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May 29 2026

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL
Willie D. Franks, Chairman

Appellate Case No. 2026-000914
Panel Case No. 2025-5

In Re: Haren Construction Co., Inc.

Project No. P24-6052-PG Beaufort-Waddell Mariculture Maturation Ponds Maintenance - Re-Bid

Paragon Inc. of South Carolina, LLC, Chief Procurement Officer, State Fiscal Accountability Authority, and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources,

of which Paragon Inc. of South Carolina, LLC and Chief Procurement Officer, State Fiscal Accountability Authority are the Appellants/Respondents, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is the Respondent/Appellant, and Haren Construction Co., Inc. is the Respondent.

**RESPONDENT HAREN CONSTRUCTION CO., INC'S PETITION FOR
REVIEW OF THE COURT'S ORDER DATED MAY 20, 2026 GRANTING APPELLANT
PARAGON, INC. OF SOUTH CAROLINA, LLC'S MOTION TO STAY**

Pursuant to Rule 241(d)(2) & (7), SCACR, Respondent Haren Construction Co., Inc. (“**Haren**”) respectfully petitions the full Court for review of this Court’s Order dated May 20, 2026 granting Appellant Paragon Inc. of South Carolina, LLC’s (“**Paragon**”) Motion to Stay.

INTRODUCTION

This appeal arises from Paragon’s bid protest challenging the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources’ (“**SCDNR**”) solicitation and intent to award Haren Construction Co., Inc. (“**Haren**”) a contract to renovate the Waddell Mariculture facility in Beaufort County.

On April 22, 2026, Paragon moved to stay the relief ordered by the South Carolina Procurement Review Panel (the “**Panel**”) pending resolution of this appeal, seeking to prevent Haren from commencing performance of the contract. On April 30, 2026, Haren filed a return opposing the motion, explaining that the relief Paragon seeks, award of the contract or a re-bid, is no longer available under the South Carolina Procurement Code because the contract had already been awarded to Haren. On May 7, 2026, the Court entered a temporary stay and directed the parties to submit memoranda addressing whether SCDNR had awarded the contract to Haren.

On May 14 and May 15, 2026, SCDNR and Haren submitted memoranda in response to the May 7, 2026 Order. Haren explained that the contract was “awarded” to Haren and formed no later than May 4, 2026, when SCDNR returned the fully executed contract documents to Haren. Haren further explained that, although the contract documents identify May 22, 2026 as the contract’s effective date, the solicitation expressly provided that the successful bid would be accepted and the contract formed upon execution of the contract documents.

On May 20, 2026, the Court granted Paragon’s Motion to Stay, finding that “[t]he memorandums and supporting documentation evidence that SCDNR sent Haren contract documents on April 22, 2026, following Paragon filing its motion to stay, and that the contract was entered into as of May 22, 2026.”

Haren respectfully maintains that the contract was awarded no later than May 4, 2026, when SCDNR returned the fully executed contract documents to Haren, not May 22, 2026. Because SCDNR has already awarded the contract to Haren, the relief Paragon seeks—award of the contract or a re-bid—is no longer available under the South Carolina Procurement Code. Paragon’s remaining remedies under the Procurement Code will not be affected by Haren

commencing performance of the contract. Therefore, a stay is unnecessary to preserve jurisdiction of the appeal or to prevent a contested issue from becoming moot.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

Rule 241, SCACR requires the Court to determine whether a stay is “necessary to preserve jurisdiction of the appeal or to prevent a contested issue from becoming moot.” Rule 241(c)(2), SCACR. Rule 241(d)(2), SCACR further provides that “[u]pon the issuance of a final order by an individual judge or justice, an aggrieved party may petition the full appellate court for review of that decision.” In addition, Rule 241(d)(7), SCACR further provides that [a]ny party aggrieved by the decision of ... an individual judge or justice may petition under this Rule for a review of that decision.”

ARGUMENT

I. THE CONTRACT WAS “AWARDED” AND FORMED NO LATER THAN MAY 4, 2026, WHEN SCDNR ACCEPTED HAREN’S BID BY RETURNING THE EXECUTED CONTRACT DOCUMENTS TO HAREN.

The term “award” is used throughout the South Carolina Procurement Code but is not defined. The undersigned counsel is unable to locate any decision by a South Carolina court or administrative body squarely addressing when exactly an award of contract occurs under the Procurement Code.¹

¹ At least one court has observed that it may be unclear what constitutes an “award” under a state’s Procurement Code. *See Motorola Sols., Inc. v. Utah Commc’ns Auth.*, 2019 UT 66, 455 P.3d 91, 93 n.8. For example, the term “award” may refer to an earlier step in the procurement process than contract execution or formation, such as the point when the successful offeror is selected. Given this uncertainty, Haren argued in its April 30, 2026 Return to Paragon’s Motion to Stay that the contract had already been awarded to it. Haren maintains, however, that the contract was awarded in this case *no later* than May 4, 2026, when SCDNR returned the fully executed contract documents to Haren. In any event, the remedies available under the Procurement Code are unaffected even if the contract was “awarded” on an earlier date than May 4, 2026.

The Panel has interpreted the word “accepted” in the bid process to mean “awarded.” *See In Re: Protest of Burkwood Construction Company, Inc.; Appeal By Burkwood Construction Company, Inc.*, Panel Case No. 1997-8, 1997 WL 33477959 (S.C. Procure. Rev. Panel June 11, 1997) (holding that “accepted,” as used in S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-3020(2)(b)(iii), means “awarded”). Relatedly, the Panel has treated contract formation as the event that limits a disappointed bidder to the post-award remedies authorized by S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-4310. *See In re Appeal by Public Consulting Group, Inc.*, Panel Case No. 2018-2(II), 2018 WL 3917698, at *3 n.1 (S.C. Procure. Rev. Panel June 18, 2018). *See also In Re: Protest of Business Systems of South Carolina, Inc., Appeal By American Specialty Office Products, Inc.*, Panel Case No. 2002-3, 2002 WL 31955065, at *2 (S.C. Procure. Rev. Panel Apr. 24, 2002) (finding that contract was entered into when agency posted the award and issued a purchase order).

Consistent with this Panel precedent, Section 5.3 of the Instructions to Bidders is titled “Acceptance of Bid (*Award*)”.² The SE-370 Notice of Intent to Award likewise provides that “[t]he successful bid will be accepted and the contract formed by execution of the contract documents.” Read together, these provisions confirm that the contract is “awarded” upon bid acceptance and contract formation. That occurred no later than May 4, 2026, when SCDNR returned the fully executed contract documents to Haren. Neither document ties the “award” to the contract’s effective date.

