



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-21-2-SOI-4579
Project to be initiated in 2021

Applicants must be a member in one of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU):
Californian 2018 Agreement DoD Number not on 2018 Agreement
Desert Southwest 2020 Agreement DoD Number not on 2020 Agreement
Colorado Plateau 2019 Agreement DoD Number not on 2019 Agreement

Project Title: Cultural Resources Support – Professional Archaeologist and Project Liaison for Solar EUL Development Project Oversight at Edwards AFB, CA

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential investigators for a project to be funded by the US Air Force which provides professional and technical support for Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) in order to facilitate successful implementation of the 16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act. Approximately **\$415,000** is expected to be available to support this project during the **base period**. There will be no additional option awards.

Background:

The primary focus of this position is to monitor data recovery and construction operations within an APE greater than 4,000 acres in the northwest corner of EAFB, where a solar-electric installation will be constructed.

Type of Award:

This project will be awarded under the authority of the *Sikes Act* (Sec. 103A [16 USC 670c-1]) “the Secretary of a military department may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals, ...” This project is in support of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, as directed in the *Sikes Act*, and as a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded. Such awards may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Note: Must be a non-federal partner in one of the CESU Units, referenced above, to be qualified for considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

In order to perform this work successfully, the cooperator must have capabilities to support on site goals and objectives at EAFB.

The primary objective is to provide an on-site presence within a defined project APE whenever there is data recovery or other ground-disturbing activity. The CRM staff at EAFB cannot be detailed to the field every day, so this project is necessary. At least two archaeologists are needed, both must be qualified per the Secretary of the Interior's standards for archaeological field workers. These persons will share a position and assignment so that one PAPL is always in the field and able to monitor the data recovery and/or the construction activities associated with the solar development project. Basic space will be made available in the Edwards AFB Environmental Office, about a 30-minute drive from the project site, though administrative work such as writing reports does not need to be performed in the office. The cooperator shall provide all labor, equipment, supplies and transportation to perform all work described herein.

Specific Support Duties and Responsibilities

- In coordination with CRM staff at Edwards AFB, and in support of the general construction schedule and needs of the project developer and their archaeological subcontractor, the PAPL shall:
- Ensure that at least one liaison archaeologist is in the field at all times that the developer is working, conducting oversight of the project developer and contracted archaeologists
- The PAPL not in the field acting as a liaison and monitor can use the shared office provided by EAFB to complete paperwork, draft status reports, review CRM monitoring reports from the project developer, or accomplish other appropriate CRM work
- Participate in meetings with Environmental Office personnel to discuss how the solar development is proceeding, issues encountered, and other relevant information
- Participate in site visits by Air Force personnel, tribal representatives, and other officials
- If inclement weather, construction delays or other factors force a hiatus in fieldwork, the PAPLs may assist EAFB staff with general CRM duties related to the Solar EUL project, or similar archaeological site management

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities requested for support

- General archaeological experience involving excavations, documentation, monitoring, and other common practices are expected, in addition to:
- Literacy and experience with common GIS and GPS programs and practices
- Experience working with and around heavy machinery (e.g., backhoes, pan-scrapers) on sites
- Experience monitoring machinery excavations and earth-moving construction
- Experience working on survey and excavation crews in the Great Basin or Mojave Desert or general field experience plus thorough background knowledge of the Great Basin, Mojave, or High Desert
- Skilled in observation, documentation, and reporting both verbally and in writing

Note: At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or same type of work. You will be evaluated for request for a proposal based on skills, qualifications and certifications demonstrated in your SOI.

Preference will be given to statements of interest that demonstrate field biologists that have at least five years of Alaska plant identification experience; a subset of that experience shall include at least two years of searching or surveying for the presence of invasive species, including potential invasive grasses, in the state of Alaska.

Period of Performance. The base period of performance is anticipated to be 18 months from date of award. With a possible two optional 6 month extensions depending on the construction schedule.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

(Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced 12 pt. font).

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information (Email)
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
 - 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, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.).

Note: A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.

Review of Statements Received: All statements of interest received will be evaluated by a board comprised of one or more people at the receiving installation or activity, who will determine which statement(s) best meet the program objectives. Based on a review of the Statements of Interest received, an investigator or investigators will be invited to prepare a full study proposal. Statements will be evaluated based on the investigator's specific experience and capabilities in areas related to the study requirements.

