

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the Bureau of Reclamation's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	R12AS20020
Project Title	Programmatic Approach To Meet Salinity Water Quality Objectives At Vernalis On The Lower San Joaquin River
Recipient	Grasslands Water District 22759 South Mercury Springs Road Los Banos, CA 93635-9539 Phone: (209) 826-5188/Fax: (209)826-4984
Principal Investigator / Program Manager	Mr. Ricardo Ortega, General Manager
Anticipated Federal Amount	\$1,007,655.40 (Total Estimated Project Amount For Federal and Non-Federal \$1,414,253.90)
Cost Share	N/A
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$245,000.00
New Award or Continuation?	New
Anticipated Period of Performance	Date of execution through September 30, 2014
Award Instrument	Cooperative
Statutory Authority	Public Law 102-575, Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Section 3406 (b)(1), 3406 (e)(6), 3407 (e)
CFDA # and Title	15.512 Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Title XXXIV
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	Unsolicited Proposal; Continuation; and Unique Qualifications
Reclamation Point of Contact	Roberta Tassey, Project Manager

OVERVIEW

Water quality in the LSJR has significantly degraded. Water supply and irrigation development in the San Joaquin Valley and the hydrologic and geologic characteristics of the LSJR are the principal reasons this section of the river struggles with salinity. Municipalities and water districts built large scale storage projects on all three of the major tributaries to the LSJR (Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced). The Central Valley Project (CVP) constructed Friant Dam on the main-stream San Joaquin River upstream of the LSJR. Friant Dam diverts water of high quality south into the East Side of the San Joaquin Valley. As part of the CVP, water rights holders (Exchange Contractors) along the western side of the LSJR exchanged their existing San Joaquin River water rights for water supplied via the Delta through the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC), a major component of the CVP.

The tributaries storage projects, CVP upstream diversion, and water exchange with Westside water users contributed to the salinity issues now facing the LSJR. Part of the LSJR salinity increase resulted from the exchange of high-quality water from the San Joaquin River for more reliable, but higher salinity water imported via DMC. The second impact on salinity in the LSJR came from the intensification of irrigation on the western side of the San Joaquin River. Farm management practices, fertilizer use, and groundwater accretion, and surface water discharge all contributed to salinity in the LSJR. Dilution waters stored or diverted upstream of the LSJR were not managed to benefit LSJR flows. These actions resulted in a significant degradation of the LSJR in less than a decade.

The CVP by replacing LSJR water with supplies from the Delta via the DMC resulted in LSJR water quality degradation. Data indicate adverse impacts to river water quality, migrating bird and salmon habitats, farming practices, and other river beneficial uses have occurred. Accumulation of salts in wetland soils limits vegetative growth and impacts migrating water fowl habitats. The ability to flush the wetland areas to reduce salinity build up improves the habitat, but discharging high salt loads to the LSJR reduces water quality and impacts salmon and river wildlife habitats. These high salt water discharges to the LSJR during times of low flow have resulted in brackish water reaches and impairment of aquatic species riparian habitats.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

Grassland Water District agrees to:

- Provide administrative support to manage and administer the project.
- Update, maintain, and implement quality control plan.
- Manage the monitoring network system to include site visits and assessment of real time data reporting.
- Assess salt sources, historical wetland water discharges, and trends affecting salt loading to the LSJR.
- Collaborate in the development of a RTMP Pilot Study Work Plan.
- Assist in the “proof of concept” visual management and forecast models validation of the RTMP Decision Support System.
- Evaluate and provide input for the design and testing of the RTMP Pilot Study and plan for implementation
- Demonstrate and provide technical assistance to other non-point source dischargers interested in monitoring network system development, management and post processing of data, and implementation of a RTMP.

RECLAMATION INVOLVEMENT

Reclamation will:

- Actively coordinate with Grassland Water District on the implementation of the pilot project.
- Provide technical support and input on the data collected and management.
- In collaboration with the Recipient and Stakeholders, will develop models as a decision support tools that will visually present flows, salt concentrations, and salt loading of waters discharged to wetlands or to the water courses leading to the LSJR.
- Provide technical assistance for the monitoring and pilot study work plans.
- Provide oversight and monitor the system during the pilot study Flood up and Drawdown events.
- Provide assistance with presentations, geographic information system, network enhancement, review of reports, data management, and decision support tools.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

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;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and 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, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such 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.

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

(1) UNSOLICITED PROPOSAL; (2) CONTINUATION; AND (4) UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

Single Source Justification Description:

Grassland Water District (GWD) manages over 51,537 acres with the majority of this land in wetland habitat. The GWD's primary function is the delivery of water to the landowners within its boundaries. The canal system for carrying out water deliveries is approximately 110 miles in length and is operated and maintained by the GWD. GWD will use their existing monitoring system and infrastructure to participate in the development and implementation of a Real Time Management Program (RTMP).

