

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
NUMBER N62473-14-2-0005
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2014**

Project Title: Naval Base Ventura County, San Nicolas Island Erosion Control Project

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential investigators for an erosion control project to be funded by the U.S. Navy which provides professional and technical support for the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) San Nicolas Island (SNI) Erosion Control and Special Species Programs in order to facilitate successful implementation of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) in support of the military mission. The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act). Approximately \$85,481 is expected to be available to support this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 10 USC §2684

Eligible Applicants: Any potential cooperator who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 32, 33, and 34 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

San Nicolas Island suffered 80 years of sheep grazing and other ranching activities that stripped vegetation from the ground causing immense soil erosion. Many acres of the island even today continue to look like “moonscapes”, where erosion is still prevalent. These highly eroded sites not only reduce habitat for listed/protected species, but also reduce the military mission capabilities. The proposed project will provide a more in depth opportunity to prevent soil erosion, increase night lizard (federally-listed species) and island fox habitat, and reduce invasive plants through native vegetation and biological crust transplanting. The plant nursery on SNI was refurbished in 2012 and is currently maintained by NBVC Environmental Division staff. Approximately 1100 plants were grown in 2012 for soil erosion control and 4000 grown in 2014 for the wind energy facility project.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

The statement of interest will be for on-the-ground actions on SNI. The project objective is to increase effectiveness of SNI habitat enhancement and soil erosion control through revegetation and soil crust transplanting. Achieving this objective involves three main activities on SNI:

Task 1: Seed Collection and Plant Propagation

The CESU Member will conduct native plant propagation at the NBVC Nursery on SNI. These activities are to insure that no new invasive species are brought out from the mainland on plants or in soils to SNI. The main tasks associated with propagating 1000 plants including collecting and sowing seed, growing and “potting up” the perennials from flats, and maintaining the nursery.

In addition, the cooperator will maintain the nursery on SNI and conduct activities such as purchasing, packing and transporting nursery supplies on mainland, preparation and storage of nursery supplies on island, biosecurity and pest prevention measures, nursery visits (monitoring the growth of seedlings and monitoring nursery systems), potting up seedlings to supercell containers (assumes 3 minutes per plant plus 5 hours prep/clean up time). An additional bench may be required to accommodate more plants; the design shall be similar to the existing benches. The bench is about 40' long with anti-decollate snail and argentine ant design features.

Maintenance of the nursery will occur on a weekly basis when plants are being grown by an experienced staff member with the occasional assistance of one to three additional staff. Any failure to adequately monitor irrigation and/or biosecurity systems can mean the destruction or contamination of the grow stock and the delay of a year of the revegetation project.

Task 2: Outplanting and Site Preparation and Maintenance

The project will require outplanting 4,000 potted plants into areas specified by the Navy and maintain them through irrigation, weeding, and replacement if necessary. There will be 4-5 sites totaling approximately two acres and within a ¼ mile of established roads. Tasks will include mechanical and/or chemical treatment of invasive species and replanting the area with native plants supplied by the Navy to improve habitat and prevent erosion.

Required maintenance does not include damage to plants or structures caused by military maneuvers. Any damage to plants or structures by military maneuvers shall be reported to the Station Contact and Navy Project Manager within two (2) working days after discovery.

Project success criteria include survivorship of propagated plants (this does not include natural recruitment). Outplanting survivorship shall be greater than or equal to 70% at each 6 month increment for 12 months. If the six-month criteria are not met, the Contractor shall replant to meet the criteria at no additional cost to the Government and the Contractor shall extend the monitoring and maintenance period for a minimum of six months at no additional cost to the Government, with the requirement that 70% of the original number specified in this Contract be alive at the end of the each six-month period. When replanting is required, the Contractor is also responsible for the costs associated with the additional plants. The Contractor may choose to include additional stock (at their own cost) in the initial planting in order to ensure that the success criteria are met without having to replant. In all cases, percent mortality shall not include any plants damaged by military maneuvers. Other than damage caused by the military, the contractor is responsible for all sources of mortality including drought and high temperatures.

Plant maintenance shall include, but is not limited to monitoring, watering, replanting, exotic plant control, trash removal, and repair and maintenance of irrigation system and all erosion control features at the site. Erosion control feature maintenance may include, but is not limited to, as appropriate: check dams, wattles, silt fencing, and erosion control maintenance. The sites shall be visited at least monthly and during the rainy season after every rainfall that produces runoff. Exotic plant control shall be performed on plant species listed on the California Invasive Plant Council list, which is available for download at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/>. Exotic plant cover shall be less than 5% of the total cover.

