Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) is a competitive procurement process that requires a project owner to hire design professionals (engineers, land surveyors, architects, etc.) based on their qualifications and competence.

Does QBS Help Communities Meet Sustainability Goals?

In the QBS process, private sector design professional firms submit their qualifications and references to a public agency that evaluates and selects the most qualified firm for their specific project. The public agency and top-ranked firm then open negotiations to determine the project’s detailed scope, schedule, budget, and cost.

The most critical component of any project is assurance of public safety. The second most significant consideration is the community’s satisfaction with the project outcome and the perceived value for the price tag. Increasingly, project goals also include a community’s specific sustainability goals. In environmentally-conscientious California, residents are often willing to invest more resources in public works projects that feature an innovative sustainable design. Both public and private owners are advertising their efforts to improve the sustainability and energy efficiency of their projects. Take, for instance, the growing social value in achieving benchmarks like the LEED certification.

There is no project phase more critical to the control of public health, safety, and sustainability goals than the thoughtful design completed by the best professionals available. QBS provides a fair procurement process that considers the education, training, experience and capabilities of design professionals. Evaluation criteria can be tailored to measure a consultant’s ability to innovate. Utilizing QBS allows the client and the design professional to work together creatively and meet the sustainability goals of the community.

QBS Benefits

Increased Focus on Sustainability
Specific goals met with specific skill sets

Design for Long-Term Value
Public sees projects as investments in communities.

Seeks Innovation
More creativity and higher quality for targeted results

Less Chance of Costly Litigation
Public safety and satisfaction are paramount

Consider Community Priorities
Clients can collaborate with design professional to achieve community priorities