

**COMPETITIVE PURCHASING
(Revised 6/06)**

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The State is committed to a program of active competition in the purchase of personal property. Public Contract Code Section 10318 makes it illegal for any agency or employee to draft or cause to be drafted any specifications in such a manner as to limit the bidding directly or indirectly to any one specific concern, or any specific brand, product, thing, or service. It is the aim and desire of the Procurement Division, Department of General Services, to require that such competition be at all times by responsible suppliers, and the materials bought through such competition be properly suited to the job intended both as to price and quality.

Except for contracts and purchases for non-IT services and/or IT goods and services including telecommunication acquisitions which are processed according to the procedures set forth in SAM Chapter 1200 and SAM Chapter 5200, contracts and purchases in amounts exceeding \$50,000 are normally made by sealed bid procedure. In emergency situations or other special circumstances, statutes may exempt purchases from the bid procedure. Sealed bids are opened and read at a specified time and are maintained on file (Public Contract Code Section 10301).

Where the dollar threshold involved is \$50,000 and less, or where the competitive field is very limited, the Procurement Division will request informal quotations in lieu of using the more expensive formal method. Informal quotations will also be used to determine if previous prices are still in effect when dollar amounts are relatively small. Procurements valued \$50,000 and less are considered informal and are to be conducted in accordance with the State Contracting Manual, Volume II, Purchasing Authority Manual (PAM) requirements for informal competitive non-IT goods procurements.

When the range of bids received is such that purchase is not in the best interests of the State, all bids will be rejected. When all bids are rejected, all bidders will be advised.

Also, all bids may be rejected when with the consideration of the surrounding circumstances it is determined that it would be in the State's best interest to do so.