Task 3: Biological Crust Study

The CESU Member will salvage, propagate, transplant, and monitoring samples areas of biological crust on SNI. The CESU member shall develop a repeatable low-impact method for restoring and monitoring areas affected by erosion using Biological Soil Crust inoculants from SNI on SNI. The methods will include greenhouse experiments. This will require the necessary time in the field to determine if new crust starts to form. Small fog catching screens or other passive man-made features meant to improve the success rate shall be installed if applicable. A study plan is requested before any field work begins. Once approved by the NTR, the cooperator shall conduct the following activities in support of the study:

- Salvage 3 meters² (9.8 feet²) from each of the three restoration sites on SNI.
- Store and grow the samples in the nursery (less than one year) on SNI.
- Transplant 3 meters² (9.8 feet²) onto each of three restoration sites.
- Develop and implement a monitoring program to determine survival success and track expansion. Navy will conduct monitoring after protocols are implemented.

At the end of the study, the CESU member shall develop a draft and final report summarizing the results of the study and evaluate the success or failure. The report shall address the following questions:

- Can biological crust be grown in the nursery?
- What are the environmental requirements (temperature, seasonality, moisture, etc) to successfully grow biological crusts?

Deliverables and Completion Schedule:

The required deliverables will be a work plan, health and safety plan/accident prevention plan, monthly progress reports and an annual report.

Work plan will include a description of the task, a timeline, deliverables, and an estimate of hours.

Safety Health and Safety Plan (SHSP)/Accident Prevention Plan (APP). The CESU Member's Health and Safety Program and SHSPs shall comply with and reflect the appropriate requirements

of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, specifically 29 CFR 1910 (especially 29 CFR 1910.120) and 29 CFR 1926; the US Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Health Requirements Manual, EM-385- 1-1, April 1981, revised November 2003 or latest edition; "Navy Installation Restoration Manual," Aug 2006 Edition or latest revision; and any other relevant Federal, State, and local regulations.

The CESU Member shall use a qualified person to prepare the written site-specific APP. Prepare the APP in accordance with the format and requirements of USACE EM 385-1-1. Cover all paragraph and subparagraph elements in USACE EM 385-1-1, Appendix A, "Minimum Basic Outline for Accident Prevention Plan". The APP shall be job specific and shall address any unusual or unique aspects of the project or activity for which it is written. The APP shall interface with the CESU Member's overall safety and health program. Any portions of the CESU Member's overall safety and health program referenced in the APP shall be included in the applicable APP element and made site specific. The Government considers the Prime CESU Member to be the "controlling authority" for all work site safety and health of the sub-contractor. CESU Members are responsible for informing their subcontractors of the safety provisions under the terms of the contract and the penalties for noncompliance, coordinating the work to prevent one craft from interfering with or creating hazardous working conditions for other crafts, and inspecting sub-contractor operations to ensure that accident prevention responsibilities are being carried out.

Progress Reports will be delivered via email by the 15th of the month following work, and monthly thereafter. For example, work completed in April will be summarized in an email sent by May 15th. The Progress Reports will include the company title, dates of work, list of employees and/or volunteers assisting, work completed, and any outstanding items that need to be addressed by the Navy. For nursery activities, a log of all activities will be kept on site. In addition, seed collection and plant propagation will be recorded and tracked in an electronic spreadsheet or database.

Draft and Final Report will be delivered within 30 days of completing all tasks.

The CESU member shall prepare an annual report that addresses the contract specifications and summarize the work accomplished under this agreement. The content and format for report shall be as follows:

- (1) Title page showing the title, date, contract number, "prepared for Naval Base Ventura County Environmental Division", Cooperator's name, and address.
- (2) Table of contents, arranged as follows:
 - a. Table of contents.
 - b. List of maps.
 - c. List of figures (photos are considered figures).
 - d. List of appendices.
- (3) Introduction.
 - a. Include an overview of the work.

- b. State the purpose and objective of work completed.
- (4) Work Areas. This section shall include a general description of the areas where work was completed, including GIS maps of treated areas.
- (5) Materials and Methods. Any propagation and study methods employed should be described. This section should provide enough information so that the Cooperator's work could be repeated.
- (7) Results
 - a. This section should describe the outcome of the CESU member's work, examining the effectiveness of their methods in a general manner.
- (8) Discussion
 - a. Explanation of the current treatment, analysis of the results, and recommendations for future propagation and restoration.
- (9) References
 - a. List any written material that was referenced while assembling the report.
 - b. List all persons and affiliations that participated or were consulted.