Please send responses or direct questions to:

Sandy Justman
Grants Specialist
USACE Ft. Worth District
Sandra.justman@usace.army.mil
Office: (817) 886-1073

Kali Evans
Project Manager
USACE Omaha District
margaret.m.wells@usace.army.mil
Office: (402) 995-2590

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI is required to be posted for at least 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **24 JULY 2021**.

[End of RSOI]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES
for
PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIST AND PROJECT LIAISON
SOLAR EUL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OVERSIGHT
at
EDWARDS AFB, CALIFORNIA

Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU) Cooperative Agreement

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1.** The Edwards AFB (EAFB) environmental program ensures military mission activities are conducted in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and policies with cooperation and assistance from the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's (AFCEC) Installation Support Section (ISS). Article I B of the master agreement states the objectives of the CESU are to: provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their potential partners; develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social sciences needed to address resource issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level; and place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institutions.
- 1.2.** The objectives of the work to be performed under this task order are to support Edwards Air Force Base (EAFB) in its oversight of a high-profile development project and in the everyday management of cultural resources on the installation, and to prepare reports detailing the results of this work for submission to the USACE Omaha Project Manager (PM), AFCEC Edwards Installation Support Section (ISS) Point of Contact (POC), and Edwards Cultural Resources POC.
- 1.3.** The need is for at least two persons who will work together, full time, to provide oversight of a very large data recovery effort at numerous archaeological sites within the development project Area of Potential Effect (APE), and to provide oversight of archaeological monitoring and compliance related to any other ground-disturbing construction activities. The expected duration of this project is 24 months, though it may be extended on a month-to-month basis depending on the construction schedule. The requirement is to have full coverage (at least one person providing oversight in the field) at all times the developer is working, which is expected to be 10 hours per day, 6 days per week.
- 1.4.** The primary focus of this position is to monitor data recovery and construction operations within an APE greater than 4,000 acres in the northwest corner of EAFB, where a solar-electric installation will be constructed. At all times, one of these Professional Archaeologist Project Liaison (PAPL) will be on-site whenever the project

developer or any subcontractor is engaged in archaeological data recovery actions or construction activities. The PAPL will ensure that such actions are done in accordance with the Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP) and any derivative Work Plans. If deviations from procedures outlined in the Work Plans are noted by the PAPL, they will report to the Edwards AFB Cultural Resource Manager (CRM) for resolution.

- 1.5. The PAPL team shall prepare weekly status reports, submitted via email, that describe the fieldwork accomplished during the reporting period, including descriptions of problems encountered and how resolved, a forecast of the next week's activities, and any noteworthy comments.
- 1.6. None of these duties is inherently governmental. The archaeologists may not act as a Contracting Officer nor have authority to speak for the Air Force. No direction can be given to the developer or its subcontractors, other than to discuss how some element of work might fall short of or diverge from the approved plans.

2. AUTHORITY

Authority to enter into a Cooperative Agreements for the work: Section 670c-1, Title 16 United States Code, Sikes Act.

- 2.1. In agreement with the above stated objectives, the recipient/cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, the Air Force responsibilities pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and applicable implementing regulations, such as Air Force Instruction 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*.
- 2.2. In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), all CESU projects must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, instead of acquiring goods or services for the exclusive direct benefit of the United States Government. Examples of carrying out a public purpose may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Project results are made available to a wide audience (including nonfederal entities)
 - Project results/outputs add to the scientific literature/knowledge base, with applicability and utility beyond the scope of the project footprint/study area
 - Academic and other nonfederal partner institutions (and their personnel) gain professional experience, increase knowledge, and develop skills and abilities
 - Students benefit from direct interaction with federal scientists, program and technical staff, and field unit managers
- 2.3. In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements of the Federal Grant*

and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), substantial involvement is expected between the Department of Defense and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated by the cooperative agreement. The DoD agrees to participate at a national level in support of the CESU program Agreements as accepted in the Master MOU for the establishment and continuation of the CESU program Agreements Article II 1-4 and Article VI 1-7.