This reading is consistent with South Carolina law and basic contract principles. *Cf. Electro-Lab of Aiken, Inc. v. Sharp Constr. Co. of Sumter*, 357 S.C. 363, 370, 593 S.E.2d 170, 174 (Ct. App. 2004) (“To be effective, acceptance of the bid must convey assent to the terms of the bid

² South Carolina Division of Procurement Services, Office of State Engineer Version of AIA Document A701 – 2018, § 5.3, attached as **Ex. 1** (emphasis added).

by a return promise or mutual intent to be bound.”); 17 *C.J.S. Contracts* § 81 (West April 2026 Update) (“[T]he acceptance of the bid makes the contract in accordance with the terms of the proposals.” (footnote omitted)); 17A *Am. Jur. 2d Contracts* § 65 (West May 2026 Update) (“The moment of acceptance is the moment the contract is created.”).

The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and decisions applying it likewise confirm that a government contract award occurs when the contracting officer executes the contract and communicates acceptance to the successful offeror—not on the contract’s effective date. *See* FAR 15.504 (providing that the contracting officer shall award a contract by furnishing the executed contract or other notice of award to the successful offeror); *Favor Techconsulting, LLC v. United States*, 129 Fed. Cl. 208, 212 (2016) (stating that a contract is not awarded until the contracting officer signs the document); *Caddell Constr. Co., LLC v. United States*, 120 Fed. Cl. 724, 726 (Fed. Cl. 2015) (explaining that an award requires the contracting officer to sign and mail the award letter and that a binding contract does not exist until delivery); *JEM Transport, Inc. v. United States*, 120 Fed. Cl. 189, 195–96 (2015) (same); *Emeco Industries, Inc. v. United States*, 202 Ct. Cl. 1006, 485 F.2d 652 (1973) (holding that acceptance must be communicated to the offeror).

II. THE CONTRACT’S EFFECTIVE DATE DOES NOT DETERMINE WHEN THE AWARD OCCURRED.

In government contracting, an “effective date” often marks the start of the period of performance, not the moment the Government accepts an offer and makes an award. *See* FAR 11.403(a)(2) (permitting time for performance to be stated as “the date of award or acceptance by the Government” *or* “the date shown as the effective date of the contract”). For administrative or practical reasons, agencies may set a delayed effective date after execution to allow completion of pre-performance requirements. *See, e.g., Sims v. United States*, 112 Fed. Cl. 808, 811–13 (2013) (solicitation distinguished award date from effective date to allow security-clearance procedures

before performance); *see also DynCorp Info. Sys., LLC v. United States*, 58 Fed. Cl. 446, 456 (2003) (“[T]he effective date of a contract is not a rigid concept, but one that the parties can fix to take account of the realities of when they have agreed to be bound.”).

That delayed effective date was used here for these same reasons. SCDNR sent Haren the contract documents and bond forms for execution on April 22, 2026, and the parties used a delayed effective date of May 22, 2026 to allow time for Haren to purchase and provide the required bonds.³ Ultimately, the buffer to obtain bonding was not even necessary but was incorporated as a standard industry practice, separate and apart from Paragon’s dispute over the award or the requested stay. The May 22, 2026 effective date, however, does not alter that SCDNR “awarded” the contract under all available legal guidance and industry practice no later than May 4, 2026, when SCDNR returned the fully executed contract documents to Haren.

III. THE RELIEF PARAGON SEEKS TO PRESERVE THROUGH A STAY IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE UNDER THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROCUREMENT CODE.

The relief Paragon seeks, an award of the contract or a rebid, is available only before contract award. S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-4310(2) provides that “[i]f, prior to award of a contract, it is determined that a solicitation or proposed award of a contract is in violation of law, then the solicitation or proposed award may be: (a) canceled; (b) revised to comply with the law and rebid; or (c) awarded in a manner that complies with the provisions of this code.”

By contrast, once a contract is awarded, the Procurement Code limits relief to the remedies in § 11-35-4310(3): “[i]f, after an award of a contract, it is determined that the solicitation or award is in violation of the law: (a) the contract may be ratified and affirmed, provided it is in the interest of the State; or (b) the contract may be terminated and the payment of such damages, if any, as

³ *See* SCDNR Memorandum to Court at 7 & n.12 (May 14, 2026).

may be provided in the contract, may be awarded.” S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-4310(4) further authorizes “a reasonable reimbursement amount, including reimbursement of reasonable bid preparation costs,” for a bidder who claims it should have received the award. Nothing in the statute ties the available remedies to the contract’s effective date.

The Panel has consistently held that the pre-award remedies in § 11-35-4310(2) are unavailable after a contract has been awarded. *See In re Appeal by Public Consulting Group, Inc.*, Panel Case No. 2018-2(II), 2018 WL 3917698, at *3 n.1 (S.C. Procure. Rev. Panel June 18, 2018) (“In light of contract formation, the remedies available to PCG with regard to that contract are limited to those enumerated in section 11-35-4310(3) of the Procurement Code[.]”); *In Re: Protest of Business Systems of South Carolina, Inc., Appeal By American Specialty Office Products, Inc.*, Panel Case No. 2002-3, 2002 WL 31955065, at *2 (S.C. Procure. Rev. Panel Apr. 24, 2002) (holding that, because the protest was decided after the agency posted the award and issued a purchase order, the CPO exceeded his authority by rescinding the award and re-awarding the contract because that remedy is not authorized by § 11-35-4310(3)).

Courts construing similar procurement statutes that distinguish pre- and post-award relief have reached the same conclusion. *See Motorola Sols., Inc. v. Utah Commc'ns Auth.*, 2019 UT 66, ¶ 18, 455 P.3d 91, 95 (holding that a motion to stay seeking to prevent contract execution was moot where the agency executed the contract four days before the court of appeals entered a temporary stay); *CARL Corp. v. State, Dep't of Educ.*, 85 Haw. 431, 449–50, 946 P.2d 1, 19–20 (1997) (“This case provides an example of the difference in available remedies once the contract has been awarded. ... Had the contract not been executed, the relief CARL seeks would have been available.”).

The distinction between pre- and post-award remedies reflects a practical reality: before award, cancellation, rebidding, or award to the protestor may be feasible; after award, the parties typically are preparing to perform or have begun performance, and those remedies would cause unnecessary delay in time-sensitive public projects.⁴ Accordingly, the disappointed bidder is limited to the post-award remedies authorized by statute. *Id.* at *1–2 (“[I]njunctive relief is not the appropriate remedy for a disappointed bidder when public interest considerations are present and when a claim for damages is available, even if the bidder is limited to recovery of bid preparation costs.”).