Event	Due Date
Kick –off meeting (teleconference)	Within 15 days of award
Work Plan	Within 15 days of kick-off meeting
Safety Health and Safety Plan	Within 15 days of kick-off meeting
Task 1 Seed Collection	Spring 2015
Task 1 Plant Propagation	Spring 2015
Task 2 Site Preparation	Before outplanting 2014
Task 2 Outplanting	Late Fall/Winter 2014
Task 2 Maintenance	One-year period after outplanting
Task 3 Study Plan	June 2014
Task 3 Nursery study	Summer 2014
Task 3 Outplanting and Monitoring	12 months from outplanting
Technical Report - Draft	September 2015
Technical Report - Final	November 2015
Progress Reports (via e-mail)	Monthly

Special Conditions:

- A. Environmental Sensitivity. The CESU member shall take precautions to avoid disturbing sensitive habitat and spreading seed of exotic plant species. This shall include visual inspection of clothing (especially footwear), vehicles and equipment followed by removal and appropriate disposal of seeds and accumulated soil prior to arriving at the work sites and prior to moving between locations.
- B. Cultural Sensitivity. The CESU member shall take precautions to avoid cultural sites identified by installation staff. CESU member will receive instruction on avoiding or minimizing impact to sites by installation staff.
- C. Transportation to SNI. Flights will be arranged by NBVC Environmental Division staff. Flights are at no cost to the cooperator.

- D. Ground transportation. The US Navy shall authorize Recipient personnel to use US Navy-owned vehicles on SNI in direct support of tasks specified under this Agreement. The Recipient shall ensure that any employee operating a US Navy-owned vehicle is properly trained and possesses the appropriate state license required for the vehicle or equipment class. The Recipient shall comply with all NBVC instructions for operation of vehicles on SNI. Prior to operating any Government Services Administration (GSA)-owned vehicle, the Recipient shall ensure compliance with GSA rules, regulations, and policies regarding the use and operation of such vehicles. US Navy GSA furnished transportation-related equipment and materials shall remain the property of the US Navy upon Agreement completion. Payment accounts must be established with the Comptroller to receive a Job Order Number. The Project Manager will provide the most current contact information. Currently, the rental rate is \$32/day. There is also free transportation from the air terminal to Nicktown (nursery location).
- E. Lodging. Reserving and paying lodging is the responsibility of the CESU member. Reservations and payments can be made by calling Navy Lodging. The current rate is \$53/night single occupancy. Double occupancy is not allowed.
- F. The CESU Member shall not incorporate his Government review comment response(s) into any Final Report unless the navy Project Manager has indicated, in writing, that the CESU member's response appropriately addresses the Government review comments.
- G. The CESU Member shall in no case proceed to the next deliverable without receiving written government approval of the proceeding deliverable.
- H. The CESU Member shall address every government comment. If the CESU Member disagrees with a government comment, the CESU Member shall contact the Project Manager for resolution. Submittals that do not address every government comment shall be returned for revision, at the CESU Member's expense.
- I. The CESU Member shall clear exact date(s) of visit(s) to the activity with the Station Contact and Project Manager. The CESU Member shall provide personnel data of individuals performing the field work to the Station Contact and Project Manager, at least seven calendar days in advance of the CESU Member's scheduled site visit, field investigation, testing, or any other field work.
- J. The Navy shall provide a storage area for natural resources management supplies.
- K. Product Ownership. All materials resulting from this Agreement including documents, data forms, reports, maps, photographs, electronic data and presentation graphics are the exclusive property of the U.S. Government. These data will not be used in whole or in part in any professional, scientific or non-scientific report, paper, or note, published or unpublished, or be part of any technical or non-technical presentation without prior written authorization from the Project Manager.
 - (a) Authorship of any publication arising from this work shall be determined by a joint consultation between the Station Contact, the Project Manager, and the CESU Member. In particular, the CESU Member shall acknowledge support of the Government in any publications or publicly distributed reports or presentations.

(b) The Government retains ownership of all data and products. The Government also retains the right to publication of this information should the CESU Member fail to do so within three years of completing the work. The Government also retains the right to publish any re-analysis of the data; however, the CESU Member may retain copies of all data and products for scholarly and educational purposes.

(c) All raw data and all field notes for use in this contracted work shall remain the property of the CESU Member. The U.S. Government shall be supplied with a set of voucher specimens, a copy of the raw data, and copies of all field notes.

(d) The Government retains the right, prior to publication, to review and approve all manuscripts using data obtained as a result of this Agreement. Such review and approval are necessary to ensure that national security is not breached, support of the military operational requirement is accomplished, and that proper reference to this Agreement has been accomplished. Such review and approval shall be limited to 45 days from NAVFAC Southwest Project Manager receipt of the request.

See addition (as applicable) Terms and Conditions included as a separate document.

Period of Performance. The period of performance for this Cooperative Agreement will be dependent upon the final proposal selected, but is expected to be 18 months. The work is anticipated to begin in June 2014. The total duration of the Agreement, including option periods, shall not exceed three years.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Reagan Pablo (reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil).

