

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE CALIFORNIAN
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
N62473-23-2-0003**

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

Project Title: California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover Monitoring and Light-Footed Ridgway’s Rail Population Surveys for Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach, Seal Beach, California

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 \$46,226.55 is expected to be available to conduct monitoring of the California least tern (CLT, *Sternula antillarum browni*) and surveys for the light-footed Ridgeway’s rail (LFRR, *Rallus obsoletus levipes*) on Naval Weapons Station, Seal Beach (NWSSB) and Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR). An additional \$318,715.94 may become available to fund four (4) 12-month Option Years to continue CLT monitoring and LFRR surveys, and four (4) Option Tasks to continue monitoring of CLT and Western Snowy plover (WSP, *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) along Anaheim Bay after the ammunition pier and turning basin construction project is completed in 2024.

Item	Anticipated Funding
Base Period	\$46,226.55
Option Year 1	\$47,613.35
Option Year 2	\$49,041.75
Option Year 3	\$50,513.00
Option Year 4	\$52,028.39
Option Task 1	\$28,568.36
Option Task 2	\$29,425.41
Option Task 3	\$30,308.18
Option Task 4	\$31,217.42
TOTAL POTENTIAL VALUE	\$364,942.41

Background:

The federally and state endangered CLT and LFRR, and federally threatened WSP inhabit NWSSB and SBNWR. All have been experiencing population declines throughout their ranges for decades. This project will conduct CLT and WSP Monitoring and LFRR Population Surveys at NWSSB and SBNWR through standardized protocols aiming to determine the distribution and abundance, breeding success, and to evaluate habitat management opportunities. This survey effort will supplement existing databases, which plays an important role in management

decisions for these federally listed species. Up-to-date knowledge of CLT, WSP, and LFRR on NWSSB will allow military natural resource personnel to make informed recommendations for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP) improvement while simultaneously promoting mission readiness through supporting CLT, WSP, and LFRR conservation and habitat management.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The purpose of this project will be three-fold. First, it will focus on monitoring and research of the federally endangered CLT breeding colony within NWSSB and SBNWR. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the DoN are cooperatively managing the existing colony. The second purpose is to survey the population of the federally endangered LFRR breeding on NWSSB and SBNWR. The population at SBNWR has been in decline over the past two decades with alarming lows in recent years. The third purpose is to continue monitoring the populations of the federally endangered CLT and the federally threatened WSP along Anaheim Bay after the ammunition pier and turning basin construction project is completed in 2024. Analysis of population size, habitat use, and breeding success relative to other colonies/populations will greatly increase the understanding of these species on NWSSB and regionally. The data obtained through this investigation will be incorporated into the NWSSB INRMP and regional databases and will inform management decisions for these federally listed species.

This project has three (3) components: 1) Monitoring CLT at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Island on SBNWR/NWSSB; 2) Surveying for LFRR on SBNWR/NWSSB and; 3) Monitoring CLT and WSP along Anaheim Bay on NWSSB.

1. Monitoring CLT at NASA Island on SBNWR/NWSSB: The primary components of this work includes: (1) Coordinating with USFWS to conduct weekly surveys of CLT colony to monitor breeding and other activities. More than one day per week may be required or desired for these surveys, however, the schedule and number of visits per week shall be agreed to beforehand with the USFWS and DoN; (2) Nest monitoring will include marking the locations and recording the status of all nests on each visit; (3) Monitoring for banded individuals and recording band and location data. Banded individuals shall be opportunistically trapped in order to record band numbers and to take weights and measurements; (4) Documenting observations of potential predators including the species, age, sex, date, activity, location, and approximate distance from the colony; (5) Documenting any known mortality (date, source, location/nest #) of eggs, chicks, fledglings or adults, as well as any pertinent information on the circumstances surrounding that mortality; (6) Documenting all other avian species encountered; and (7) Creating and submitting Geographic Information System (GIS) layers including the location of nests

The breeding season surveys shall occur from 1 April through 15 September or until the breeding pairs abandon the nesting site. This timeline only includes field surveys and not data analysis and report preparation.

2. Surveying for LFRR on SBNWR/NWSSB: The primary components of this work includes: (1) Coordinating with USFWS to conduct bi-weekly nest monitoring based on identified needs and guidelines from the USFWS. The scheduling and number of visits per week shall

be agreed to beforehand with the USFWS and DoN; (2) Conducting breeding surveys, including raft monitoring and call-counts. The Cooperator will census the population and estimate the number of nests and breeding individuals and their location within NWSSB and SBNWR; (3) Conducting monthly winter surveys to monitor non-breeding LFRR and predator activity; (4) Monitoring for banded individuals and recording band and location data. Banded individuals shall be opportunistically trapped in order to record band numbers and to take weights and measurements; (5) Documenting observations of potential predators including the species, age, sex, date, activity, and location; (6) Documenting all other avian species encountered; and (7) Creating and submitting Geographic Information System (GIS) layers including the location of nest platforms and how they are being utilized by LFRR.