Paragon cannot justify a stay based on the need to preserve relief that is no longer available under the Procurement Code. Rather, a stay is unnecessary to preserve the post-award remedies: contract termination or ratification under § 11-35-4310(3), and reasonable bid preparation costs under § 11-35-4310(4). Those remedies will remain viable even if Haren commences performance of the contract. If Paragon succeeds on appeal, then SCDNR could terminate or ratify the contract regardless of whether Haren has commenced performance, and Paragon could seek to recover its reasonable bid preparation costs.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Haren respectfully requests that the Court lift the stay in this matter.

⁴ The parties agree that the project is time-sensitive. *See* Ex. 13 to Paragon’s Motion to Stay, at 1 (Apr. 22, 2026). The Panel has explained that “the public has a strong interest in having procurements of vital goods and services by the State proceed without disruption and delay.” *In re Protest of Gregory Electric Co.*, Panel Case No. 1989-17(III), 1990 WL 10008052, at *2 (S.C. Procure. Rev. Panel Jan. 26, 1990). “It would be intolerable for any frustrated bidder to render uncertain for a prolonged period of time government contracts which are vital to the functions performed by the sovereign.” *Id.* (quoting *M. Steinthal & Co. v. Seamans*, 455 F.2d 1289, 1303 (D.C. Cir. 1971) (internal quotation marks omitted)).

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May 29, 2026

Exhibit 1



**BEAUFORT-WADDELL MARICULTURE
MATURATION PONDS MAINTENANCE – RE-BID**

AIA A701 INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

**South Carolina Division of Procurement
Services, Office of State Engineer Version of
 AIA[®] Document A701[™] – 2018**

Instructions to Bidders

This version of AIA Document A701[™]–2018 is modified by the South Carolina Division of Procurement Services, Office of State Engineer (“SCOSE”). Publication of this version of AIA Document A701–2018 does not imply the American Institute of Architects’ endorsement of any modification by SCOSE. A comparative version of AIA Document A701–2018 showing additions and deletions by SCOSE is available for review on the SCOSE Web site.

Cite this document as “AIA Document A701[™]– 2018, Instructions to Bidders — SCOSE Version,” or “AIA Document A701[™]–2018 — SCOSE Version.”

South Carolina Division of Procurement Services, Office of State Engineer Version of AIA Document A701™ – 2018

Instructions to Bidders

for the following Project:

(Name, State Project Number, location, and detailed description)

Beaufort - Waddell Mariculture Maturation Pond Maintenance Re-Bid
 P24-6052-MJ
 211 Sawmill Creek Road, Bluffton, SC 29910

THE OWNER:

(Name, legal status, address, and other information)

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
 P.O. Box 167
 Columbia, SC 29202

The Owner is a Governmental Body of the State of South Carolina as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-310.

THE ARCHITECT:

(Name, legal status, address, and other information)

Schnabel Engineering
 250 S 5th Street, Suite 510
 Boise, ID 83702

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This document has important legal consequences. Consultation with an attorney is encouraged with respect to its completion or modification.

TABLE OF ARTICLES

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ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS

§ 1.1 Bidding Documents include the Bidding Requirements and the Proposed Contract Documents. The Bidding Requirements consist of the advertisement or invitation to bid, Instructions to Bidders, supplementary instructions to bidders, the bid form, and any other bidding forms. The Proposed Contract Documents consist of the unexecuted form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor and that Agreement's Exhibits, Conditions of the Contract (General, Supplementary and other Conditions), Drawings, Specifications, all Addenda, and all other documents enumerated in Article 8 of these Instructions.

§ 1.1.1 Any reference in this document to the Agreement between the Owner and Contractor, AIA Document A101, or some abbreviated reference thereof, shall mean the AIA Document A101-2017 Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, SCOSE Version. Any reference in this document to the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, AIA Document A201, or some abbreviated reference thereof, shall mean the AIA Document A201-2017 General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, SCOSE Version.

§ 1.2 Definitions set forth in the General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, or in other Proposed Contract Documents apply to the Bidding Documents.

§ 1.3 Addenda are written or graphic instruments issued by the Architect, which, by additions, deletions, clarifications, or corrections, modify or interpret the Bidding Documents.

§ 1.4 A Bid is a complete and properly executed proposal to do the Work for the sums stipulated therein, submitted in accordance with the Bidding Documents.

§ 1.5 The Base Bid is the sum stated in the Bid for which the Bidder offers to perform the Work described in the Bidding Documents, to which Work may be added or deleted by sums stated in Alternate Bids.

§ 1.6 An Alternate Bid (or Alternate) is an amount stated in the Bid to be added to or deducted from, or that does not change, the Base Bid if the corresponding change in the Work, as described in the Bidding Documents, is accepted.

§ 1.7 A Unit Price is an amount stated in the Bid as a price per unit of measurement for materials, equipment, or services, or a portion of the Work, as described in the Bidding Documents.

§ 1.8 A Bidder is a person or entity who submits a Bid.

§ 1.9 A Sub-bidder is a person or entity who submits a bid to a Bidder for materials, equipment, or labor for a portion of the Work.

ARTICLE 2 BIDDER'S REPRESENTATIONS

§ 2.1 By submitting a Bid, the Bidder represents that:

- .1 the Bidder has read and understands the Bidding Documents;
- .2 the Bidder understands how the Bidding Documents relate to other portions of the Project, if any, being bid concurrently or presently under construction;
- .3 the Bid complies with the Bidding Documents;
- .4 the Bidder has visited the site, become familiar with local conditions under which the Work is to be performed, has correlated the Bidder's observations with the requirements of the Proposed Contract Documents, and accepts full responsibility for any pre-bid existing conditions that would affect the Bid that could have been ascertained by a site visit. As provided in S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 19-445.2042(B), a bidder's failure to attend an advertised pre-bid conference will not excuse its responsibility for estimating properly the difficulty and cost of successfully performing the work, or for proceeding to successfully perform the work without additional expense to the State;
- .5 the Bid is based upon the materials, equipment, and systems required by the Bidding Documents without exception;
- .6 the Bidder has read and understands the provisions for liquidated damages, if any, set forth in the form of Agreement between the Owner and Contractor; and
- .7 the Bidder understands that it may be required to accept payment by electronic funds transfer (EFT).

§ 2.2 Certification of Independent Price Determination

§ 2.2.1 GIVING FALSE, MISLEADING, OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION ON THIS CERTIFICATION MAY RENDER YOU SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION UNDER SC CODE OF LAWS §16-9-10 AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS.

Init.

§ 2.2.2 By submitting a Bid, the Bidder certifies that:

- .1 The prices in this Bid have been arrived at independently, without, for the purpose of restricting competition, any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other bidder or competitor relating to:
 - .1 those prices;
 - .2 the intention to submit a Bid; or
 - .3 the methods or factors used to calculate the prices offered.
- .2 The prices in this Bid have not been and will not be knowingly disclosed by the Bidder, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder or competitor before bid opening (in the case of a sealed bid solicitation) or contract award (in the case of a negotiated solicitation) unless otherwise required by law; and
- .3 No attempt has been made or will be made by the Bidder to induce any other concern to submit or not to submit a Bid for the purpose of restricting competition.

