

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE CALIFORNIAN
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
N62473-23-2-0002**

**PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2023
CFDA 12.300**

Project Title: Terrestrial Invertebrate Diversity and Food/pollinator Web Dynamics on Naval Base Coronado, Naval Auxiliary Landing Field, San Clemente Island, and Naval Base Ventura County, Navy Outlying Field, San Nicolas Island, CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the Department of the Navy (DoN), which provides professional and technical support for its Endangered Species Biology Programs in order to facilitate successful implementation of the installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Approximately \$275,385.00 is expected to be available to conduct endangered plant pollinator and genetic studies and loggerhead shrike diet on San Clemente Island (SCI). An additional \$48,638.00 may become available to fund an Option Item for Meta-DNA barcoding and Pollinator Networks on San Nicolas Island (SNI).

Option Item	Anticipated Level of Funding
Base Period	\$275,385.00
Option Item	\$48,638.00

Background:

SCI is the southernmost island of the California Channel Island Archipelago. The island is located 68 nm (125 km) west of San Diego and 55 nm (101 km) south of Long Beach, California and is part of Naval Base Coronado (NBC).

SNI is located 68 miles south-southwest of Ventura, California and is the most isolated of the eight Channel Islands. The island is about 9 miles long and 3.6 miles wide, and approximately 14,258 acres. It is part of Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC).

This project implements, in part, the Commander Navy Region Southwest's (CNRSW) responsibilities pursuant to the ESA (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670 et seq.), and Executive Order 13112.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This project has three (3) components: 1) Investigating rare plant pollinators on SCI; 2) Conducting loggerhead shrike diet analysis; and 3) an Option Item Meta-DNA barcoding and Pollinator Networks on San Nicolas Island.

1. Investigating Rare plant pollinators on San Clemente Island: The primary components of this work includes: (1) pollinator surveys for threatened and endangered plants including SCI

woodland star *Lithophragma maximum* and Santa Cruz Island rock cress *Sibara filifolia* (and potentially other rare and/or endangered species such as Channel Island tree poppy *Dendromecon harfordii*); (2) genetic sampling and quantitative population genetic analysis. Timing: Collect pollinator observations during the 2023 flowering season (or 2024 if necessary); conduct the genetic sampling and analysis in 2023 using vegetative sampling and/or seed collection. Compare phylogenetic placement and relative genetic diversity with *Sibara* collected from Catalina Island. Additional general invertebrate surveys may be necessary to understand the pollinator web for these sensitive species on SCI.

2. Conducting San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike Recovery: The Cooperator shall expand the shrike dietary analysis to include more samples, spanning years, seasons (to the extent feasible), and locations. The Navy would provide samples of shrike pellets and fecal sacs. Fecal sac collection is limited by the number of nesting pairs and access to nests and pellet collection is limited by monitoring time and access to perches; however, the Navy expects it can provide at least 50 fecal sacs and up to 20 pellets for an analysis. The previous cooperative agreement used DNA extraction and library preparation followed by bioinformatics and data quality filtering to produce high quality diet profiles for a subset of the samples provided by the Navy. The Cooperator shall replicate this analysis using these same methods or comparable or improved methods to better understand shrike diet constituents across the landscape, shrike age classes, and seasons (if sufficient pellets can be collected).
3. Option Item - Meta-DNA barcoding and Pollinator Networks on San Nicolas Island: This Option, if exercised, would be used to collect insects and dissect out the digestive tract, extract the contents, and conduct DNA analysis to augment the genetic library. Genetic sampling may also include pollen removed from the insect exoskeleton to identify pollinator networks; soil sampling, or gut contents from other terrestrial organisms.

The Complete Scope of Work is provided as Enclosure 1.

Period of Performance. The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement will be 36 months from date of award.

Option Item	Period of Performance
Base Period	36 months from date of award
Option Item	Contemporaneous with Base Period (if awarded)

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil

(Maximum length: 10 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization and Contact Information
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - a. Biographical Sketch;

- b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects;
- c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise;
- d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g., permits, equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.);
- e. Copy of existing pesticide permit(s) (off label use if necessary) or assertion of ability to obtain permit as necessary for project.

Note: We are intending to use fiscal year 2023 funds for this project. A detailed study proposal and cost estimate are requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the three factors listed below and include the credentials of key personnel, scientific approach, and reasonableness of the cost.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Principal Investigator. This individual must have:

- A minimum of a PhD in entomology, ecology, or related science discipline;
- A CV demonstrating expert knowledge in California floristic province terrestrial invertebrate biology and/or taxonomy;
- A demonstrated ability to provide administrative, scientific, and human/financial resources to support a sampling program in wildland areas;
- A minimum of 5 years of experience in a Program Management or Principal Investigator position.

Project Manager. This individual must have:

- A minimum of an BA/BS in entomology, ecology, or related science disciplines;
- A CV demonstrating expert knowledge in California floristic province terrestrial invertebrate biology and/or taxonomy;
- Demonstrated use of GIS units and maps for sampling work;
- An ability to identify terrestrial invertebrates likely to be found in the California Channel Islands;
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in project management of an invertebrate sampling research project.

Technical Staff. This individual(s) must have:

- A minimum of a BA/BS degree in Ecology, Entomology, Wildlife Biology or related science discipline;
- Demonstrated biological field experience in remote locations.

Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the three components of the Scope of Work. The Offeror will be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and the use of any innovative techniques to accomplish the objectives of the stated approach.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost* – The proposal will be analyzed to determine whether it pricing is materially/mathematically balanced, and is fair and reasonable. Please cost out separately the 3rd component (pollinator networks on SNI), as this is a performance option that may or may not be funded. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education,” or 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” as applicable. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided PDF titled, “Enclosure 3” form.*

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET (Enclosure 3)**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs, by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed Statement of Work. The Option Item must be separately priced. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. You may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in appropriate field.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in appropriate field (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in in appropriate field.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in appropriate field.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be

used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in appropriate field.

- **Budget Justification:** Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factors 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP
kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil.

Point of Contact Information:

Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP
Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest
750 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92132
Phone Number: 619.705.5566
kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by February 28, 2023 2:00 PM PST. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open for two weeks until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after February 28, 2023 2:00 PM PST will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than February 23, 2023 2:00 PM PST.