RTMP is a unique and innovated approach for managing high salt load discharges to the LSJR. Proving this concept and demonstrating success is crucial to enticing other non-point dischargers to participate in a regional RTMP. The use of GWD existing monitoring network and infrastructure used to demonstrate water conservation management practices is a continued use and extension of a previous effort. Competitive bidding would have a significant adverse effect on timeliness and costs associated with this activity. GWD's voluntary support, cost-sharing ability, and location to the LSJR were considered for the demonstration and proof of concept RTMP project.

Cooperative Agreement (Agreement) R10AC20661 (formerly 07FC200088 for water monitoring and conservation only) was entered into by Reclamation and GWD to provide for monitoring, data management, RTMP development and implementation, and proof of concept for the RTMP pilot study. The use of GWD existing water monitoring system and infrastructure is essential for the demonstration of RTMP practices and for the proof of concept for the Visual Management and River Forecast models. This information is critical to successful completion of the pilot study to demonstrate the RTMP and no other water district or entity has the monitoring infrastructure in place to complete the study.

Through their staff and consultants, GWD is a partner in the monitoring, data management development, RTMP system design and implementation, and proof of concept with the pilot study. In fulfilling their responsibilities, they have assisted in the design and implementation processes, making them experts in several critical aspects unique to the site, including geology, hydro-geology, data management, water conservation and management, and habitat restoration. No other entity could achieve a similar level of familiarity and expertise without first engaging in the lengthy process of analysis, data collection, and completion of the steps for implementation of a proposed process.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Public Law 102- 575, Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Section 3406 (b)(1), 3406 (e)(6), and 3407 (e)

(b) Fish and Wildlife Restoration Activities.--The Secretary, immediately upon the enactment of this title, shall operate the Central Valley Project to meet all obligations under state and federal law, including but not limited to the federal Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. s 1531, et seq., and all decisions of the California State Water Resources Control Board establishing conditions

on applicable licenses and permits for the project. The Secretary, in consultation with other State and Federal agencies, Indian tribes, and affected interests, is further authorized and directed to:

(1) Develop within three years of enactment and implement a program which makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that, by the year 2002, natural production of anadromous fish in Central Valley rivers and streams will be sustainable, on a long-term basis, at levels not less than twice the average levels attained during the period of 1967-1991; Provided, That this goal shall not apply to the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the Mendota Pool, for which a separate program is authorized under subsection 3406(c) of this title; Provided further, That the programs and activities authorized by this section shall, when fully implemented, be deemed to meet the mitigation protection, restoration, and enhancement purposes established by subsection 3406(a) of this title; And provided further, That in the course of developing and implementing this program the Secretary shall make all reasonable efforts consistent with the requirements of this section to address other identified adverse environmental impacts of the Central Valley Project not specifically enumerated in this section.

(e) SUPPORTING INVESTIGATIONS- Not later than five years after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall investigate and provide recommendations to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs and Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House on the feasibility, cost, and desirability of developing and implementing each of the following, including, but not limited to, the impact on the project, its users, and the State of California:

(1) measures to maintain suitable temperatures for anadromous fish survival in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by controlling or relocating the discharge of irrigation return flows and sewage effluent, and by restoring riparian forests;

(2) opportunities for additional hatchery production to mitigate the impacts of water development and operations on, or enhance efforts to increase Central Valley fisheries; *Provided*, That additional hatchery production shall only be used to supplement or to re-establish natural production while avoiding adverse effects on remaining wild stocks;

(3) measures to eliminate barriers to upstream and downstream migration of salmonids in the Central Valley, including but not limited to screening programs, barrier removal programs and programs for the construction or rehabilitation of fish ladders on tributary streams;

(4) installation and operation of temperature control devices at Trinity Dam and Reservoir to assist in the Secretary's efforts to conserve cold water for fishery protection purposes;

(5) measures to provide for modified operations and new or improved control structures at the Delta Cross Channel and Georgiana Slough to assist in the successful migration of anadromous fish; and

(6) other measures which the Secretary determines would protect, restore, and enhance natural production of salmon and steelhead trout in tributary streams of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, including but not limited to the Merced, Mokulumne, and Calaveras Rivers and Battle, Butte, Deer, Elder, Mill, and Thomes Creeks.

(e) FUNDING TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES- If the Secretary determines that the State of California or an agency or subdivision thereof, an Indian tribe, or a nonprofit entity concerned with restoration, protection, or enhancement of fish, wildlife, habitat, or environmental values is able to assist in implementing any action authorized by this title in an efficient, timely, and cost effective manner, the Secretary is authorized to provide funding to such entity on such terms and conditions as he deems necessary to assist in implementing the identified action.