§ 2.2.3 Each signature on the Bid is considered to be a certification by the signatory that the signatory:

- .1 Is the person in the Bidder's organization responsible for determining the prices being offered in this Bid, and that the signatory has not participated and will not participate in any action contrary to Section 2.2.2 of this certification; or
- .2 Has been authorized, in writing, to act as agent for the Bidder's principals in certifying that those principals have not participated, and will not participate in any action contrary to Section 2.2.2 of this certification [As used in this subdivision, the term "principals" means the person(s) in the Bidder's organization responsible for determining the prices offered in this Bid];
- .3 As an authorized agent, does certify that the principals referenced in Section 2.2.3.2 of this certification have not participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to Section 2.2.2 of this certification; and
- .4 As an agent, has not personally participated, and will not participate, in any action contrary to Section 2.2.2 of this certification.

§ 2.2.4 If the Bidder deletes or modifies Section 2.2.2.2 of this certification, the Bidder must furnish with its offer a signed statement setting forth in detail the circumstances of the disclosure.

§ 2.2.5 Drug Free Workplace Certification

By submitting a Bid, the Bidder certifies that, if awarded a contract, Bidder will comply with all applicable provisions of The Drug-free Workplace Act, S.C. Code Ann. 44-107-10, et seq.

§ 2.2.6 Certification Regarding Debarment and Other Responsibility Matters

§ 2.2.6.1 By submitting a Bid, Bidder certifies, to the best of its knowledge and belief, that:

- .1 Bidder and/or any of its Principals-
 - .1 Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any state or federal agency;
 - .2 Have not, within a three-year period preceding this Bid, been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for: commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, state, or local) contract or subcontract; violation of Federal or state antitrust statutes relating to the submission of bids; or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, or receiving stolen property; and
 - .3 Are not presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity with, commission of any of the offenses enumerated in Section 2.2.6.1.1.2 of this provision.
- .2 Bidder has not, within a three-year period preceding this Bid, had one or more contracts terminated for default by any public (Federal, state, or local) entity.
- .3 "Principals," for the purposes of this certification, means officers; directors; owners; partners; and, persons having primary management or supervisory responsibilities within a business entity (e.g., general manager; plant manager; head of a subsidiary, division, or business segment, and similar positions).

§ 2.2.6.2 Bidder shall provide immediate written notice to the Procurement Officer if, at any time prior to contract award, Bidder learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

Init.

§ 2.2.6.3 If Bidder is unable to certify the representations stated in Section 2.2.6.1, Bidder must submit a written explanation regarding its inability to make the certification. The certification will be considered in connection with a review of the Bidder's responsibility. Failure of the Bidder to furnish additional information as requested by the Procurement Officer may render the Bidder non-responsible.

§ 2.2.6.4 Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the certification required by Section 2.2.6.1 of this provision. The knowledge and information of a Bidder is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

§ 2.2.6.5 The certification in Section 2.2.6.1 of this provision is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making award. If it is later determined that the Bidder knowingly or in bad faith rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the State, the Procurement Officer may terminate the contract resulting from this solicitation for default.

§ 2.2.7 Ethics Certificate

By submitting a Bid, the Bidder certifies that the Bidder has and will comply with, and has not, and will not, induce a person to violate Title 8, Chapter 13 of the SC Code of Laws, as amended (Ethics Act). The following statutes require special attention: S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-700, regarding use of official position for financial gain; S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-705, regarding gifts to influence action of public official; S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-720, regarding offering money for advice or assistance of public official; S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-755 and §8-13-760, regarding restrictions on employment by former public official; S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-775, prohibiting public official with economic interests from acting on contracts; S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-790, regarding recovery of kickbacks; S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-1150, regarding statements to be filed by consultants; and S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-1342, regarding restrictions on contributions by contractor to candidate who participated in awarding of contract. The State may rescind any contract and recover all amounts expended as a result of any action taken in violation of this provision. If the contractor participates, directly or indirectly, in the evaluation or award of public contracts, including without limitation, change orders or task orders regarding a public contract, the contractor shall, if required by law to file such a statement, provide the statement required by S.C. Code Ann. §8-13-1150 to the Procurement Officer at the same time the law requires the statement to be filed.

§ 2.2.8 Restrictions Applicable To Bidders & Gifts

Violation of these restrictions may result in disqualification of your Bid, suspension or debarment, and may constitute a violation of the state Ethics Act.

§ 2.2.8.1 After issuance of the solicitation, Bidder agrees not to discuss this procurement activity in any way with the Owner or its employees, agents or officials. All communications must be solely with the Procurement Officer. This restriction may be lifted by express written permission from the Procurement Officer. This restriction expires once a contract has been formed.

§ 2.2.8.2 Unless otherwise approved in writing by the Procurement Officer, Bidder agrees not to give anything to the Owner, any affiliated organizations, or the employees, agents or officials of either, prior to award.

§ 2.2.8.3 Bidder acknowledges that the policy of the State is that a governmental body should not accept or solicit a gift, directly or indirectly, from a donor if the governmental body has reason to believe the donor has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with the governmental body. SC Regulation 19-445.2165(C) broadly defines the term donor.

§ 2.2.9 Open Trade Representation

By submitting a Bid, the Bidder represents that Bidder is not currently engaged in the boycott of a person or an entity based in or doing business with a jurisdiction with whom South Carolina can enjoy open trade, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-5300.

ARTICLE 3 BIDDING DOCUMENTS

§ 3.1 Distribution

§ 3.1.1 Bidders shall obtain complete Bidding Documents from the issuing office designated in the advertisement or invitation to bid, for the deposit sum, if any, stated therein.

Intt.

§ 3.1.2 Any required deposit shall be refunded to all plan holders who return the paper Bidding Documents in good condition within ten (10) days after receipt of Bids. The cost to replace missing or damaged paper documents will be deducted from the deposit. A Bidder receiving a Contract award may retain the paper Bidding Documents, and the Bidder's deposit will be refunded.

§ 3.1.3 Reserved

§ 3.1.4 Bidders shall use complete Bidding Documents in preparing Bids. Neither the Owner nor Architect assumes responsibility for errors or misinterpretations resulting from the use of incomplete Bidding Documents.

§ 3.1.5 The Bidding Documents will be available for the sole purpose of obtaining Bids on the Work. No license or grant of use is conferred by distribution of the Bidding Documents.

