

CHAPTER 8: PROCEDURES FOR FORMAL COMPETITIVE BID PROCESS

C. No-Contact Rule.

1. During the Request for Bid Period, from publication of the notice of a Request for Bids to the making of a Bid Decision, and during any related Protest Period, Bidders are prohibited from contacting, by any means, whether orally, telephonically, electronically or in writing, any member of the Board, any County Employee, including the County Manager, the County Attorney, or the Commission Auditor, any member of the designated Evaluation Committee or any agent of the County regarding the Request for Bids in any respect, with the exception of (i) inquiries may be submitted to the Purchasing Department or other County Employees or agents if specifically provided in the Request for Bids (ii) pre-Bid conferences provided for in the request package; and (iii) formal presentations by Bidders to the designated Evaluation Committee or to the Board or any committee thereof specifically contemplated in the Request for Bids.
2. The purpose of the No-Contact Rule is to prevent any one Bidder from gaining an advantage over other Bidders through lobbying or otherwise attempting to influence the purchasing decision through discussions or the presentation of information or materials outside of the process contemplated in the Request for Bids package and this Purchasing Policy, and also to ensure that the dissemination of information from the County to Bidders regarding the Request for Bids is equal and uniform.
3. The violation of the No-Contact Rule shall result in the automatic disqualification of any Bid submitted by the violator in response to a Request for Bids. See Section J regarding violations and disqualifications related to the No-Contact Rule.