation management contract work is the CRIP on the Colorado River Indian Reservation near Parker, AZ and Poston, AZ. Figure 1 is an overview map of the CRIP. Specific drain cleaning locations will be determined by CRIT based on need in consultation with the

Contractor, ‘Amat Kuhwely, and the BIA.

## **2.4 Time Limitations**

The CRIP operates nearly 50 weeks per year. Drain cleaning operations can typically be conducted year-round, but the CRIT Representative will provide locations and a schedule for some drain locations for drain cleaning and vegetation management to avoid interfering with normal CRIP operations and farming activities.

## **2.5 Performance Requirements**

Time is of the essence for completion of drain cleaning and vegetation management such as appropriate timing of drain cleaning to ensure adequate water flow during irrigation periods, and canal safety. Delays due to weather may extend the performance period, in which case, any extension of the performance period will be negotiated with the CRIT Representative. It may be preferable for work to be performed during the lower flow months of the winter period.

The Contractor is responsible for all equipment operation and maintenance.

## **3 Project Details**

The Colorado River Indian Reservation is located in Southwestern Arizona and Southeastern California along the Colorado River. CRIT has nearly 300,000 acres of land. Some of CRITs’ largest and most important resources are its rights to Colorado River water, its Reservation land base adjacent to the Colorado River, and irrigated agricultural land and future crop production on Reservation lands in both Arizona and California.

The CRIP was established by the U.S. Department of Interior BIA for the Tribes’ benefit. The CRIP is a US Federal facility owned, operated, and managed by the BIA in trust for CRIT. The CRIP currently assesses approximately 80,000 acres of irrigated lands on the Reservation in Arizona. The CRIP construction was originally authorized in the late 1860's. Construction and expansion continued through the early 1900s. Major work was initiated in the 1940's. The most recent canals and laterals were completed in the 1960's and early 1970's.

The primary diversion for the CRIP occurs at Headgate Rock Dam near the Town of Parker, AZ. Water is diverted at the Dam to the Main Canal, which has a capacity of approximately 2,000 cubic feet per second. Approximately 232 miles of supply canals, which consist of the Main Canal, laterals, sub laterals, and sub-sub laterals, are used to convey water under primarily gravity flow conditions from Headgate Rock Dam to farmland along the CRIP. Of the 232 miles of supply canals, 90 miles are concrete-lined, and 142 miles are unlined earthen channels. The CRIP Main Canal is 18 miles long, 15 miles of which are concrete-lined. There are eight principal lateral canal offtakes from the Main Canal {19R, 19L, 27R, 27L, 42L, 46R, 73

and 90), not including smaller laterals, which are considered to reflect the function of lower order "sublateral" canals. Lateral canals comprise a total of 65 miles of channel, 36 miles of which are concrete-lined. In addition, there are 149 miles of lower order supply canals, of which 39 miles are concrete-lined.

The drainage network consists of approximately 50 spills to wasteways or open surface drains from supply canal overflow points or endpoints. CRIP drains collect spill and surface and subsurface return flow and convey this water to the Colorado River at several points located throughout the CRIP. There are six (6) principal drains in the CRIP with additional feeder drains and wasteway ditches, comprising a total of 133 miles of drainage channels. Principal drains include the East Drain, Upper and Lower Main Drains, Mesa Drain, Tyson Wasteway, Palo Verde Drain, and the Pump Drain.

## **4 Project Planning**

A planning meeting will be scheduled within 15 days of the contract award to plan the drain cleaning and vegetation management schedule. The Contractor will meet with the CRIT Representative to coordinate activities. This will include the clear establishment of who will provide materials and equipment, and clearly stated expectations of the Contractor, and coordination with CRIT and BIA Representatives. Locations for contracted activities, the potential for site priorities to change, safety requirements, monthly meetings, and protocol to help ensure the delivery of a satisfactory product will be detailed.

The Contractor shall be present and ready to work on the first business day of the contract.

## **5 Special Conditions**

The successful Contractor shall be required to comply with the following:

- Enter into a professional services agreement (Agreement) for a period of at least one (1) year.
- CRIT's Sovereign Immunity shall not be waived in any Agreement, and the successful Contractor shall consent to the jurisdiction of the CRIT Tribal Court as the sole forum to resolve any disputes brought according to the Agreement.
- Affirmative compliance with all CRIT laws, including but not limited to, the Business and Professions Code, Labor Code, Council for Tribal Employment Rights (TERO), Business License, and Environmental Protection and Water regulations.
- CRIT reserves the right to apply CRIT Tribal Member and Indian Preference in the selection of the Applicant.
- The Applicant shall maintain a policy of professional liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence, automobile insurance, and a worker's compensation and employer's liability insurance. Applicant shall name the Tribes as an additional insured on these policies and provide a certificate of proof of such insurance. The Applicant shall also be required

in the Agreement to fully indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Tribes and each of its officers, employees, and directors, including but not limited to attorney's fees and costs incurred from any contract dispute pertaining to the Agreement.