§ 3.1.6 All persons obtaining Bidding Documents from the issuing office designated in the advertisement shall provide that office with Bidder's contact information to include the Bidder's name, telephone number, mailing address, and email address.

§ 3.2 Modification or Interpretation of Bidding Documents

§ 3.2.1 The Bidder shall carefully study the Bidding Documents, shall examine the site and local conditions, and shall notify the Architect of errors, inconsistencies, or ambiguities discovered and request clarification or interpretation pursuant to Section 3.2.2. Failure to do so will be at the Bidder's risk. Bidder assumes responsibility for any patent ambiguity that Bidder does not bring to the Architect's attention prior to Bid Opening.

§ 3.2.2 Requests for clarification or interpretation of the Bidding Documents shall be submitted by the Bidder in writing and shall be received by the Architect at least ten (10) days prior to the date for receipt of Bids.

§ 3.2.3 Modifications, corrections, changes, and interpretations of the Bidding Documents shall be made by Addendum. Modifications, corrections, changes, and interpretations of the Bidding Documents made in any other manner shall not be binding, and Bidders shall not rely upon them.

§ 3.2.4 As provided in S.C. Code Ann. Reg. 19-445.2042(B), nothing stated at the Pre-bid conference shall change the Bidding Documents unless a change is made by Addendum.

§ 3.3 Substitutions

§ 3.3.1 The materials, products, and equipment described in the Bidding Documents establish a standard of required function, dimension, appearance, and quality to be met by any proposed substitution. Where "brand name or equal" is used in the Bidding Documents, the listing description is not intended to limit or restrict competition.

§ 3.3.2 Substitution Process

§ 3.3.2.1 Written requests for substitutions shall be received by the Architect at least ten (10) days prior to the date for receipt of Bids. Requests shall be submitted in the same manner as that established for submitting clarifications and interpretations in Section 3.2.2.

§ 3.3.2.2 Bidders shall submit substitution requests on a Substitution Request Form if one is provided in the Bidding Documents.

§ 3.3.2.3 If a Substitution Request Form is not provided, requests shall include (1) the name of the material or equipment specified in the Bidding Documents; (2) the reason for the requested substitution; (3) a complete description of the proposed substitution including the name of the material or equipment proposed as the substitute, performance and test data, and relevant drawings; and (4) any other information necessary for an evaluation. The request shall include a statement setting forth changes in other materials, equipment, or other portions of the Work, including changes in the work of other contracts or the impact on any Project Certifications (such as LEED), that will result from incorporation of the proposed substitution.

§ 3.3.2.4 No request to substitute materials, products, or equipment for materials, products, or equipment described in the Bidding Documents and no request for addition of a manufacturer or supplier to a list of approved manufacturers or suppliers in the Bidding Documents will be considered prior to receipt of Bids unless written request for approval has been received by the Architect at least ten (10) days prior to the date for receipt of Bids established in the invitation to bid.

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Any subsequent extension of the date for receipt of Bids by addendum shall not extend the date for receipt of such requests unless the addendum so specifies. A statement setting forth changes in other materials, equipment or other portions of the Work, including changes in the Work of other contracts that incorporation of the proposed substitution would require, shall be included.

§ 3.3.3 The burden of proof of the merit of the proposed substitution is upon the proposer. The Architect's decision of approval or disapproval of a proposed substitution shall be final.

§ 3.3.4 If the Architect approves a proposed substitution prior to receipt of Bids, such approval shall be set forth in an Addendum. Approvals made in any other manner shall not be binding, and Bidders shall not rely upon them.

§ 3.3.5 No substitutions will be considered after the Contract award unless specifically provided for in the Contract Documents.

§ 3.4 Addenda

§ 3.4.1 Addenda will be transmitted to Bidders known by the issuing office to have received complete Bidding Documents.

§ 3.4.2 Addenda will be available where Bidding Documents are on file.

§ 3.4.3 Addenda will be issued at least five (5) business days before the day of the Bid Opening, except an Addendum withdrawing the request for Bids or one which includes postponement of the date for receipt of Bids. A business day runs from midnight to midnight and excludes weekends and state and federal holidays.

§ 3.4.4 Prior to submitting a Bid, each Bidder shall ascertain that the Bidder has received all Addenda issued, and the Bidder shall acknowledge their receipt in the Bid.

§ 3.4.5 When the date for receipt of Bids is to be postponed and there is insufficient time to issue an Addendum prior to the original Bid Date, the Owner will notify prospective Bidders by telephone or other appropriate means with immediate follow up with an Addendum. This Addendum will verify the postponement of the original Bid Date and establish a new Bid Date. The new Bid Date will be no earlier than the fifth (5th) business day after the date of issuance of the Addendum postponing the original Bid Date.

§ 3.4.6 If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal government processes so that Bids cannot be received at the government office designated for receipt of Bids by the exact time specified in the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of Bids will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal government processes resume. In lieu of an automatic extension, an Addendum may be issued to reschedule Bid Opening. If state offices are closed in the county in which Bids are to be received at the time a pre-bid or pre-proposal conference is scheduled, an Addendum will be issued to reschedule the conference. Bidders shall visit <https://www.scecmd.org/closings/> for information concerning closings.

ARTICLE 4 BIDDING PROCEDURES

§ 4.1 Preparation of Bids

§ 4.1.1 Bids shall be submitted on the forms included with or identified in the Bidding Documents.

§ 4.1.2 All blanks on the Bid Form shall be legibly executed. Paper bid forms shall be executed in a non-erasable medium.

§ 4.1.3 Sums shall be expressed in numbers.

§ 4.1.4 Interlineations, alterations and erasures must be initialed by the signer of the Bid. Bidder shall not make stipulations or qualify his Bid in any manner not permitted on the Bid Form. An incomplete Bid or information not requested that is written on or attached to the Bid Form that could be considered a qualification of the Bid, may be cause for rejection of the Bid.

§ 4.1.5 All requested Alternates shall be bid. The failure of the Bidder to indicate a price for an Alternate shall render the Bid non-responsive. Indicate the change to the Base Bid by entering the dollar amount and marking, as appropriate, the box for "ADD TO" or "DEDUCT FROM". If no change in the Base Bid is required, enter "ZERO" or "No Change".

§ 4.1.6 Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-3020(b)(i), as amended, Section 7 of the Bid Form sets forth a list of proposed subcontractors for which the Bidder is required to identify those subcontractors the Bidder will use to perform the work listed. Bidder must follow the instructions in the Bid Form for filling out this section of the Bid Form. Failure to properly fill out Section 7 may result in rejection of Bidder's bid as non-responsive.

§ 4.1.7 Contractors and subcontractors listed in Section 7 of the Bid Form who are required by the South Carolina Code of Laws to be licensed, must be licensed as required by law at the time of bidding.

