

## Water Center Resource Archives Library **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

April 7, 2010

### I. NOTICE

The University of California's division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) seeks requests for proposals to assume ownership and management of the Water Center Resource Archives Library.

### II. BACKGROUND

#### A. History of the Water Resources Center Archives Library ("WRCA" or "Archives")

The nationally acclaimed Water Resources Center Archives library is a one-of-a-kind collection devoted to recording water development in California and throughout the West. The WRCA gathers, preserves and provides access to historical and contemporary water-related materials that support the instructional and research programs of the University of California and the needs of the people of the State of California.

The WRCA was founded in 1958 when a special act of California Legislature established the California Water Resources Center to function as a University-wide organized research unit dealing with the state's water resources problems. In the early years, Archives staff traveled the state, visiting water agencies, engineering firms, libraries, and individuals to explain their mission to document the development of water resources in California and the West. Among the earliest items collected were the files of engineers who had worked in the field between 1900 and 1950.

The Archives soon became the repository for limited-edition reports generated by engineering firms and local water agencies; reports that were not being acquired by any other library. Much of this early material consists of technical and scientific reports dealing with the "quantitative" issues such as levees and floods, building of dams, and water withdrawal for irrigation and municipal use. By the 1970s, with the environmental movement gaining national prominence, "qualitative" water issues had emerged, and the Archives grew to include more materials from social scientists. In recent decades the work of environmental groups has had a significant impact on water issues in California, and the Archives has added their records to its collection.

B. The WRCA Collection

Today the collection consists of more than 200,000 technical reports, 1,500 specialized newsletters, and over 5,000 maps and videos. In addition, WRCA manages more than 200 manuscript collections, with 25,000 black-and-white photographs that document the development of water in California and the West, and more than 45,000 coastal aerial photographs. The WRCA currently serves the students, faculty, and staff of the University of California as well as hydrologists, engineers, historians, lawyers, scientists, and the general public – anyone with an interest or stake in water issues.

C. Current Disposition of the WRCA

The WRCA is currently overseen and funded by ANR. It is located in Room 410 of O'Brien Hall on the University of California, Berkeley campus and is managed by a Director/Head Librarian; and a staff of three (3) full-time employees (FTE). The WRCA is supported by an Advisory Board that meets semi-annually to advance the interests of the Archives, especially in the areas of fundraising and outreach. Members of the Advisory Board are well-respected experts recruited from a variety of disciplines in the water community.

D. Future Disposition of the WRCA

In May 2009, The Regents approved ANR's *Strategic Vision* (reference [http://ucanr.org/About\\_ANR/Strategic\\_Vision/](http://ucanr.org/About_ANR/Strategic_Vision/)), a 15-year plan of action by which ANR will deliver the greatest possible service to the people of California. The *Strategic Vision* serves not only to focus ANR's programmatic efforts, but also to guide the allocation of severely constrained funding. Notwithstanding the enormous value of the WRCA library, other programs within ANR's purview more directly fit ANR's expertise. Accordingly, ANR determined that it can no longer support the operation of the WRCA library and thus seeks a new guardian of this unique resource.

III. SCOPE OF PROPOSAL

ANR seeks a University of California campus college and/or library to assume complete responsibility for the WRCA effective July 1, 2010, or as soon as feasibly possible thereafter. In consideration for acceptance of this responsibility, ANR will give the entire collection to such college and/or library on a gratis basis. The WRCA library has substantial monetary worth but moreover, is invaluable to scholars and other interested parties.

#### IV. SELECTION CRITERIA

ANR has established the following priorities for future custodianship of the Archives. The written proposal should address how the interested college/library will meet each of these details concerning the collection.

- A. **Long-term commitment** to maintain and improve the WRCA.
- B. Continued maintenance of the archive materials as a **single unified collection**, as disbursed across existing college/library collections, or other arrangement.
- C. Wide **accessibility** of the collection to scholars and members of the public, including technological improvements and/or other innovations.
- D. Plans for involvement of the existing or new WRCA **Advisory Board**, which currently reports to the Head Librarian.
- E. Sound and sustainable plan for **location, funding and staffing** of the Archives.
- F. Plan for **transference** of “ownership” of the archives, including pertinent practical and/or administrative matters, accompanied by an associated schedule.

As well, the individual submitting the proposal should include a statement verifying their authority to do so on behalf of the college/library.

#### V. SELECTION PROCESS

Interested UC colleges and/or libraries should prepare a written statement of their proposal for the acceptance and continued operation of the WRCA. Such proposals should be submitted no later than **May 15, 2010** to the attention of:

University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Associate Vice President Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives Allen-Diaz  
1111 Franklin Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

Written proposals will be reviewed by a panel of qualified individuals (“Review Panel”). At their option, the Review Panel may elect to meet with one or more colleges/libraries to discuss their proposal.

The Review Panel will make a recommendation as to which of the proposals best provides for the future of the Archives based on the criteria described above, and will forward that recommendation to ANR Vice President Dooley and Associate Vice President Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives Allen-Diaz. Taking that recommendation under consideration, Vice President Dooley and Associate Vice

President Allen-Diaz will then make a final decision on the college/library to which responsibility for the Archives will be transferred.

VI. Questions may be addressed to:

University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Office of the Associate Vice President Academic Programs and Strategic Initiatives  
Administrative Specialist Mandorliao  
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Oakland, California 94607-5200  
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