

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE CALIFORNIAN
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
N62473-23-2-0008**

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

**Project Title: Sensitive Plants Research Orcutt's Spineflower Management and Protection,
Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego, 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 Natural Resources Program in order to facilitate successful implementation of successful monitoring and adaptive management strategies at all sites that support sensitive species of the installation's Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Approximately \$505,621.00 is expected to be available to Sensitive Plants Research Orcutt's Spineflower Management and Protection on Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL). This includes the Base Period, four (4) Option Years and all Option Tasks (each Option Task may be awarded up to four (4) times) detailed in the chart below.

Item	Estimated Funding
Base Period	\$70,252.00
Option Year 1	\$72,360.00
Option Year 2	\$74,530.00
Option Year 3	\$76,766.00
Option Year 4	\$79,069.00
Option Task 1 (may be awarded up to four (4) times)	\$20,001.00 per award (total potential value of \$80,004.00)
Option Task 2 (may be awarded up to four (4) times)	\$13,160.00 per award (total potential value of \$52,640.00)
TOTAL POTENTIAL VALUE	\$505,621.00.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1

Eligible Applicants: Any Californian or Great Plains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit cooperative partner who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 34 or 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

Naval Base Point Loma is primarily located on the Point Loma peninsula at the entrance to San Diego Bay in metropolitan San Diego. The peninsula is approximately four (4) miles west of downtown San Diego. The Point Loma peninsula extends four (4) miles south into the Pacific Ocean, and provides shelter to San Diego Bay. The terrain, deeply cut by steep canyons, contributes to the peninsula's high visibility. Slopes of 40 to 75 percent are common throughout the peninsula, with some areas of dramatic pitch. The ridge of Point Loma averages 375 feet above mean sea level. The rugged coastline is composed of eroding sandstone cliffs and is characterized by wide rocky benches, boulder fields, and small sandy beaches. Three of the major tenant command complexes (SUBASE, SSC, FCTCPAC) occupy most of the land on the southern half of the Point Loma peninsula. The northern half of Point Loma peninsula is occupied by residential neighborhoods, Point Loma Nazarene University; a support facility for the University of California, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; Sunset Cliffs Park; and Shelter Island.

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:

The current study will:

- Assess population trends and ecological requirements of *Plantathera cooperi* and *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* in a manner conducive to long-term monitoring and comparison;
 - Continue annual monitoring of species utilizing methodology developed in prior Agreements. Implement plots of invasive control and natural vegetation community restoration in areas with/near the target species, or thought to potentially retain a seed bank of the species to quantify the effects on the species;
 - Quantify the effects of invasive species / vegetation management on the sensitive species;
 - Experiment with propagation and transplantation of the sensitive species, and provide refined, specific, detailed protocols and guidelines for successful propagation and transplantation of each species;
 - Assess and improve the condition of the seed bank of both species in terms of abundance and longevity;
 - Research and develop specific restoration methods most effective in aiding management of each sensitive species;
1. Option Task 1. Invasive plant management (for larger woody plants) and native plantings (as buffers) in extended zones.
 2. Option Task 2. Fine-scale GIS mapping of individual plants and populations of sensitive species (*Chorizanthe orcuttiana* and *Platanthera cooperi*).

The Complete Scope of Work is provided as Enclosure 1.

Period of Performance. The proposed period of performance for this CA consists of one (1) 12 month Base Period, and four (4) Option Years. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government. The exercise of any Option Year or any Option Tasks is subject to the availability of funds and may be awarded unilaterally.

Item	Period of Performance
Base Period	27 April 2023 – 26 April 2024
Option Year 1	27 April 2024 – 26 April 2025
Option Year 2	27 April 2025 – 26 April 2026
Option Year 3	27 April 2026 – 26 April 2027
Option Year 4	27 April 2027 – 26 April 2028
Option Task 1 (may be awarded up to four (4) times)	Contemporaneous Period of Performance with corresponding Option Year, may be awarded for Option Year 1, 2, 3, and 4
Option Task 2 (may be awarded up to four (4) times)	Contemporaneous Period of Performance with corresponding Option Year, may be awarded for Option Year 1, 2, 3, and 4

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

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

(Maximum length: 10 pages, single side, 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, innovative scientific approach, and reasonableness of the cost.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Principal Investigator/Project Manager. This individual must have:

- Masters of Science in botany, plant ecology, zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university, including advanced statistical courses.
OR
Bachelors of Science degree in botany, plant ecology, zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university, plus five (5) years of experience conducting research similar to this scope of work with *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* or a similar/related species.
- Three (3) years of full-time experience leading research on plant life cycles, ecology, limiting factors, and population dynamics including: designing research studies, conducting statistical analyses to test results, and summarizing ecological literature in scientific journal articles or project reports. Products from this work should demonstrate the implication of results to science, and indicated the prioritization of action recommendations.
- A permit, or the ability to obtain a permit prior to activities requiring a permit, to collect and propagate *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* and any other sensitive species for which this is, or becomes a requirement during the course of the study.
- Three (3) months of experience identifying *Chorizanthe orcuttiana*, *Piperia cooperi*, and *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* varieties in the field in both vegetative and reproductive growth stages and distinguishing them from species similar in appearance. Experience can consist of working with similar species, sub-species, and varieties, as long as it is similar enough to allow for USFWS permitting necessary for collection and propagation for this project. (Permit should be held by the person in charge of field and propagation activities.)

Assistant/Field Technician. This individual must have:

- Bachelor of Science in botany, plant ecology, zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university.
- Two (2) years of experience monitoring, restoring habitat and controlling erosion in coastal sage scrub and maritime succulent scrub communities. Experience must be from coastal areas with similar vegetation communities in southern California. Experience should include propagating and out-planting of container stock, and monitoring and maintenance of restoration sites to meet targeted success criteria.
- Two (2) years of experience managing project and program budgets, overseeing field crews, handling logistics, and providing excellent customer service and timely communications.
- The primary role of the Project Manager is to run the staffing, budget, schedule, and logistics of the overall project; and to act as the primary Recipient liaison with the Navy USFWS to provide timely updates and management of reporting, comments, and inter-agency coordination.
- Six (6) months of experience mapping plant communities in southern California and producing maps using ArcGIS and/or Arc/Info GIS software.
- One (1) year of experience propagating similar sensitive plant species in a nursery setting.

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. 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:

Kevin Magennis, Agreement Administrator and Raquel P. Metz, Cooperative Agreement Administrator

Point of Contact Information:

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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by March 31, 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 March 31, 2023 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than March 23, 2023 2:00 PM PDT.