## **6 Project Implementation**

The Contractor shall provide all licensing, permitting, skilled operators, materials and equipment for all drain cleaning and vegetation management activities related to drain cleaning in this scope of work.

The Contractor must indicate whether they are capable of removing sediment and debris, and performing vegetation management, from the bottom of the channel and each bank of the drains. The removal of the sediment, vegetation, and debris must avoid widening of the drain channel. This requires heavy equipment with a minimum 25-foot reach. Removal of sediment and debris must not impair operations of the CRIP, BIA activities, or local farming operations.

The Contractor must indicate the manpower and equipment provided and the hourly rates for equipment and labor.

The Contractor and the CRIT Representative shall meet monthly to discuss progress, constraints and contract logistics.

## **7 Submission of Proposals**

Interested Contractors are to provide CRIT Water Resources Department with a thorough proposal using the following guidelines:

### **7.1 Contractor Cover Letter**

A cover letter, not to exceed three pages in length, should summarize key elements of the proposal. An individual authorized to bind the Contractor must sign the letter. The letter must stipulate that the proposal price will be valid for a period of at least 90 days. Indicate the address, and telephone number of the Contractor's office located nearest to Parker, AZ, and the Contractor's principal place of business.

Parties submitting a proposal should provide a general statement about their firm's organization and qualifications. Include at minimum the following:

- Firm name, business address, telephone, e-mail address and website address
- Contact person(s) with title(s)
- DUNS or Unique Entity Identifier Number
- Business size and type

- Professional history and affiliations
- Range of professional services offered
- Impact of current workload and ability to meet the requirements of this RFP
- Previous experience with Tribal Communities

## **7.2 Background Project Summary**

The Background and Project Summary Section should describe the Contractor's understanding of the CRIP, the work to be done, and the objectives to be accomplished.

## **7.3 Methodology Section**

Provide a detailed description of the approach and methodology and implementation plan that describes in detail the methods that will be utilized to accomplish the Scope of Work of this RFP. The Methodology Section should include:

An implementation plan that describes in detail the methods utilized. In particular, provide:

- A detailed schedule of performance and maps of anticipated drains cleared in 2026;
- Specifications of the drain cleaning equipment that will be provided (type, size, excavator bucket reach distance, tracked/wheeled, bucket type(s), other anticipated equipment proposed for use, etc.);
- Method of mechanical vegetation management and specification of equipment to be utilized;
- A detailed description of safety measures that will be taken to safely manage heavy equipment operation, with a focus on protecting the integrity of the canals and operating safely on the canals, including compliance with all applicable OSHA requirements;
- Project management controls used by your firm to manage projects of the type sought by this RFP to stay on time and within budget;
- Detailed description of specific tasks or information you may request from CRIT or BIA;
- A description of the approach to canal safety and how the work performed will be done in a way that will not further degrade the structural integrity or performance of the canal system;
- A written statement that the Contractor will comply with CRIT's TERO requirements including all applicable fees;
- Innovative and/or creative approaches for providing the service that will maximize efficient, cost-effective operations and implement a regular maintenance schedule for drain cleaning and vegetation management.

## **7.4 Staffing**

Provide a list of individuals who will be working on this project and indicate the functions that each person

will perform, their experience and other qualifications, along with the hourly rates for their labor. Include any relevant certifications and licensing of the workforce, including any proposed subcontractors.

## **7.5 Qualifications**

Describe in detail how your firm currently performs services like those identified in the scope of work within its or other jurisdictions.

- Describe the qualifications of the firm or entity, key staff and sub-contractors performing projects within the past five years that are similar in size and scope to demonstrate competence to perform these services. Information shall include:
  - Names of key staff that participated on named projects and their specific responsibilities with respect to this scope of work
  - A summary of your firm's demonstrated capability, including length of time that your firm has provided the services being requested in this Request for Proposal.
  - The name and a brief summary of the qualifications of any proposed subcontractors.
- Provide at least three references that received similar services from your firm. The CRIT reserves the right to contact any of the organizations or individuals listed. Information provided shall include:
  - Client Name
  - Project Description
  - Project start and end dates
  - Client project manager name, telephone number, and e-mail address
- Provide a written statement recognizing that the Contractor will be required to sign a contract which includes an explicit statement of no waiver of CRIT's sovereign immunity and an agreement that jurisdiction for any contract dispute will be CRIT Tribal Court.

## **7.6 Financial Capacity and Current Liabilities**

Describe any administrative proceedings, claims, lawsuits, or other financial or legal exposure pending against the Proposer. Proposer will be required to self-certify that it has the financial resources to complete the project scope of work.

