

PUBLIC ACCESS AND ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Fresno COG is committed to ensuring that all PROJECT deliverables are accessible to the public, including individuals with disabilities, and compliant with applicable federal and state accessibility requirements. Proposers shall demonstrate their capacity and commitment to meet the following requirements, which will be incorporated as obligations in the resulting Agreement.

A. Deliverable Format and Public Dissemination

The selected Contractor shall prepare all deliverables — including reports, presentations, data, websites, and other materials — in formats suitable for public dissemination and consistent with applicable accessibility requirements.

B. Applicable Legal Requirements

All PROJECT deliverables must comply with applicable accessibility requirements, including but not limited to:

1. The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.), including Title II, which requires state and local governments — including special district agencies — to ensure that their services, programs, and activities are accessible to people with disabilities. For digital services, programs, and activities, Title II compliance requires conformance with **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA**;
2. **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** (29 U.S.C. § 794);
3. **California Government Code Section 11135**, which prohibits discrimination in state-funded programs and requires accessibility in state-funded services and communications; and
4. **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act** and implementing federal regulations governing information and communication technology (ICT).

C. Minimum Technical Standards

At a minimum, the selected Contractor shall ensure that:

1. **Electronic documents** (PDFs, Word documents, and presentations) are fully accessible, including proper tagging, logical reading order, alternative text for all images, and accessible table structures;
2. **All websites, web-based tools, documents, and other materials intended for public viewing** that are developed under the Agreement conform to WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards, or the most current applicable standard at the time of delivery, including but not limited to:
 - a. Public-facing dashboards, GIS tools, and data visualizations that are either fully accessible or accompanied by accessible alternatives providing equivalent information; and

b. Public engagement materials — including outreach notices, presentations, and survey tools — that are accessible and available in formats usable by individuals with disabilities.

D. Proposer Qualifications

Proposals shall include a brief description of the firm's approach to accessibility compliance, including:

- Experience producing accessible deliverables (PDFs, web content, GIS products, or similar) in prior work products;
- Staff or subconsultant expertise in accessibility standards (ADA Title II, WCAG 2.1, Section 508); and
- Any tools, workflows, or quality control processes used to verify accessibility compliance prior to deliverable submission.

E. Consequences of Non-Compliance

Deliverables that do not meet applicable accessibility standards may be rejected and returned for correction at no additional cost to Fresno COG. Resubmission will be required before the deliverable is deemed accepted and payment processed.