

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-18-2-0010
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2018**

Project Title: Sensitive Plant Research at Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* and *Piperia cooperi* within Naval Base Point Loma, San Diego California. Approximately \$146,704.00 is expected to be available to support the base requirements of this project.

Type of Assistance Instrument Anticipated: Cooperative Agreement

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

Eligible Applicants: Any Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Californian and Great Plains cooperative partner who qualifies under the DoDGARS Part 34 or 2 Code of Federal Regulations 200 is eligible to apply.

Cost Sharing: Not required

Background:

Naval Base Point Loma (NBPL) houses multiple sensitive plant species, most notably *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* (federally listed on the Endangered Species List, or ESA) and *Piperia cooperii* (not yet listed, but may be proposed for listing under the ESA and the majority of the population resides on NBPL). To fulfill the Navy's requirements under the Endangered Species Act and Sikes Act and protect the military mission, research into the species' populations, ecological requirements, and life histories; and timely implementation of management actions resulting from this research is critical. Previous monitoring has indicated that associated vegetation communities are critical to the success of these species, while competition from invasive vegetation is one of the most notable limitations on the populations. This project will combine further research into species' requirements with experimental adaptive management, particularly with regard to two important conservation actions: a) the ability to expand populations through propagation (beginning in the greenhouse but with potential to eventually enable transplantation to locations off Navy land, thereby reducing the impact of federal listing on the military mission), and b) the methods and success of promoting populations through invasive species management and the restoration of historical vegetation in the vicinity.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

The current study will:

- Assess population trends and ecological requirements of *Piperia cooperii*, and *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* in a manner conducive to comparison with previous monitoring efforts for each species

- Implement methods for annual monitoring of each species and ecological indicators of their requirements and provide specific protocol guidelines for this effort (e.g. that allows replication of the effort without further guidance)
- Provide multiple experimental plots of invasive control and natural vegetation community restoration in areas with/near the species, or thought to potentially retain a seed bank of the species to quantify the effects on the species
- Quantify the effects of invasive species management on the sensitive species using at least 2 control plots compared to at least 2 experimental invasive management plots
- Experiment with propagation and transplantation of the sensitive species in the on-site greenhouse, and at the experimental site initiated under previous agreements, and provide specific, detailed protocols and guidelines for successful propagation and transplantation of each species
- Implement on-site seed collection, native plant propagation, and restoration activities to support native vegetation restoration
- Research and develop specific restoration methods most effective in aiding management of each sensitive species

Please see Enclosure 1 for full scope of work and Enclosure 2 for applicable terms and conditions.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance covered by this agreement is 18 months upon award. The proposed period of performance consists of an 18 month base year and 2 (two), 18-month option periods. The total duration of this agreement, including any option periods, shall not exceed 54 months. The end date is the anticipated date that the Final Report is accepted by the Government. All option periods are subject to the availability of funds.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

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

- 1) SF 424 (Enclosure 3)
- 2) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 4). Please see Factor 1 for additional submittal requirements.
- 3) Research and Related Budget Form (Enclosure 5)
- 4) SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (Enclosure 6). If applicable, complete SF-LLL. Applicability: If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or

an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the grant/cooperative agreement, you must complete and submit Standard Form - LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."

- 5) Research & Related Senior/Key Personnel Form (Enclosure 7). The Federal Government has a continuing commitment to monitor the operation of its review and award processes to identify and address any inequities based on gender, race, ethnicity, or disability of its proposed PDs/PIs and co-PDs/PIs. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified PD/PI and co-PDs/PIs with each proposal. Submission of the requested information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. However, information not submitted will seriously undermine the statistical validity, and therefore the usefulness, of information received from others. Any individual not wishing to submit some or all the information should check the box provided for this purpose. Upon receipt of the application, this form will be separated from the application. This form will not be duplicated, and it will not be a part of the review process. Data will be confidential.

Reimbursement of pre-award costs will not be allowed.

Please note, that some of the forms functionality may be lost. Please visit <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/r-r-family.html#sortby=1> to retrieve the forms directly from the Grants.gov website.

Review of Statements Received: Proposals will be evaluated based on the following three factors: 1) Credentials of Key Personnel, 2) Scientific Approach, and 3) Reasonableness of Cost

NOTE: All requirements listed are minimum requirements. Offerors will be assessed on their ability to adhere to the listed requirements, provide complete of responses, follow directions, comply with restrictions and provide quality control on their submittals. All page limits refer to 12 point font and single spaced one-sided pages.

