

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Determination for Issuing a Single Source Financial Assistance Award

Instructions: In accordance with Service policy 516 FW 6, *Issuing Discretionary Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards without Competition*, complete this form to document the justification for issuing a single source grant or cooperative agreement award. This form must be signed by both a program representative and the employee with signature authority for the award to be issued (see 516 FW 3, *Signature Authority for Grant and Cooperative Agreement Awards*). The completed and signed form must be maintained in the official award file.

Recipient Name: Santa Ana Watershed Authority
Project Title: Least Bell's Vireo Surveys and Cowbird Trapping, Santa Ana River Main Stem Project
Program Contact: Christine Medak

Select all criteria that apply (from 505 DM 2):

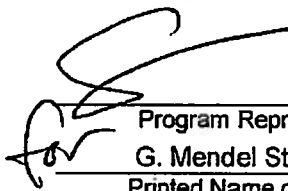
☐	(1) Unsolicited Proposal: The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited application that represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach that is not the subject of a current or planned award, but is found to be advantageous to program objectives.
☐	(2) Continuation: The activity to be funded is necessary for the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of, an activity we are funding and holding a competition would have a significant adverse effect on continuing or completing the activity.
☐	(3) Legislative Intent: The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates the intent of Congress to restrict the award to a particular recipient or purpose.
☒	(4) Unique Qualifications: The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based on 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: Because of a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety, there is not enough time to follow adequate competitive procedures.

Explain below why competition for this award is not practical. As applicable, summarize the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and any cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient. Be brief and specific:

The Santa Ana River Main Stem (SARM) Project is designed to provide flood risk reduction to growing communities in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Survey data and trapping efforts have provided managers and regulators the ability to make informed decisions regarding management efforts and tactics to successfully manage the recovery of the species while implementing necessary and vital projects in the public interest. Least Bell's vireo monitoring and cowbird trapping are not only requirements for the Corps under biological opinions issued for the SARM project, but are immensely important to continue the successful management efforts in the watershed related to the recovery of the Least Bell's Vireo and several other native avian species. The Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) is uniquely qualified to perform this work, as it has been partnering with the Army Corps of Engineers and reporting data on vireo and cowbirds in the Santa Ana Watershed for over 14 years. SAWA's biologists have over 66,000 combined hours of Vireo monitoring and Cowbird trapping in the region. SAWA produces an annual report that includes accurate territory, pairing and fledgling numbers, as well as reproductive data for vireo and trapping data for cowbirds. SAWA is the only local supplier of winter-trapped bait birds donated to other organizations, agencies and consultants that trap cowbirds. In addition to the required reporting to California's Natural Diversity Data Base, SAWA includes all sensitive species observed in the watershed in the annual vireo report and supplies the USGS Riparian Working Group with all vireo and cowbird data. From its inception, a major part of SAWA's biological monitoring has been in support of the recovery of the Least Bell's Vireo. SAWA's headquarters is located near the project site, and its staff has always been able to give data about ongoing construction activity and its effect on the wildlife in the project area. Staff has extensive experience in surveying least Bell's vireo and surveying cowbirds, particularly on the SARM project site. This project is contingent upon the availability of funds.

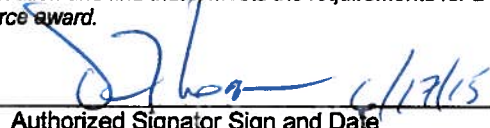
I have determined that this project meets the requirements for a single source award and recommend that it be awarded to the recipient named above.

MAR 16 2015



Program Representative Sign and Date
G. Mendel Stewart, Field Supervisor
Printed Name of Program Representative

I, as the Service employee with signature authority for this award under 516 FW 3, have reviewed this program recommendation and find that it meets the requirements for a single source award.



Authorized Signator Sign and Date
Darrin Thome, Deputy ARD, ES, Region 8
Printed Name of Signator