§ 4.1.8 Each copy of the Bid shall state the legal name and legal status of the Bidder. Each copy of the Bid shall be signed by the person or persons legally authorized to bind the Bidder to a contract.

§ 4.1.9 A Bidder shall incur all costs associated with the preparation of its Bid.

§ 4.2 Bid Security

§ 4.2.1 If required by the invitation to bid, each Bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in an amount of not less than five percent of the Base Bid. The bid security shall be a bid bond or a certified cashier's check.

§ 4.2.2 The Bidder pledges to enter into a Contract with the Owner on the terms stated in the Bid and shall, if required, furnish bonds covering the faithful performance of the Contract and payment of all obligations arising thereunder. Should the Bidder refuse to enter into such Contract or fail to furnish such bonds if required, the amount of the bid security shall be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages, not as a penalty.

§ 4.2.3 If a surety bond is required as bid security, it shall be written on AIA Document A310™, Bid Bond and the attorney-in-fact who executes the bond on behalf of the surety shall affix to the bond a certified and current copy of an acceptable power of attorney. The Bid Bond shall:

- .1 be issued by a surety company licensed to do business in South Carolina;
- .2 be issued by a surety company having, at a minimum, a "Best Rating" of "A" as stated in the most current publication of "Best's Key Rating Guide, Property-Casualty", which company shows a financial strength rating of at least five (5) times the contract price.
- .3 be enclosed in the bid envelope at the time of Bid Opening, either in paper copy or as an electronic bid bond authorization number provided on the Bid Form and issued by a firm or organization authorized by the surety to receive, authenticate and issue binding electronic bid bonds on behalf the surety.

§ 4.2.4 The Owner will have the right to retain the bid security of Bidders to whom an award is being considered until either (a) the Contract has been executed and performance and payment bonds, if required, have been furnished; (b) the specified time has elapsed so that Bids may be withdrawn; or (c) all Bids have been rejected.

§ 4.2.5 By submitting a Bid Bond via an electronic bid bond authorization number on the Bid Form and signing the Bid Form, the Bidder certifies that an electronic bid bond has been executed by a Surety meeting the standards required by the Bidding Documents and the Bidder and Surety are firmly bound unto the State of South Carolina under the conditions provided in this Section 4.2.

§ 4.3 Submission of Bids

§ 4.3.1 A Bidder shall submit its Bid as indicated below:

§ 4.3.2 All paper copies of the Bid, the bid security, and any other documents required to be submitted with the Bid shall be enclosed in a sealed opaque envelope. The envelope shall, unless hand delivered by the Bidder, be addressed to the Owner's designated purchasing office as shown in the invitation to bid. The envelope shall be identified with the Project name, the Bidder's name and address, and, if applicable, the designated portion of the Work for which the Bid is submitted. If the Bid is sent by mail, or special delivery service (UPS, Federal Express, etc.), the sealed envelope shall be labelled "SEALED BID ENCLOSED" on the face thereof. Bidders hand delivering their Bids shall deliver Bids to the place of the Bid Opening as shown in the invitation for bids. Whether or not Bidders attend the Bid Opening, they shall give their Bids to the Owner's Procurement Officer or his/her designee as shown in the invitation to bid prior to the time of the Bid Opening.

§ 4.3.3 Bids shall be submitted by the date and time and at the place indicated in the invitation to bid. Bids submitted after the date and time for receipt of Bids, or at an incorrect place, will not be accepted.

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§ 4.3.4 The Bidder shall assume full responsibility for timely delivery at the location designated for receipt of Bids.

§ 4.3.5 A Bid submitted by any method other than as provided in this Section 4.3 will not be accepted. Oral, telephonic, telegraphic, facsimile or other electronically transmitted bids will not be considered.

§ 4.3.6 The official time for receipt of Bids will be determined by reference to the clock designated by the Owner's Procurement Officer or his/her designee. The Procurement Officer conducting the Bid Opening will determine and announce that the deadline has arrived and no further Bids or bid modifications will be accepted. All Bids and bid modifications in the possession of the Procurement Officer at the time the announcement is completed will be timely, whether or not the bid envelope has been date/time stamped or otherwise marked by the Procurement Officer.

§ 4.4 Modification or Withdrawal of Bid

§ 4.4.1 Prior to the date and time designated for receipt of Bids, a Bidder may submit a new Bid to replace a Bid previously submitted, or withdraw its Bid entirely, by notice to the party designated to receive the Bids. Such notice shall be received and duly recorded by the receiving party on or before the date and time set for receipt of Bids. The receiving party shall verify that replaced or withdrawn Bids are removed from the other submitted Bids and not considered. Notice of submission of a replacement Bid or withdrawal of a Bid shall be worded so as not to reveal the amount of the original Bid.

§ 4.4.2 Withdrawn Bids may be resubmitted up to the date and time designated for the receipt of Bids in the same format as that established in Section 4.3, provided they fully conform with these Instructions to Bidders. Bid security shall be in an amount sufficient for the Bid as resubmitted.

ARTICLE 5 CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

§ 5.1 Opening of Bids

Bids received on time will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Owner will not read aloud Bids that the Owner determines, at the time of opening, to be non-responsive.

§ 5.1.1 At Bid Opening, the Owner will announce the date and location of the posting of the Notice of Intend to Award. If the Owner determines to award the Project, the Owner will, after posting a Notice of Intend to Award, send a copy of the Notice to all Bidders.

§ 5.1.2 The Owner will send a copy of the final Bid Tabulation to all Bidders within ten (10) working days of the Bid Opening.

§ 5.1.3 If only one Bid is received, the Owner will open and consider the Bid.

§ 5.2 Rejection of Bids

§ 5.2.1 The Owner shall have the right to reject any or all Bids. A Bid not accompanied by a required bid security or by other data required by the Bidding Documents, or a Bid which is in any way incomplete or irregular is subject to rejection.

§ 5.2.2 The reasons for which the Owner will reject Bids include, but are not limited to:

- .1 Failure by a Bidder to be represented at a Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference or site visit;
- .2 Failure to deliver the Bid on time;
- .3 Failure to comply with Bid Security requirements, except as expressly allowed by law;
- .4 Listing an invalid electronic Bid Bond authorization number on the Bid Form;
- .5 Failure to Bid an Alternate, except as expressly allowed by law;
- .6 Failure to list qualified subcontractors as required by law;
- .7 Showing any material modification(s) or exception(s) qualifying the Bid;
- .8 Faxing a Bid directly to the Owner or Owner's representative; or
- .9 Failure to include a properly executed Power-of-Attorney with the Bid Bond.