## **7.7 Proposal Costs**

Parties submitting a proposal shall submit an itemized cost proposal addressing the following cost items at a minimum. Proposers are expected to provide:

- Mobilization/demobilization costs as applicable to Parker or Poston, Arizona;
- Cost of drain cleaning on a per-drain mile basis;

- Cost of vegetation management on a per-drain mile basis;
- Hourly rates for all equipment to be used;
- Hourly rates for all manpower/labor;
- Cost of preparing for and attending monthly meetings and providing a monthly progress report;
- Cost of annual report preparation and submittal.

The Contractor shall include all CRIT taxes and fees in the proposal. Please contact CRIT Revenue & Tax for permit information and CRIT TERO for compliance and tax information.

Proposals shall be valid for a minimum of 90 days following submission.

## 8 Evaluation Criteria

CRIT will use the following scoring rubric:

<b>Qualifications and experience of Contractor implementing similar projects, and qualifications and experience of key personnel</b>	25%
<b>Understanding and approach to providing the requested scope of services, including practical, cost-effective, efficient, and or innovative approaches compliant with relevant laws and regulations</b>	20%
<b>Ability to meet schedule and comply with financial, regulatory and technical requirements</b>	20%
<b>Total cost of proposal and whether each aspect of the proposal is at a reasonable cost</b>	20%
<b>Non-conflict of interest</b>	5%
<b>Native American preference for a company with ownership or leadership by an enrolled member of CRIT, a federally recognized Indian Tribe, or a CRIT majority-owned economic enterprise</b>	5%

## 9 Evaluation of Proposals and Selection Process

CRIT will adhere to the CRIT Procurement Policy, following procedures in evaluating proposals. CRIT will screen and review all proposals according to the weighted criteria set forth above. While price is one basic factor for award, it is not the sole consideration.

Following conclusion of this screening stage of the evaluation process, CRIT will rank all Proposers

according to the evaluation criteria set forth above. CRIT may conclude the evaluation process at this point, and make a recommendation for award to the CRIT Tribal Council for final contract approval.

Recommendation for award is contingent upon the successful negotiation of final contract terms. Negotiations shall be confidential and are not subject to disclosure to competing Proposers.

## **10 Confidentiality**

CRIT does not mandate public access to government records because the Proposer may have submitted communication that contains trade secrets or other proprietary information. The Proposer shall mark each page containing proprietary information as confidential. Proposer may not designate its entire proposal as confidential nor designate its Price Proposal as confidential.

## **11 Communication and Questions**

Proposers and Proposers' representatives should not communicate with the Tribal Council members about this RFP. In addition, Proposers and Proposers' representatives should not communicate outside the procedures set forth in this RFP with an officer, employee or agent of the Tribes, regarding this RFP until after Contract Award.

### **11.1 Question and Answer Process**

A zoom meeting will be held to answer questions about this RFP on Friday, February 13th, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. MST, via this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81866871082?pwd=JX6mmgXVBasNbVPhEQcHhogUnfQvul.1>

Questions will not be answered via email. To ensure transparency, all questions must be presented during the Question and Answer session.

## **12 Conflict of Interest**

The Proposer warrants and represents that it presently has no interest and agrees that it will not acquire any interest which would present a conflict of interest.

## **13 Standard Terms and Conditions**

CRIT reserves the right to amend or supplement this RFP prior to the proposal due date. All addendums and additional information will be sent to the Proposers. A submission may be amended only in response to an addendum or additional information.

### **13.1 Insurance Requirements**

CRIT requires that licensees, lessees, and vendors have an approved Certificate of Insurance (not a declaration or policy) or proof of legal self-insurance on file with the CRIT for the issuance of the contract. Within ten (10) consecutive calendar days of award of contract, successful Proposer must furnish the CRIT with the Certificates of Insurance proving coverage. CRIT TERO fees of 3.5% apply.

### **13.2 Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance**

CRIT requires employers working on the CRIT Reservation to comply with CRIT's Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance. TERO fees (currently 3.5%) apply to this contract. Please contact CRIT's TERO office for additional information.

### **13.3 Compliance With Applicable Law**

Contractor is required to comply with applicable tribal, federal, and state law. CRIT laws and ordinances are available at: [https://www.crit-nsn.gov/crit\\_contents/ordinances/](https://www.crit-nsn.gov/crit_contents/ordinances/)

## **14 Reservation of Rights**

CRIT reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal. There is no assurance that negotiations on a contract will result in a finalized agreement. The Tribes and the Contractor will not be obligated in any way until a written agreement is fully executed by both parties. Nothing in this proposal is or shall be construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Tribes.

**FIGURE 1**

