

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) intends to issue a cooperative agreement to ***University of California, Merced*** under the authority of Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) 15.564, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., of 1956 (FWCA), Departmental Manual 255 DM 1. Estimated total amount of agreement is \$389,831.15 with the Recipient providing a total of \$0.00. Reclamation is providing \$389,831.15 in Fiscal Year 2017. As a benefit to the public, this project is to improve conservation and management of native vernal pool plant species in California through improved protocols for soil plant species identification from soil samples, enhanced vernal pool plant species richness estimates, genetic marker resource development for listed species, and population genetic investigation of threatened vernal pool species. (Refer to the **Notice of Intent to Award Announcement No. BOR-MP-17-N0009** for additional information)

A Determination by the Government not to compete this proposed financial assistance based upon Departmental Manual 505 DM 2, paragraph 2.14(B)(2) & (4) is solely within the discretion of the Government. This notice of intent is **NOT** a request for competitive proposals. Questions concerning this announcement should be directed to Teresa E. Brown/Grants Management Specialist, by e-mail at tebrown@usbr.gov.