§ 5.2.3 The Owner may reject a Bid as nonresponsive if the prices bid are materially unbalanced between line items or sub-line items. A Bid is materially unbalanced when it is based on prices significantly less than cost for some work and prices which are significantly overstated in relation to cost for other work, and if there is a reasonable doubt that the Bid

will result in the lowest overall cost to the Owner even though it may be the low evaluated Bid, or if it is so unbalanced as to be tantamount to allowing an advance payment.

§ 5.3 Acceptance of Bid (Award)

§ 5.3.1 It is the intent of the Owner to award a Contract to the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder, provided the Bid has been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Bidding Documents and does not exceed available funds. The Owner shall have the right to waive informalities and irregularities in a Bid received and to accept the Bid which, in the Owner's judgment, is in the Owner's best interests.

§ 5.3.2 The Owner shall have the right to accept Alternates in any order or combination, unless otherwise specifically provided in the Bidding Documents, and to determine the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder on the basis of the sum of the Base Bid and Alternates accepted.

ARTICLE 6 POST-BID INFORMATION

§ 6.1 Contractor's Responsibility

Owner will make a determination of Bidder's responsibility before awarding a contract. Bidder shall provide all information and documentation requested by the Owner to support the Owner's evaluation of responsibility. Failure of Bidder to provide requested information is cause for the Owner, at its option, to determine the Bidder to be non-responsible.

§ 6.2 Reserved

§ 6.3 Submittals

§ 6.3.1 After notification of selection for the award of the Contract, the Bidder shall, as soon as practicable or as stipulated in the Bidding Documents, submit in writing to the Owner through the Architect:

- .1 a designation of the Work to be performed with the Bidder's own forces;
- .2 names of the principal products and systems proposed for the Work and the manufacturers and suppliers of each; and
- .3 names of persons or entities (including those who are to furnish materials or equipment fabricated to a special design) proposed for the principal portions of the Work.

§ 6.4 Posting of Intent To Award

The Notice of Intent to Award will be posted at the following location:

Room or Area of Posting: Lobby

Building Where Posted: SCDNR Headquarters

Address of Building: 260 D. Epting Lane, West Columbia, SC 29172

WEB site address (if applicable):

Posting date will be announced at Bid Opening. In addition to posting the Notice, the Owner will promptly send all responsive Bidders a copy of the Notice of Intent to Award and the final bid tabulation

§ 6.5 Protest of Solicitation or Award

§ 6.5.1 If you are aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract, you may be entitled to protest, but only as provided in S.C. Code Ann. § 11-35-4210. To protest a solicitation, you must submit a protest within fifteen (15) days of the date the applicable solicitation document is issued. To protest an award, you must (i) submit notice of your intent to protest within seven (7) business days of the date the award notice is posted, and (ii) submit your actual protest within fifteen (15) days of the date the award notice is posted. Days are calculated as provided in Section 11-35-310(13). Both protests and notices of intent to protest must be in writing and must be received by the State Engineer within the time provided. The grounds of the protest and the relief requested must be set forth with enough particularity to give notice of the issues to be decided.

§ 6.5.2 Any protest must be addressed to the CPO, Office of State Engineer, and submitted in writing:

- .1 by email to protest-ose@mso.sc.gov,
- .2 by facsimile at 803-737-0639, or
- .3 by post or delivery to 1201 Main Street, Suite 600, Columbia, SC 29201.

By submitting a protest to the foregoing email address, you (and any person acting on your behalf) consent to receive communications regarding your protest (and any related protests) at the e-mail address from which you sent your protest.

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ARTICLE 7 PERFORMANCE BOND AND PAYMENT BOND

§ 7.1 Bond Requirements

§ 7.1.1 If stipulated in the Bidding Documents, the Bidder shall furnish bonds covering the faithful performance of the Contract and payment of all obligations arising thereunder.

§ 7.1.2 If the furnishing of such bonds is stipulated in the Bidding Documents, the cost shall be included in the Bid.

§ 7.1.3 The Bidder shall provide surety bonds from a company or companies lawfully authorized to issue surety bonds in the state of South Carolina.

§ 7.1.4 Unless otherwise indicated below, the Penal Sum of the Payment and Performance Bonds shall be the amount of 100% of the Contract Sum.

§ 7.2 Time of Delivery of Contract, Certificates of Insurance, and Form of Bonds

§ 7.2.1 Following expiration of the protest period, the Owner will forward the Contract for Construction to the Bidder for signature. The Bidder shall return the fully executed Contract for Construction to the Owner within seven (7) days. The Bidder shall deliver the required bonds and certificate of insurance to the Owner not later than three (3) days following the date of execution of the Contract. Failure to deliver these documents as required shall entitle the Owner to consider the Bidder's failure as a refusal to enter into a contract in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidder's Bid and to make claim on the Bid Security for re-procurement cost.

§ 7.2.2 Unless otherwise provided, the bonds shall be written on the Performance Bond and Payment Bond forms included in the Bid Documents.

§ 7.2.3 The bonds shall be dated on or after the date of the Contract.

§ 7.2.4 The Bidder shall require the attorney-in-fact who executes the required bonds on behalf of the surety to affix to the bond a certified and current copy of the power of attorney.

ARTICLE 8 ENUMERATION OF THE PROPOSED CONTRACT DOCUMENTS

§ 8.1 Copies of the proposed Contract Documents have been made available to the Bidder and consist of the following documents:

- .1 AIA Document A101™–2017, Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, SCOSE Version.
- .2 AIA Document A101™–2017, Exhibit A, Insurance and Bonds, SCOSE Version.
- .3 AIA Document A201™–2017, General Conditions of the Contract for Construction, SCOSE Version.
- .4 Drawings

Number	Title	Date
See Attachment 1		

- .5 Specifications

Section	Title	Date	Pages
See Attachment 2			

.6 Addenda:

Number	Date	Pages
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.7 Other Exhibits:

(Check all boxes that apply and include appropriate information identifying the exhibit where required.)

- AIA Document E203™–2013, Building Information Modeling and Digital Data Exhibit, dated as indicated below:
- AIA Document E204™–2017, Sustainable Projects Exhibit, dated as indicated below:
- The Sustainability Plan:
- Supplementary and other Conditions of the Contract:

.8 Other documents listed below:

(List here any additional documents that are intended to form part of the Proposed Contract Documents.)

ARTICLE 9 Miscellaneous**§ 9.1 Nonresident Taxpayer Registration Affidavit Income Tax Withholding Important Tax Notice - Nonresidents Only**

§ 9.1.1 Withholding Requirements for Payments to Nonresidents: SC Code of Laws §12-8-550 requires persons hiring or contracting with a nonresident conducting a business or performing personal services of a temporary nature within South Carolina to withhold 2% of each payment made to the nonresident. The withholding requirement does not apply to (1) payments on purchase orders for tangible personal property when the payments are not accompanied by services to be performed in South Carolina, (2) nonresidents who are not conducting business in South Carolina, (3) nonresidents for contracts that do not exceed \$10,000 in a calendar year, or (4) payments to a nonresident who (a) registers with either the S.C. Department of Revenue or the S.C. Secretary of State and (b) submits a Nonresident Taxpayer Registration Affidavit - Income Tax Withholding, Form I-312 to the person letting the contract.

