

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT
INTEREST #N62473-19-2-0006
PROJECT TO BE INITIATED IN 2019**

Project Title: Automated Environmental Data Collection for Listed and Sensitive Species in San Diego Bay, California

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of environmental data collection in San Diego Bay. Approximately \$52,061.00 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 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:

San Diego Bay (SDB) is part of a highly urbanized ecosystem that has become subject to anthropogenic watershed development, subsequent resource degradation and eutrophication. Despite the anthropogenic influence on the bay, it serves as a crucial ecosystem for several sensitive marine species. The shallow water habitats of SDB support seagrass beds (*Zostera marina*) that provide vital spawning, nursery areas, and migration routes for nearshore marine fishes and invertebrates, many of which are protected species.

Abiotic parameters, including but not limited to Naval activities, are known to be major contributors to the health of marine species and the foraging resources on which they depend (e.g., see Green Sea Turtle Recovery Plan for the maintenance of healthy foraging area). Similarly, environmental parameters such as seawater temperature, water clarity, chlorophyll can impact species at the primary productivity level, such as eelgrass (e.g., see Southern California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy), which can lead to impacts to fish nurseries and have detrimental impacts all the way up the food chain (e.g., green turtles, California least terns, scalloped hammerhead sharks). Environmental data are not only important for the protection and recovery of federally listed threatened and endangered species (green sea turtles, California least tern, western snowy plover, scalloped hammerhead shark) and their habitats but it also directly benefits Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and federally managed fish species under Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCA), marine mammals, a host of bird species, and other sensitive species that utilize SDB.

As a low-inflow estuary, SDB can express a variety of dynamical circulation regimes both seasonally as well as longitudinally ranging from “normal” estuarine exchange to “inverse” and

“thermal” exchange conditions. Normal estuarine exchange flow indicates subtidal (or tidally averaged flow) into the estuary at depth and out of the estuary at the surface. Inverse conditions are opposite of normal conditions; while thermal exchange is in the normal exchange direction, however the dynamics are driven by density gradients caused by temperature instead of salinity. This project aims to measure vertical stratification at multiple points along the axis of SDB, as well as a profile of velocity.

Oceanographic instrumentation and research will allow researchers to examine the temporal and spatial variability in the dynamical regimes, which will greatly improve the understanding of ecosystem responses and ecosystem regimes. Moreover, the data achieved through this Cooperative Agreement will aid the Navy in its obligation to comply with federal guidelines regarding adoption of an ecosystem approach to land and coastal management, including the definition of ecosystem management identified in Executive Order 13547 establishing a National Ocean Policy for Stewardship of the Ocean and Coasts (19 July 2010) via Sikes Act.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

The Department of the Navy (DoN) is seeking statements of interest that address the Navy’s requirement to collect SDB-specific environmental data to improve the current understanding of the mechanisms driving SDB circulation patterns and their role in the ecological functions of the bay. Generally, the Navy’s BASE monitoring requirements include: (1) collect and analyze environmental data from various locations within SDB by deploying various oceanographic instrumentation, including CTD (conductivity (C) and temperature (T) and depth (D)) and current meters; (2) prepare a draft and final report.

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 period and two (2), 18-month option periods. If an option period is awarded, the period of performance will be extended by 18 months from the date of award. These options may be unilaterally awarded within the last 6 months of the period of performance of the base scope of work, or within the proceeding option period of the Cooperative Agreement. The period of performance of the base period and option periods may overlap. 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. In the event that an option period(s) is exercise, a cumulative report consisting of the base and all option periods will be the Final Report. 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 key personnel. To gather information needed for this important task, the applicant should submit the requested information for each identified key personnel 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. This data will be kept 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 and use these forms when submitting your statement of interest.

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, completeness 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: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for ensuring provisions are in place, project and personnel supervision are adequate, and quality control and meeting of reporting requirements are met on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Environmental Engineering or a related science.
- ii. 10 years of experience analyzing estuarine hydrodynamics, including oceanographic properties and biological parameters.
- iii. Extensive field experience in utilizing in-situ instrumentation including moorings, boat-based surveys and autonomous underwater vehicles.

B. Research Associate: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for obtaining permits required for deployment of CTDs and coordination logistics. This person shall have, at minimum:

- i. A PhD in Oceanography or a related science.
- ii. 10 years of experience coordinating logistics for field experiments.
- iii. 5 years of experience obtaining access permits associated with field experiments.

C. Graduate Student Researcher: The Recipient shall designate one person as responsible for experimental design and conducting rigorous analysis of data collected. This person shall have, at minimum:

- i. An M.S. in Oceanography or a related science.
- ii. 5 years of experience with estuarine hydrodynamics, including oceanographic properties and biological parameters.

D. Research Assistant: The Recipient shall designate one or more people as responsible for assisting with field operations and data collection. This person shall have, at minimum:

- i. Over 5 years of experience as an oceanographic field technician.
- ii. Experience deploying and recovering instruments including mooring design, boat mounts, and all boat operations.
- iv. Knowledge of programming oceanographic hydrodynamic instruments (ADCPs, CTDs, pressure sensors, etc.) and expertise preparing instruments for deployment.

Factor 2 – Scientific Approach

Not to exceed 3 pages, the Offeror shall develop an outline for their approach to addressing the anticipated work stated above. 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 will be analyzed for fair and reasonable pricing. The proposal will be analyzed to determine whether its pricing is

materially/mathematically balanced, and is fair and reasonable. The Offeror shall use OMB Circular A-21 “Cost Principles for Institutions of Higher Education,” 48 CFR part 31 “Contract Cost Principles and Procedures,” or 2 CFR 200 Subpart F “Audit Requirements” as applicable. 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. 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 option periods as listed within the statement of work. Please submit proposed budget for the option periods on separate research and related budget forms.

Please provide your proposed budget on the provided pdf titled, “Research and Related Budget” form*(Enclosure 5).

***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 (enclosure 1). 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 10 April 2019 2:00 PM Pacific standard time. This Request for Statements of Interest will remain open until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after 10 April 2019 2:00 PM Pacific standard time is considered “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than 03 April 2019 2:00 Pacific standard time.

Please send electronic responses and questions directly to:

Mr. Reagan Pablo, Contract Specialist, Environmental Conservation and Compliance
Team Reagan.s.pablo@navy.mil

Point of Contact Information:

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