

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE CALIFORNIAN  
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT  
N62473-23-2-0009**

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

**Project Title: California Amphibian and Reptile Collection and Genomics**

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 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 \$100,000.00 is expected to be available to conduct specimen collection and begin genomic analysis. An additional \$300,000.00 may become available to fund an Option Item for additional specimen collection and completion of genomic analysis. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government. The exercise of the Option Item is subject to the availability of funds and may be awarded unilaterally.

<b>Option Item</b>	<b>Anticipated Level of Funding</b>
Base Period	\$100,000.00
Option Item	\$300,000.00

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:**

The California State Legislature funded a \$12,000,000.00 study to determine important biodiversity regions and species, including amphibians and reptiles, statewide 2 years ago. That study is underway and will help shape legal policies, and requirements for the entire state. Unfortunately, that study is not sampling military lands. This is unfortunate because California has over 4 million acres of military lands that were not included. This project seeks to close that gap and include target amphibian and reptile species to match the statewide study in comparison, and measure the health and resilience of populations of those target species. Military lands boast the highest density of at-risk species on all federal lands, and this study seeks to highlight the conservation benefits already accomplished without the need for additional regulatory burden.

**Brief Description of Anticipated Work:**

In order to match the science being used statewide to evaluate the health and importance of amphibian and reptile populations, the Department of Defense seeks to collect target species of amphibians and reptiles statewide for the California Conservation Genomics Project (CCGP) so

that they can be genome sequenced, as well as collect other novel specimens encountered for deposition in an accredited scientific institution.

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](mailto: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 base award 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 herpetology, biology, or related science discipline;
- A CV demonstrating expert knowledge in California floristic province terrestrial amphibian and reptile 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 biology, ecology, or related science disciplines;

- A CV demonstrating expert knowledge in in California floristic province terrestrial amphibian and reptile biology and/or taxonomy;
- Demonstrated use of GIS units and maps for sampling work;
- An ability to identify terrestrial amphibians and reptiles likely to be found in California;
- 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, Biological Sciences, Wildlife Biology or related science discipline;
- Demonstrated biological field experience in remote locations.

**All Staff. These individual(s) must have:**

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife Scientific Collecting Permits for collection of all specimens listed in the SOW.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, “Research and Related Budget” form.\*

**\*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 Statement of Work. Options (if applicable) 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, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, ECOMP  
[kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil](mailto:kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil)

**Point of Contact Information:**

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**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:**

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by June 20, 2023 2:00 PM PDT. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after June 20, 2023 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than June 14, 2023 2:00 PM PDT.