

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
WITHIN THE CALIFORNIAN COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
N62473-23-2-0019**

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

Project Title: Carbon Sequestration Study/Wetland Restoration on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by September 6, 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 September 6, 2023, 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than August 31, 2023, 2:00 PM PDT.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) 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 \$591,449.00 is expected to be available to design and conduct one (1) 60 month Base Period to investigate and implement wetlands restoration in lagoon systems that are impaired by weeds and upland plant conversion on board MCBCP.

Item	Estimated Funding Range
Base Period	\$591,449.00

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

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

Eligible Applicants: Any Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) 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:

MCBCP is located in the northwestern portion of San Diego County, immediately north of the city of Oceanside, in Southern California. The contract area includes the Base as delineated on Camp Pendleton Military Installation Map 1:50,000 (Sheet: Camp Pendleton MIM, Series: V795S, Edition: 4-NIMA published by Defense Mapping Agency, 2013) and adjoining lands and waters utilized by wildlife in conjunction with the Base. Specific areas to be evaluated in the assessment include, San Mateo, San Onofre, Hidden, Aliso, French and Cockleburr lagoons, and the Santa Margarita River estuary.

This Cooperative Agreement is to design and implement wetlands restoration in lagoon systems that are impaired by weeds and upland plant conversion. Wetlands are an important carbon sink, playing a key role in carbon sequestration. The first phase of the project will serve to identify opportunities for wetland restoration, produce a wetland restoration plan for qualifying habitat

including calculation of carbon sequestration benefits, and evaluate climate change resiliency associated with sea level rise. Phase I will require subject matter expertise in wetland restoration, climate change resiliency and carbon sequestration, and will be awarded based on best technical experience. Phase II of the project will restore up to 20 acres of wetland habitat in one or more lagoons on Base and can be awarded separately from Phase I.

The complete Scope of Work is provided as Enclosure 1.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance covered by this agreement is 60 months upon award, the Agreement may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government.

Period	Description	Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
Base Period	Wetland Restoration Plan and restoration of up to 20 acres of habitat	Date of Award – 60 Months	September 2023

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).

- 1) SF 424 (Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research and Related Budget Form (Enclosure 5)
- 4) SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Enclosure 6). If applicable, complete SF- LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."
- 5) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 7). The Federal Government has a continuing commitment to monitor the operation of its review and award processes to identify and address any inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of its proposed PDs/PIs and co-PDs/PIs. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified PD/PI and co-PDs/PIs with each proposal. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. However, information not submitted will seriously undermine the statistical validity, and therefore the usefulness, of information received from others. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose. Upon receipt of the application, this form will be separated from the application. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process. Data will be confidential.

**Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

**Please note, that some of the forms functionality may be lost. Please visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html#sortby=1> to retrieve the forms directly from the

Grants.gov website.

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 following three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Scientific Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost.

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, completeness of responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12-point font and single spaced one-sided pages.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

The Recipient and any project personnel must be able to conduct all duties that will meet the objectives in this Agreement. Written documentation of experience (resumes and/or publication record) shall be submitted in order to demonstrate that minimum requirements for the Key Personnel have been met. Documentation may not exceed two pages per person.

- A. Principal Investigator: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring that provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements are met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at a minimum:
 - 1) A Ph.D. Degree in Biology or related science. Identify the source of the degree.
 - 2) At least 5 years of previous work or research experience on carbon sequestration and wetland restoration.

- B. Research Associate(s): The Recipient shall designate one or more people as responsible for assisting the principal investigator. The person(s) shall have at a minimum:
 - 1) A Bachelor's Degree in Biology or related science. Identify the source of the degree.
 - 2) At least 2 years of work or research experience on wetland restoration and habitats.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

Not to exceed 5 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work on MCBCP stated above and in Enclosure 1. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the offers will be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 "Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education", 48 CFR part 31 "Contract Cost Principles and Procedures," or 2 CFR 200 Subpart F "Audit Requirements" as applicable.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, "Research and Related Budget" form* (Enclosure 5

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET**

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 SOW. 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 Field L.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field L (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 Field L.
- 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 Field L.
- 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 Field L.

Budget Justification (Field L on the form): 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.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Proposer must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 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
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