

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (LADBS)
TRIAL EVALUATIONS OF BUILDINGS IN CALIFORNIA
USING THE ATC-78-3 METHODOLOGY**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
September 19, 2015**

Q1. Would the results of the study be public? When obtaining the letter for approval for the use of the structural drawings from the building owner, can we state to the owner that the name and the exact location of the building will not be made public?

Q2. How are the buildings we submit for the proposal going to be identified in public release or will the identification of the building be confidential?

Q3. Please describe the level of confidentiality that can be expected from a building owner that approves his building to be used in the study.

Answer (Q1, Q2, Q3). ATC will not publicly release the Evaluation Reports, but will provide reports to the City of Los Angeles as a Work Product. As described in the Ownership and License Section of the [Pass-Through Requirements document](#) on the ATC website, all Work Products of this Program will become the exclusive property of the City of Los Angeles.

Evaluation Reports may simply indicate an internal identification number, excluding all identifying information such as photos, drawings, or references to the actual building address, however, use of public money to fund the proposed studies could require the release of all records to someone invoking the state's Public Records Act. Thus, identifying information, if provided, will likely be required to be shared with the public, if requested.

If confidentiality of the building is important, ATC strongly encourages the participating engineers to exclude identifying information in the Proposal and in the Evaluation Reports.

Q4. The RFP requires that the proposed building being located in California, preferably in Los Angeles. Will the buildings in Christ Church built similar to pre-1976 UBC buildings qualified for this study? Some of those buildings were demolished, so obtaining approval from the owner will less likely be a problem. In addition, those buildings have good damage data that could be used to bench mark fragility functions.

Answer. The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) intends to fund studies of buildings in California (preferably Los Angeles). Buildings outside of California may be submitted if the proposal explains how the building is similar to existing buildings in California. Preference will be given to buildings in Los Angeles or in California.

Buildings outside of California will be specifically eligible for proposal in an upcoming Trial Evaluation Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be announced soon.

Q5. If we cannot secure owner approval for the building can we submit a prototype of an existing building that would be accurate to the time period?

Answer. The Trial Evaluation is intended to test the developing methodology on “real” buildings. A sanitized prototype of an existing building may be proposed, but preference will be given to real buildings with permission to be used.

Q6. Could we get clarification of what was meant by ‘little or no walls’? Can 25% contribution (of those walls) to the lateral resistance be used to define this cut off?

Answer. Evaluation of pure frame buildings is preferred. Buildings with some limited contribution of walls may be proposed. If awarded, contractors may be directed to conduct an evaluation of the building excluding the walls.

Buildings with walls will be specifically eligible for proposal in upcoming Trial Evaluation Programs funded by LADBS and FEMA to be announced next year.

Q7. Is there a specific level to which the previous evaluation of the existing drawings should have been done (i.e., ASCE 41-13 Tier 2 analysis)?

Answer. Prior evaluation is a preferred, but not required element. Information is intended to be used to help calibrate the results of the methodology. Specific levels of evaluation and specific performance objectives are not required. Higher levels of analysis are preferred (i.e., consideration of nonlinearity in static or dynamic analyses).

Q8. Can we submit two separate proposals which would have two different buildings and lead investigators?

Q9. Is it acceptable to propose multiple buildings for the study, allowing ATC to choose one (or more)?

Q10. If multiple buildings are submitted by one firm will ATC award a \$10,000 fee per building or per firm?

Answer (Q8, Q9, Q10). The RFP process is intended to identify as many candidate buildings as possible. ATC will accept the submittal of multiple proposals for different buildings and different engineers from the same firm. Receipt of one award will not preclude firms from receiving a second award, but preference will be given to qualified firms (with qualified buildings) that have not yet received an award. The fee will be awarded per building, not per firm.

Q11. I assume in spite of the fact I am completing a much related project (NEESR: Near Collapse Performance of Existing Reinforced Concrete Frame Buildings) and this is one of my main topics of work, because I am located in Boston cannot submit a proposal, right?"

Q12. "Currently I am residing in Bulgaria running a small Structural Engineering Company. I did attend some of the Webinars and also I have 15 years Californian experience including working for two major Structural Engineering companies. My questions is how could I participate in the above described program if at all possible?"

Answer (Q11, Q12). The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) intends to fund studies performed by engineering firms in Southern California. Individuals or teams submitting a proposal under this Request for Proposals must be headed by a registered Professional Engineer with a business address in Southern California.

Engineers (and buildings) located outside of California will be specifically eligible for proposal in an upcoming Trial Evaluation Program funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be announced soon.

Q13. We are interested in making a proposal for the subject request. Please advise us how to respond to RFP. Is there a response package?"

Q14. "Is there a proposal form to be filled out for the ATC78-3 RFP?"

Answer (Q13, Q14). There is no response package and no proposal form. A written proposal including the required and preferred elements outlined in the RFP is all that is required.