A brief proposal, maximum length: 7 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font, addressing the factors listed below. Be sure to include Name, Organization, and Contact Information

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, "Research and Related Budget" form.*

***Form: RESEARCH AND RELATED BUDGET**

Complete the Research and Related Budget form in accordance with the instructions on the form. You must provide a detailed cost breakdown of all costs, by cost category, by the funding periods described below, and by task/sub-task corresponding to the task number in the proposed Statement of Work. Options (if applicable) must be separately priced. The form will generate a cumulative budget for the total project period. You must complete all the mandatory information on the form before the NEXT PERIOD button is activated. You

may request funds under any of the categories listed as long as the item and amount are necessary to perform the proposed work and meet all the criteria for allowability under the applicable Federal cost principles. The budget should adhere to the following guidelines:

The budget should be driven by program requirements. Elements of the budget shall include:

- Direct Labor - Individual labor category or person, with associated labor hours and unburdened direct labor rates.
- Indirect Costs - Fringe benefits, overhead, G&A, COM, etc. (must show base amount and rate). Justify in Field K.
- Travel - Number of trips, destination, duration, etc. Justify in Field K (on the form).
- Subcontract - A cost proposal as detailed as the applicant's cost proposal will be required to be submitted by the subcontractor. If applicable, include in Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form.
- Consultant - Provide consultant agreement or other document that verifies the proposed loaded daily/hourly rate. Include a description of the nature of and the need for any consultant's participation. Strong justification must be provided, and consultants are to be used only under exceptional circumstances where no equivalent expertise can be found at a participating university. Provide budget justification in Field K.
- Materials - Specifically itemized with costs or estimated costs. An explanation of any estimating factors, including their derivation and application, shall be provided. Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.
- Other Directs Costs - Particularly any proposed items of equipment or facilities. Equipment and facilities generally must be furnished by the cooperator/recipient (justifications must be provided when Government funding for such items is sought). Include a brief description of the applicant's procurement method to be used (competition, engineering estimate, market survey, etc.). Justify in Field K.

Budget Justification (Field K on the form): Provide the required supporting information for the cost elements as shown above (see Research & Related Budget instructions) and listed as follows: indirect cost, travel, consultant, materials, and other direct costs. Provide any other information you wish to submit to justify your budget request.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the four factors listed below and include the credentials of key personnel, scientific approach, and reasonableness of the cost and safety plan. Evaluation factors are co-equal to each other.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

Project Manager. This individual must have:

- a minimum of a Bachelors of Science degree in Botany or related science disciplines; and
- a minimum of 7 years experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in Channel Islands conservation and management; and
- experience within the last 3 years with and/or oversight responsibility of applied habitat restoration and management practices.

Technical Staff.

Nursery Technical Staff must have:

- a minimum of three years experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in Channel Islands plant propagation and restoration.

Scientist (Staff) must have:

- a minimum of three years experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in biological crust research and restoration.

Field Technician must have:

- experience with ecological monitoring and restoration field work and/or plant propagation.

The Offeror shall include the following in a brief Statement of Qualifications (excluding field technicians):

- a. Biographical Sketch,
- b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects,
- c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise,
- d. Any brief description of capabilities to successfully complete the project you may wish to add (e.g. equipment, laboratory facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach – The Offeror shall develop a proposal addressing the proposed management actions on San Nicolas Island. The Offeror shall discuss their proposed approach and techniques to accomplish the objectives. Offeror’s proposals will be evaluated by a team of technical and contracting personnel from NAVFAC Atlantic, Southwest, and Naval Base Ventura County Environmental Division. Proposals will be evaluated based on the use of standardized methods and procedures established by the industry, use of technology (including Global Positioning System and Geographical Information System, and the soundness of the overall approach to accomplish the anticipated work’s stated objectives.

Factor 3 – Reasonableness of Cost –The Offeror’s proposals shall be analyzed to determine whether they are balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and

reasonable pricing. Evaluations will include an analysis to determine the Offeror's comprehension of the requirements of the solicitation as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror's approach.

Factor 4 – Technical Approach to Safety

The Offeror shall provide a narrative of describing how safety practices/procedures will be implemented to complete the proposed work. Proposals shall be analyzed to determine how the Offeror will implement safety practices/procedures and determine the degree to which innovations are being proposed that may enhance safety on this procurement. The Government is seeking to determine that the Offeror has demonstrated a commitment to safety and that the Offeror plans to properly manage and implement safety procedures for itself.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist Environmental Acquisition Core
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92132
619.532.1592

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by May 19, 2014. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected.