

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF
INTEREST NUMBER N62473-15-2-0002**

Project Title: Monitoring of Nesting California Least Tern and Western Snowy Plover on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will be used to identify potential applicants to monitor the nesting activity of the California Least Tern {(CLT) *Sternula antillarum browni*} and Western Snowy Plover {(WSP) *Charadrius nivosus nivosus*} on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton (MCBCP). This research involves field investigations, including the observation and documentation of CLT and WSP behavior, nesting chronology, and chick banding. These studies are used to evaluate ongoing CLT and WSP management practices specifically concerning military training, predation and vegetation management practices. The work is to culminate each year in an annual report (as needed) compiling the year's breeding success data and evaluating Pendleton's management practices. The authority for this Cooperative Agreement is 16 USC §670c-1 (Sikes Act). Approximately \$326,059.00 is expected to be available to support this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

Authority: Cooperative Agreement under 16 USC §670c-1

Eligible Applicants: Any potential cooperator identified within the Californian Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit and qualifies under Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Subchapter C Department of Defense Grants and Agreements (DoDGARS) Part 22, 32, 33, and 34 is eligible to apply. Please see attached terms and conditions for additional requirements.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

MCBCP is required, per the Riparian and Estuarine/Beach Biological Opinion, to monitor nesting CLT and WSP which are two federally listed endangered species.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

(a) The Cooperator shall conduct surveys and monitor the nesting success of the CLT at all existing and potential breeding sites on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. Periodic pre-breeding visits to the ternaries may begin as early as 1 March. The surveys are to be conducted as often as necessary throughout the breeding season (15 April - 15 September). The Cooperator shall monitor all existing and potential tern colony sites from 15 April to 15 September between three and six days/week dependent upon tern nesting activity. During peak season, sites will be monitored a minimum 5 times per week. Monitors will document courtship behavior, nesting activity sufficiently to be able to describe the breeding season chronology, roosting locations of adults and fledglings, general use of colony sites by CLT and to document the presence and activity of potential mammalian and avian predators.

(b) The Cooperator shall conduct WSP surveys by foot and/or vehicle to monitor the nesting activity and

success and to document foraging and resting areas on Base. Breeding surveys are to be conducted at least two times per week from the start of the breeding season (mid- to late February) (or upon finalization of this Cooperative Agreement) and continue through 15 September, or until the breeding season is determined to be complete. Surveys are to be conducted a minimum of two (2) times a week during the nesting season (Feb 15 to Sept 15) or upon the discovery of the first Snowy Plover nest and as long as WSP remain nesting, incubating, or caring for young at the study sites. More frequent site visits may be required as a result of unanticipated variations in breeding season events.

(c) The Cooperator shall collect data on tern/plover site arrival/departure times, presence/absence of terns/plover (if present, number adults and chicks/fledglings and nests present), breeding status of each breeding individual/nest, unusual behavior patterns, inter-specific encounters, bands observed (whenever possible), and any other parameters that the Cooperator or Government agree will contribute to the management of the species. The Cooperator shall band as many plover and tern chicks as necessary to accomplish project objectives. The Cooperator shall conduct fledgling counts in order to develop an accurate fledgling survey methodology, utilizing, if necessary alternate methodologies such as telemetry or mark recapture, to estimate reproductive success. The Cooperator shall provide and employ methods to estimate breeding population size, daily fledgling survival rates, effects of vegetation density on site selection and nest success, and document causes of nest failure.

(d) The Cooperator shall produce a report that summarizes and analyzes the data collected in order to assess population trends and breeding success rates. The report shall contain documenting photographs, including all sites, techniques, methodologies and any significant events.

(e) The Cooperator shall maintain/reestablish the census grid for all tern colonies using a grid scale of 15 m, 25 m or 30m per unit, depending on the colony size, and conduct minor fence maintenance.

Please see attached statement of work for full description of agreement.

Period of Performance. The period of performance covered by this agreement is approximately 12 months upon award. The total duration of this agreement, including any option terms (12 month option terms), shall not exceed 60 months. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government.

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: 10 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font, addressing the factors listed below. Be sure to include Name, Organization, and Contact Information. Of note, the "Research and Related Budget" form is not included in the page limitation.

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Please see Terms and Condition (enclosure 1) for additional terms and conditions.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the four factors listed below and include the Credentials of the Project Manager and Technical staff, Innovative Scientific Approach, and Reasonableness of Cost. Evaluation factors are co-equal to each other.

Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal.

Factor 1 – Credentials of the the Project Manager and Technical staff The Offeror shall provide type written resumes of the Project Manager and Technical staff proposed for this project, stating their qualifications, experience with this type of project, professional registration and certificates, possession of research permits, and publications. The Offeror shall submit evidence of the following technical requirements/qualifications (maximum of 4 pages):

Project Manager. This individual must have:

- a minimum of a PhD in Wildlife Biology or related science disciplines;
- a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) permit to handle and research CLT and WSP;
- a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Scientific Collection Permit to handle and research CLT and WSP;
- a publication record demonstrating expert knowledge of CLT and WSP, their breeding biology, population dynamics, and foraging ecology;
- demonstrated use of tools and techniques for tracking and monitoring nesting pairs and young, including an ability to mark and measure individuals and individual nests while minimizing disturbance of and predator attraction to the colonies.
- Demonstrated ability to analyze data of avian breeding parameters and to create and compare indices of breeding success and population trends;
- a minimum of 5 years experience in a responsible position providing oversight of, support to or directly involved in CLT and WSP conservation and management on military lands.

Technical Staff. This individual must have:

- a minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology or related science disciplines; and
- At least one individual must be an Authorized Individual on a USFWS 10(a)(1)(A) permit to handle and research CLT and WSP;
- demonstrated field experience with CLT and WSP, their breeding biology, population dynamics, and foraging ecology;
- demonstrated experience marking and measuring individuals and individual nests while minimizing disturbance of and predator attraction to the colonies.
- Demonstrated experience recording field data in a clear and decipherable way, and ability to work long hours in the field under potentially harsh environmental conditions (sun, heat, wind, rain).

Factor 2 – Innovative Scientific Approach – The proposal shall address the proposed monitoring of CLT and WSP on MCBCP. The proposals shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and the use of any innovative and/or efficient techniques to accomplish the objectives of the stated approach (maximum of 3pages).

Factor 3 – Approach to Safety – The Offeror shall demonstrate an institutional approach to maintaining employee safety in a variety of field conditions. The Offeror shall demonstrate a track record of maintaining employee safety. If any safety violations have occurred, the Offeror shall clearly demonstrate how the situation was addressed and how the approach to safety was improved, if necessary, to prevent a repeat occurrence (maximum of 3 pages).

Factor 4 – Reasonableness of Cost *– The proposal shall be analyzed to determine whether it is materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education,” or 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” as applicable. Evaluation 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.

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.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, Credentials of the Project Manager and Technical staff, Factor 2, Innovative Scientific Approach and Factor 3 Approach to Safety are approximately equal in value. When combined, these factors are significantly more important than Factor 4, Reasonableness of Cost.

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
619.532.2090
reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by January 20, 2015 2:00 PM local time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected.