NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This announcement is not a request for applications.

This announcement is to provide public notice of the National Park Service's intention to award financial assistance for the following project activities. *Refer to Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination.*

ABSTRACT	
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	P19AS00619
Project Title	Avian and Habitat Research, Monitoring, and Restoration at the Ch
Recipient	California Institute of Environmental Studies
Anticipated Federal Funding	$1,014,432.25, subject to available funding ($327,044.25 initially)
Non-Federal Cost Share	$0.00
Total Anticipated Award Amount	$1,014,432.25, subject to available funding
Award Instrument	☐ Task Agreement ☑ Cooperative Agreement ☐ Grant Agreement
Anticipated Period of Performance	09/20/2019 – 09/20/2024
Legal Authority	54 USC §101702(a), 54 USC §101702(d)
CFDA # and Title	15.944, Natural Resource Stewardship
Single Source Justification Criteria	(4) Unique Qualifications
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Section 1. Project Summary

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Natural Resource Stewardship program is the principle means through which the NPS evaluates and improves the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine and coastal resources, sustains biological communities on the lands and waters in parks, and actively endeavors to improve the resiliency of these natural resources and adapt them to the effects of climate change.

Elements of this project are a continuation of a long-term seabird and habitat monitoring restoration effort at Channel Islands National Park (CHIS or park), focusing on seabird and related resources harmed by DDTs and PCBs released into the southern California marine environment. CHIS has been the focus of bird restoration projects for the past 16 years, including extensive restoration of seabird populations. California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES) and CHIS have partnered on this project for over a decade, and have

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC PURPOSE

The activities under this project will enhance science-based natural resource stewardship at CHIS. The scientific community and the general public will gain access to new knowledge through the publication of research and related results. These reports will be used by NPS to inform management decisions and to disseminate information with the public and scientific community. These reports are valuable because they help NPS understand the effects of previous and current management actions and help inform future management decisions. This project will also provide opportunities for the public and park visitors to engage in restoration and conservation work in a meaningful way.

STATEMENT OF WORK SUMMARY

1. Black Abalone & Marine Monitoring: CIES will assist with Black abalone monitoring at Santa Cruz Island and other locations. This is a 3 year project with 4 site visits annually, including field sampling to examine marine recruitment, data collection and site visits.
2. Habitat Restoration - CIES will support habitat restoration and invasive weed control work on several Park islands, including ongoing efforts on Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa and Anacapa Islands. This restoration work will include propagating native plants, outplanting, invasive weed control, and monitoring.
3. Analyzing Trends and Variability in Southern California Ashy Storm-petrel Colonies: CIES will maintain Santa Cruz Island as a key monitoring and research location. Activities include establishing key monitoring locations in the Channel Islands region and conducting nest monitoring in sea caves at Santa Cruz Island.
4. Depredation Protection of Ashy Storm-Petrels at Santa Cruz Island: CIES and NPS will build and deploy ceramic nest modules before the 2020 breeding season. Modules will be equipped with data loggers to record abiotic characteristics and compared with data collected at natural sites. Nest monitoring of ASSP at Bat Cave, Cavern Point Caves, and Orizaba Rock will begin in June 2020. This work will be conducted in conjunction with a study to investigate the impacts of Common Raven depredation on nesting ASSP.
5. Ocean Acidification (OA) and Marine monitoring support: CIES will assist with OA monitoring at Santa Cruz Island and other locations
6. Dudleya traskiae Monitoring and Recovery on Santa Barbara Island: CIES will implement recovery actions for the endangered species, including conducting census and demographic surveys; assessing populations; collecting seed; and growing and outgrowing.
7. Malva assurgentiflora assessment and extinction prevention on San Miguel and Anacapa Islands: CIES will establish a nursery on San Miguel Island, propagate and outplant Malva on Anacapa and San Miguel Islands. Funding also includes support for conservation

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

A. The recipient shall be responsible for the following items under this agreement:

1. Provide island orientation to all project participants prior to commencing activities.
2. Provide onsite leadership and training to volunteers and staff during work activities.
3. Collaborate with the NPS on training to ensure CIES staff have the proper skills and certifications for boat and helicopter transportation and for the use of NPS property and equipment, such as dock cranes, park housing, fork lifts, and any other equipment that may be necessary to carry out the activities authorized by this Agreement.
4. Secure any necessary permits for work activities (e.g., pesticide use).
5. Collaboratively prepare and deliver the reports described in the attached work plan(s) and schedule(s).
6. Acknowledge the NPS in any published or formally presented material developed or derived from this Agreement.
7. Follow regulations regarding the use of federal equipment, computer networks and office facilities.

B. The NPS Responsibilities:

☐ A task agreement is proposed;

☑ A cooperative agreement is proposed;

therefore substantial involvement by NPS is anticipated during the period of performance of this agreement. In support of this agreement NPS will:

1. Provide CIES staff and volunteers with educational training regarding environmental and NPS values.
2. Provide training and education to CIES in activities such as the use of government facilities, power equipment, cranes, and transportation on park boats.
3. Provide CIES with written notification of NPS policy regarding minimum requirements for trainings and certifications prior to use of NPS equipment.
4. Assist with data collection and analysis, when possible, and report and publication drafting and review.
5. Provide weekly boat, or equivalent, transportation to Santa Barbara, Anacapa, and Santa Cruz Islands, weather permitting.
6. Complete the necessary compliance documentation, including cultural resources Section 106, Section 7 wildlife evaluations for species listed or proposed for listing under ESA, and Wilderness Minimum Requirements Analysis. Review and provide comment and/or concurrence to CIES on plans, specifications and other documents submitted.
7. Provide CIES with the use of NPS repeater network and radio(s) for necessary project communication to CIES staff who are NPS-trained operators.
8. Enroll all volunteers working on projects under this Agreement into the NPS VIP program, when they are working on NPS

☐ A grant agreement is proposed, therefore no substantial involvement on the part of the NPS is anticipated for the successful completion of the statement of work. It is anticipated that involvement will be limited to actions related to monitoring project performance and technical assistance at the request of the recipient.

Section 2. Grants.gov Posting Determination

☐ The National Park Service intends to award a task agreement under a previously competed or single source justified award.

☑ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified cooperative agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

☐ The National Park Service intends to award a single source justified grant agreement. *Refer to Section 3 Single Source Justification.*

Section 3. Single Source Justification

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

National Park Service Policy FAP&P 1443-2015-06 requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable. The justification must address one of the following criteria.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

(1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives. The unsolicited proposal must demonstrate an innovative capability or concept not currently available to the government, and prepared without Government involvement. ;

(2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity presently being funded, for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;

(3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;

(4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications. Successful past performance, familiarity with existing requirements, capabilities that can be obtained or matched by a competitor, or a positive reputation, are not considered to be unique qualifications.

(5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

NPS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

☐ Task Agreement issued under previously competed or single source master cooperative agreement per Section 2 above. Single Source Justification not applicable.

☐ Unsolicited Proposal ☐ Continuation ☐ Emergency

☐ Legislative Intent ☑ Unique Qualifications

Explanation of the proposed recipient's qualifications or the criteria of the proposed project which requires use of the single source criteria cited.

CIES is uniquely qualified to conduct avian and habitat research, monitoring, and restoration at CHIS due to its technical expertise and location. CIES is a scientific nonprofit organization that was established in 1976 to research seabird populations affected by marine contaminants. Today, its mission includes performing seabird research, monitoring, restoration and education, with particular expertise in the islands off the California and Baja coasts. CIES has been an active cooperator at CHIS since the mid 1970's and has been a key partner for the past 20 years working on a wide range of scientific research, avian monitoring, seabird and habitat restoration and species recovery within CHIS. Particularly, they have been operating over the past decade at CHIS in a large seabird restoration program that has enabled them to build capacity and unique skills and qualifications within their organization that serves many facets of resource management within CHIS. CIES staff have extensive knowledge of the unique island resources of CHIS and sensitive natural resources issues in the park; difficult island conditions and logistics; island flora and fauna, and native plant communities including identifying, managing, and working with federally listed species. CIES has local operations at park headquarters, and their local staff have demonstrated particular expertise in park logistics and operations including boating operations, transporting equipment and supplies to park islands, and securing lodging and island transportation. Local staff have the technical expertise to train and oversee project staff and execute complex projects.