Factor 1 - Credentials of Key Personnel

- a. Principal Investigator (PI): The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for leading the research under this Agreement, designing the study, guiding statistical analyses, conducting literature reviews and analyses/interpretations of current study data in light of management implications and the broader scientific perspective. This individual shall have ultimate responsibility for the scientific and statistical accuracy of this study, and its contribution to science and management understanding and effectiveness for the subject species. This individual shall have, at a minimum:
 - 1) Masters of Science in botany, plant ecology, zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university, including advanced statistical courses.

OR

Bachelors of Science degree in botany, plant ecology, zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university, plus five (5) years of experience conducting research similar to this scope of work with *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* or a similar/related species.

- 2) Three (3) years of full-time experience leading research on plant life cycles, ecology, limiting factors, and population dynamics including: designing research studies, conducting statistical analyses to test results, and summarizing ecological literature in scientific journal articles or project reports. Products from this work should demonstrate the implication of results to science, and indicated the prioritization of action recommendations.
 - 3) A permit, or the ability to obtain a permit prior to activities requiring a permit, to collect and propagate *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* and any other sensitive species for which this is, or becomes a requirement during the course of the study.
 - 4) Three (3) months of experience identifying *Chorizanthe orcuttiana*, *Piperia cooperi*, and varieties in the field in both vegetative and reproductive growth stages and distinguishing them from species similar in appearance. Experience can consist of working with similar species, sub-species, and varieties, as long as it is similar enough to allow for USFWS permitting necessary for collection and propagation for this project. (Permit should be held by the person in charge of field and propagation activities.)
- b. Project Manager (PM): The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for overseeing daily and on-site project and personnel supervision. This includes logistics, safety, and implementation of study design, quality control, scheduling, and meeting reporting deadlines. This person may be, but does not have to be, the same individual as the PI. This person shall have, at minimum:
- 1) Bachelors of Science in botany, plant ecology, zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university.
 - 2) Two (2) years of experience monitoring, restoring habitat and controlling erosion in coastal sage scrub and maritime succulent scrub communities. Experience must be from coastal areas with similar vegetation communities in southern California. Experience should include propagating and out-planting of container stock, and monitoring and maintenance of restoration sites to meet targeted success criteria.
 - 3) Two (2) years of experience managing project and program budgets, overseeing field crews, handling logistics, and providing excellent customer service and timely communications.
 - 4) The primary role of the Project Manager is to run the staffing, budget, schedule, and logistics of the overall project; and to act as the primary Recipient liaison with the Navy USFWS to provide timely updates and management of reporting, comments, and inter-agency coordination.

- 5) Six (6) months of experience mapping plant communities in southern California and producing maps using ArcGIS and/or Arc/Info GIS software.
 - 6) One (1) year of experience propagating similar sensitive plant species in a nursery setting.
- c. Field Technician(s) (FT): Shall assist the PI/PM with project implementation under direct supervision of the PM. These individual(s) shall have, at a minimum:
- 1) Bachelors of Science in botany, plant ecology, zoology, biology, ecology, wildlife management or a related field experience from an accredited college or university.
 - 2) One (1) year of local experience in identifying, monitoring, and restoring California coastal sage scrub and maritime succulent scrub.
 - 3) Three (3) months of experience identifying *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* in the field in both vegetative and reproductive growth stages and distinguishing *Chorizanthe orcuttiana* from species similar in appearance.
 - 4) Field technicians will work under the supervision of the PI and Project Manager in a manner consistent with all applicable permit requirements.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

Not to exceed 3 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work contained within Enclosure 1 statement of work. The Offeror shall be evaluated as to the soundness of the overall approach and use of any innovative techniques to accomplish project objectives.

Factor 3 - Reasonableness of Cost

After technical evaluation of the proposal, the Offers shall be analyzed to determine whether they are materially/mathematically balanced with respect to prices or separately priced items, and for fair and reasonable pricing. A clear cost breakdown of work elements to be accomplished detailing quantities for the various work items, unit, unit prices and extended prices will be required and will be evaluated. Evaluation will include an analysis to determine the Offeror’s comprehension of the requirements of the proposed agreement as well as to assess the validity of the Offeror’s approach. Please be sure to provide a proposal for the optional work years as listed within the statement of work.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, “Research and Related Budget” form*(Enclosure 5). Please submit one budget form for the base year of work and separate budget form for each of the options specified in the Statement of Work.

***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. 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.

NOTE: Every deviation from the scope of work requirement must be identified. Proposer must identify the paragraph in the scope of work that is applicable and provide sufficient information to justify why the deviation is in the best interest of the government.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF EVALUATION FACTORS – Factor 1, 2, and 3 are of equal importance.

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by August 22, 2018 2:00 PM local standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after August 22, 2018 2:00 PM local standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

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

Point of Contact Information:

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