The breeding survey period shall occur from 1 March through 30 September and the winter survey period shall occur from 1 September and 28/29 February. These timelines only includes field surveys and not data analysis and report preparation.

3. Option Task - Monitoring CLT and WSP along Anaheim Bay on NWSSB: The primary components of this work includes: Conducting weekly surveys of CLT and WSP to monitor breeding and other activities. More than one day per week may be required or desired for CLT surveys and up to three surveys may be required for WSP, however, the schedule and number of visits per week shall be agreed to beforehand with the USFWS and DoN; (2) Nest monitoring will include marking the locations and recording the status of all nests on each visit; (3) Monitoring for banded individuals and recording band and location data. Banded individuals shall be opportunistically trapped in order to record band numbers and to take weights and measurements; (4) Documenting observations of potential predators including the species, age, sex, date, activity, location, and approximate distance from nesting areas; (5) Documenting any known mortality (date, source, location/nest #) of eggs, chicks, fledglings or adults, as well as any pertinent information on the circumstances surrounding that mortality; (6) Documenting disturbances, including the people, dogs (counted by whether they are on-leash, off-leash within 10 feet of their owner, roaming, or chasing shorebirds including CLT and WSP), vehicles, predators, or other potential sources of disturbance; (7) Documenting all other avian species encountered; and (8) Creating and submitting Geographic Information System (GIS) layers including the location of nests.

The breeding season surveys shall occur from 1 April through 15 September or until the breeding pairs abandon the nesting site for CLT and 1 March through 31 July or until the breeding pairs abandon the nesting site for WSP. This time only includes field surveys and not data analysis and report preparation.

The complete Scope of Work is provided as Enclosure 1.

Period of Performance. The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement will be one (1) 12 month Base Period, four (4) Option Years, with four (4) Option Tasks to be potentially awarded during the Option Years.

Item	Period of Performance
Base Period	21 May 2023 – 21 May 2024
Option Year 1	21 May 2024 – 21 May 2025
Option Year 2	21 May 2025 – 21 May 2026
Option Year 3	21 May 2026 – 21 May 2027
Option Year 4	21 May 2027 – 21 May 2028
Option Task 1	21 May 2024 – 21 May 2025
Option Task 2	21 May 2025 – 21 May 2026
Option Task 3	21 May 2026 – 21 May 2027
Option Task 4	21 May 2027 – 21 May 2028

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to eleanor.m.tarrant.civ@us.navy.mil and 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

Project Manager 1: The Cooperator shall designate a person as responsible for ensuring that

provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A Master's degree in Ecology, Biology, Wildlife Biology, Zoology or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- ii. 200 hours of experience (collected over at least one (1) year) in surveying shorebirds, specifically in monitoring CLT in California.
- iii. Possess specific knowledge of the general biology, ecology, and survey methodology of all species of seabirds that have the potential to occur on the Station.
- iv. Must possess a federal endangered species permit 10 (a)(1)(A) and provide evidence of experience in the handling and measuring of Charadriiforme birds. A copy of the permit shall be provided to the CATR. The CATR must review the permit before work can proceed.

Project Manager 2: The Cooperator shall designate a person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A Master's degree in Ecology, Biology, Wildlife Biology, Zoology or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- ii. 500 hours of experience (collected over at least three (3) years) in the identification, monitoring and handling of LFRR.
- iii. The Project Manager shall possess the appropriate Federal and State permits for handling LFRR, and a special use permit from the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge Manager. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 10 (a)(1)(A) permit is required to conduct all aspects of surveying under this Agreement. A copy of the permit shall be provided to the CATR. The CATR must review the permit before work can proceed.

Project Manager 3: The Cooperator shall designate a person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A Master's degree in Ecology, Biology, Wildlife Biology, Zoology or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- ii. 200 hours of experience (collected over at least one (1) year) in surveying shorebirds, specifically in monitoring CLT and WSP in California.
- iii. Possess specific knowledge of the general biology, ecology, and survey methodology of all species of seabirds that have the potential to occur on the Station.
- iv. Must possess a federal endangered species permit 10 (a)(1)(A) and provide evidence of experience in the handling and measuring of Charadriiforme birds. A copy of the permit shall be provided to the CATR. The CATR must review the permit before work can proceed.

Field Technician: The person(s) shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:

- i. A Bachelor's degree in Ecology, Biology, Wildlife biology, Zoology or a field related to the biological sciences from an accredited college or university.
- ii. Experience and knowledge in conducting visual surveys for all avian species that have the potential to occur in Orange County.

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 (monitoring CLT and WSP along Anaheim Bay), 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 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:

Eleanor Tarrant, Cooperative Agreement Administrator and Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator

Point of Contact Information:

Eleanor Tarrant, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP
Environmental Conservation and Compliance Acquisition
750 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132
Phone: 619-705-5662
Email: eleanor.m.tarrant.civ@us.navy.mil

Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP
Environmental Conservation and Compliance Acquisition
750 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132
Phone Number: 619.705.5566
Email: kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by May 19, 2023, 2:00 PM PDT. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open for two weeks until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after May 19, 2023, 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than May 15, 2023, 2:00 PM PDT.