§ 9.1.2 For information about other withholding requirements (e.g., employee withholding), contact the Withholding Section at the South Carolina Department of Revenue at 803-898-5383 or visit the Department's website at: www.sctax.org

§ 9.1.3 This notice is for informational purposes only. This Owner does not administer and has no authority over tax issues. All registration questions should be directed to the License and Registration Section at 803-898-5872 or to the South Carolina Department of Revenue, Registration Unit, Columbia, S.C. 29214-0140. All withholding questions should be directed to the Withholding Section at 803-898-5383.

PLEASE SEE THE "NONRESIDENT TAXPAYER REGISTRATION AFFIDAVIT INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING" FORM (Available through SC Department of Revenue).

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§ 9.2 Submitting Confidential Information

§ 9.2.1 For every document the Bidder submits in response to or with regard to this solicitation or request, the Bidder must separately mark with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" every page, or portion thereof, that the Bidder contends contains information that is exempt from public disclosure because it is either (a) a trade secret as defined in Section 30-4-40(a)(1), or (b) privileged & confidential, as that phrase is used in SC Code of Laws §11-35-410.

§ 9.2.2 For every document the Bidder submits in response to or with regard to this solicitation or request, the Bidder must separately mark with the words "TRADE SECRET" every page, or portion thereof, that the Bidder contends contains a trade secret as that term is defined by SC Code of Laws §39-8-20.

§ 9.2.3 For every document the Bidder submits in response to or with regard to this solicitation or request, the Bidder must separately mark with the word "PROTECTED" every page, or portion thereof, that the Bidder contends is protected by SC Code of Laws §11-35-1810.

§ 9.2.4 All markings must be conspicuous; use color, bold, underlining, or some other method in order to conspicuously distinguish the mark from the other text. Do not mark your entire Bid as confidential, trade secret, or protected! If your Bid, or any part thereof, is improperly marked as confidential or trade secret or protected, the State may, in its sole discretion, determine it nonresponsive. If only portions of a page are subject to some protection, do not mark the entire page.

§ 9.2.5 By submitting a response to this solicitation, Bidder (1) agrees to the public disclosure of every page of every document regarding this solicitation or request that was submitted at any time prior to entering into a contract (including, but not limited to, documents contained in a response, documents submitted to clarify a response, & documents submitted during negotiations), unless the page is conspicuously marked "TRADE SECRET" or "CONFIDENTIAL" or "PROTECTED", (2) agrees that any information not marked, as required by these bidding instructions, as a "Trade Secret" is not a trade secret as defined by the Trade Secrets Act, & (3) agrees that, notwithstanding any claims or markings otherwise, any prices, commissions, discounts, or other financial figures used to determine the award, as well as the final contract amount, are subject to public disclosure.

§ 9.2.6 In determining whether to release documents, the State will detrimentally rely on the Bidders' marking of documents, as required by these bidding instructions, as being either "Confidential" or "Trade Secret" or "PROTECTED".

§ 9.2.7 By submitting a response, the Bidder agrees to defend, indemnify & hold harmless the State of South Carolina, its officers & employees, from every claim, demand, loss, expense, cost, damage or injury, including attorney's fees, arising out of or resulting from the State withholding information that Bidder marked as "confidential" or "trade secret" or "PROTECTED".

§ 9.3 Solicitation Information From Sources Other Than Official Source

South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) is the official state government publication for State of South Carolina solicitations. Any information on State agency solicitations obtained from any other source is unofficial and any reliance placed on such information is at the Bidder's sole risk and is without recourse under the South Carolina Consolidated Procurement Code.

§ 9.4 Builder's Risk Insurance

Bidders are directed to Exhibit A of the AIA Document A101, 2017 SCOSE Version, which, unless provided otherwise in the Bid Documents, requires the contractor to provide builder's risk insurance on the project.

§ 9.5 Tax Credit For Subcontracting With Minority Firms

§ 9.5.1 Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §12-6-3350, taxpayers, who utilize certified minority subcontractors, may take a tax credit equal to 4% of the payments they make to said subcontractors. The payments claimed must be based on work performed directly for a South Carolina state contract. The credit is limited to a maximum of fifty thousand dollars annually. The taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit for 10 consecutive taxable years beginning with the taxable year in which the first payment is made to the subcontractor that qualifies for the credit. After the above ten consecutive taxable years, the taxpayer is no longer eligible for the credit. The credit may be claimed on Form TC-2, "Minority Business Credit." A copy of the subcontractor's certificate from the Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business (OSMBA) is to be attached to the contractor's income tax return.

§ 9.5.2 Taxpayers must maintain evidence of work performed for a State contract by the minority subcontractor. Questions regarding the tax credit and how to file are to be referred to: SC Department of Revenue, Research and Review, Phone: (803) 898-5786, Fax: (803) 898-5888.

§ 9.5.3 The subcontractor must be certified as to the criteria of a "Minority Firm" by the Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance (OSMBA). Certificates are issued to subcontractors upon successful completion of the certification process. Questions regarding subcontractor certification are to be referred to: Governor's Office of Small and Minority Business Assistance, Phone: (803) 734-0657, Fax: (803) 734-2498. Reference: S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-5010 – Definition for Minority Subcontractor & S.C. Code Ann. §11-35-5230 (B) – Regulations for Negotiating with State Minority Firms.

§ 9.6 Other Special Conditions Of The Work

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THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA PROCUREMENT REVIEW PANEL
Willie D. Franks, Chairman

Appellate Case No. 2026-000914
Panel Case No. 2025-5

In Re: Haren Construction Co., Inc.

Project No. P24-6052-PG Beaufort-Waddell Mariculture Maturation Ponds Maintenance - Re-Bid

Paragon Inc. of South Carolina, LLC, Chief Procurement Officer, State Fiscal Accountability Authority, and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources,

of which Paragon Inc. of South Carolina, LLC and Chief Procurement Officer, State Fiscal Accountability Authority are the Appellants/Respondents, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is the Respondent/Appellant, and Haren Construction Co., Inc. is the Respondent.

PROOF OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on May 29, 2026, a copy of **Respondent Haren Construction Co., Inc's Petition for Review of the Court's Order Dated May 20, 2026 Granting Appellant Paragon, Inc. of South Carolina, LLC's Motion to Stay** was served on all counsel of record via email to counsels' individual AIS email addresses:

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May 29, 2026