Section 4. Department of the Interior Secretary's Priorities

This award will support the following DOI Secretary priority(ies):

Other Key Initiatives:

- ☐ Employment of veterans.
- ☐ Supporting DOI Infrastructure needs.
- ☐ Creating jobs in the American economy.
- ☐ Access to outdoor recreation opportunities.

Priority 1: Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt

- ☑ Utilize science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment.
- ☐ Examine land use planning process and land use designations that govern public use and access.
- ☐ Revise and streamline the environmental and regulatory review process while maintaining environmental standards.
- ☐ Review DOI water storage, transportation, and distribution systems to identify opportunities to resolve conflicts and expand capacity.
- ☐ Foster relationships with conservation organizations advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands.
- ☐ Identify and implement initiatives to expand access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing.
- ☐ Shift the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

Priority 2: Utilizing our natural resources

- ☐ Ensure American energy is available to meet our security and economic needs.
- ☐ Ensure access to mineral resources, especially the critical and rare earth minerals.
- ☐ Refocus timber programs to embrace the entire 'healthy forests' lifecycle.
- ☐ Manage competition for grazing resources.

Priority 3: Restoring trust with local communities

- ☐ Be a better neighbor with those closest to our resources by improving dialogue and relationships with persons and entities bordering our lands.
- ☐ Expand the lines of communication with Governors, state natural resource offices, Fish and Wildlife offices, water authorities, county commissioners, Tribes, and local communities.

Priority 4: Ensuring sovereignty means something

- [ ] Support tribal self-determination, self-governance, and sovereignty.
- [ ] Solidify mutual interests between the U.S. and the freely associated states and territories.

Priority 5: Generating additional revenues to support DOI & National interests

- [ ] Ensure that the public receives the full market value for the natural resources produced on Federal lands.
- [ ] Ensure that fees or costs levied for DOI services are reasonable and targeted to achieve cost recovery.
- [ ] Consider the impact of DOI decisions on economic development and job creation.

Priority 6: Protecting our people and the border

- [ ] Actively support efforts to secure our southern border.
- [ ] Ensure DOI law enforcement staffing addresses public safety risks anticipated on DOI land.
- [ ] Promote a "public service" demeanor within our law enforcement community.

Priority 7: Striking a regulatory balance

- [ ] Reduce the administrative and regulatory burden imposed on U.S. industry and the public.
- [ ] Ensure that Endangered Species Act decisions are based on strong science and thorough analysis.

Priority 8: Modernizing our infrastructure

- [ ] Support the White House Public/Private Partnership Initiative to modernize U.S. infrastructure.
- [ ] Remove impediments to infrastructure development and facilitate private sector efforts to construct infrastructure projects serving American needs.
- [ ] Prioritize DOI infrastructure needs to highlight:
    1. Construction of infrastructure;
    2. Cyclical maintenance;
    3. Deferred maintenance.

Priority 9: Reorganizing for the next 100 years

☐ Improve alignment and integration of the DOI organizational structure. Redistribute organizational resources (people and funding) to enhance mission achievement and improved public service.

☐ Improve organizational alignment with Executive Branch counterparts with major land management assets or influence.

Priority 10: Achieving our goals and leading our team forward

☐ Senior executives are expected to provide leadership in achieving goals of the President and the Secretary.

☐ The Management Team is expected to:

1. Ensure cost-effective operations and quality service to the public;
2. Facilitate organizational cooperation and conflict resolution;
3. Ensure the workplace environment is conducive to employee productivity and safety;
4. Hold individuals accountable for actions that violate DOI policies and requirements.

The proposed project does not support any of the DOI Secretary priorities, but the project is being funded for the following reasons: