



1167 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

August 3, 2007

San Francisco Unified School District  
135 Van Ness Avenue, Room 207  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Attention: Ms. Susan Ortega

Ladies and Gentlemen:

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS  
FOR GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

On behalf of the Asian American Architects and Engineers, I am writing this letter to protest the qualification requirements mandated in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the procurement for geotechnical engineering services. It is our opinion that the qualification requirements discriminate against local small businesses and emerging businesses, which include both minority and women-owned businesses.

We concur with the requirement that, "Geotechnical firms should be familiar and experienced with both Division of State Architect's California Geological Survey procedures and requirements with respect to California public schools." However, we entirely disagree with the requirements as specified in Section 3.2.e.2 of the RFQ, that requests, "List of representative projects (minimum of 10 projects) undertaken in the last five years demonstrating school experience." This minimum requirement is excessive and only allows larger firms with broad geographic coverage to be qualified. Most of the small businesses and emerging businesses will not be able to meet the stipulated requirements.

Familiarity and experience with the process of the Division of State Architect and California Geological Survey can be demonstrated through other avenues, such as personal experience rather than the firm's experience and comparable experience on hospital projects (OSHDP), which can be applied to school projects.

We strongly recommend that the San Francisco Unified School District rescind and reissue the current RFP to incorporate more meaningful and subjective requirements to minimize discrimination to the small and emerging businesses which include mostly minority and women-owned businesses.

Many of the schools built in San Francisco in the last two decades were designed by small businesses and were successfully completed. Accordingly, it is our position that our AAAE members along with the other members of the small business community are equally qualified to perform the work. We ask that you provide an equitable platform for small businesses to be able to compete with big businesses.

Yours very truly,  
Asian American Architects and Engineers

Kendall Young  
President

Cc: San Francisco Unified school District  
555 Franklin Street  
San Francisco, California 94102  
Attention: Mr. Carlos Garcia, Superintendent

San Francisco Unified School District  
135 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102  
Attention: Mr. Leonard Tom