PRE-SOLICITATION NOTICE FOR GREENHOUSE GAS ALLOWANCE AUCTION AND RESERVE SALE ADMINISTRATOR SERVICES AND AUCTION AND RESERVE SALE FINANCIAL SERVICES

Western Climate Initiative, Inc. (WCI, Inc.) is a non-profit corporation formed to provide administrative and technical services to its Participating Jurisdictions. WCI, Inc. intends to solicit proposals in early 2015 for Auction and Reserve Sale Administrator Services (Auction Services) and for Auction and Reserve Sale Financial Services (Financial Services). WCI, Inc. currently provides these services to the State of California and the Province of Québec through contracts WCI, Inc. holds with vendors.

Potential bidders are advised that WCI, Inc. intends to release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Auction Services in early February. The Auction Services RFP will solicit proposals from experienced and qualified contractors to design, develop, and conduct Auction Services for jurisdiction-specific and multijurisdiction greenhouse gas (GHG) allowance auctions, as well as for jurisdiction-specific allowance sales from the California Allowance Price Containment Reserve and the Québec Allowance Reserve, as required by regulations governing the California Cap-and-Trade Program and Québec Capand-Trade System.

The RFP for Financial Services will be released at a later date with the goal of implementing the services under the two new contracts at the same time. The objective of the Financial Services RFP will be to seek proposals to provide GHG allowance auction and reserve sale financial and transactional escrow agency services. These Financial Services will help the Participating Jurisdictions to prepare and conduct auctions and reserve sales in accordance with the program regulations in effect for California and Québec.

Further information regarding WCI, Inc. and other information related to Auction Services and Financial Services is provided at the following website: <u>http://wciinc.org/rfp-auction-admin.php</u>. Potential offerors are strongly encouraged to review the Auction Services Overview of Key Elements found at this website. These key elements are provided to facilitate better understanding by potential offerors on the important characteristics of the Auction Services. The Overview does not include detailed technical and business requirements; these requirements will be provided with the RFP. WCI, Inc. is open to suggestions from offerors on how to better deliver the Auction Services within the requirements of the California and Québec program regulations. Offerors are also encouraged to review the same website for other materials directly relevant to this procurement.

Potential offerors are not required to respond to this pre-solicitation notice and any response is at the sole discretion of the potential offeror. However, WCI, Inc.

encourages potential offerors to notify WCI, Inc. of their interest in either RFP, and invites any potential offerors to provide information on their qualifications and experience in this area. Responses and questions can be sent to <u>rfp@wci-inc.org</u>.