2.4. The installation (hence DoD) further agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under Article II (A) CESU Master Agreements to include, but are not limited to, the following:

- EAFB and AFCEC are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- EAFB and AFCEC are active participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees
- EAFB and AFCEC incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement.

3. DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

Conduct tasks in accordance with this Description of Objectives, as prioritized by AFCEC Edwards ISS and the respective EAFB Cultural Resources Manager (CRM). This Cooperative Agreement supports the efforts as described in below.

Travel, Coordination, and Project Management for all tasks is as follows:

Travel: Provide transportation and fuel for all Non-Federal Entity (NFE) staff to get to and from all field sites. Retain current proof of insurance and current registration for all modes of transportation.

Coordination: Coordinate concurrently with the EAS NRM, AFCEC, and the USACE PM. All work schedules shall be approved by the AFCEC and be consistent with the Project Schedule & Work Plan (Deliverable 9.7) approved by the EAS NRM. Schedule changes will be jointly made by the USACE PM, the EAS NRM, and AFCEC and align with the Sikes Act compliant INRMP and original ACES programming. Any changes in scope or cost must be approved by the USACE Grants Officer. All coordination with state and federal regulators will be by the EAS NRM or AFCEC only.

Project Management: Each task includes a section on level of effort specific to that task. A Cooperative Agreement Project Manager should be assigned to coordinate across tasks, manage all personnel hired to complete work, and ensure all scoped objectives are completed under this Cooperative Agreement on time. *Level of effort for Cooperative Agreement Project Management is expected to be at least 4 hours per month with additional hours as needed,* generally at the beginning and end of the agreement period of performance and before and after monthly meetings. Project manager shall provide monthly meeting agenda, track deliverables, provide meeting notes, etc.

Access: Access to Edwards AFB is restricted. General base access requires sponsorship by a Government civilian employee and should be coordinated at least two weeks prior to the visit. Long-term base access will require additional security clearances and access processing. Access to the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), the Precision Impact Range Area (PIRA), the airfield, and other restricted facilities on EAFB may require additional security clearances and training. Access to some areas may be limited by ongoing military activities such that personnel access is limited to weekends or brief periods of a few hours. Access procedures are described in further detail in the most recent version of the *Edwards AFB Contractor Access Request Procedures Template*.

Photography Use: Photography at Edwards AFB is restricted, requiring an authorization letter that must be in the photographer’s possession at all times. Cell phone photos are not allowed. Any photos/reports released to the public must be reviewed and authorized by Public Affairs. A non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is required for use of photographs for data analysis and report preparation prior to authorization by public affairs for release of photos/reports to the public.

AFCEC Project: SOLAR EUL ARCHEOLOGIST			
Task	Section	Title	Location
1	3.1	PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIS AND PROJECT LIAISON	EAFB

3.1. TASK 1: PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGIST AND PROJECT LIAISON

The primary focus of this project is to provide an on-site presence within a defined project APE whenever there is data recovery or other ground-disturbing activity. The CRM staff at EAFB cannot be detailed to the field every day, so this project is necessary. At least two archaeologists are needed, both must be qualified per the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for archaeological field workers. These persons will share a position and assignment so that one PAPL is always in the field and able to monitor the data recovery and/or the construction activities associated with the solar development project. Basic space will be made available in the EAFB Environmental Office, about a 30-minute drive from the project site, though administrative work such as writing reports, does not need to be performed in the office. The cooperator shall provide all labor, equipment, supplies and transportation to perform all work described herein.

In coordination with CRM staff at Edwards AFB, and in support of the general construction schedule and needs of the project developer and their archaeological subcontractor, the PAPL shall:

- Ensure that at least one liaison archaeologist is in the field at all times that the developer is working, conducting oversight of the project developer and contracted archaeologists

- The PAPL not in the field acting as a liaison and monitor can use the shared office provided by EAFB to complete paperwork, draft status reports, review CRM monitoring reports from the project developer, or accomplish other appropriate CRM work
- Participate in meetings with Environmental Office personnel to discuss how the solar development is proceeding, issues encountered, and other relevant information
- Participate in site visits by Air Force personnel, tribal representatives, and other officials
- If inclement weather, construction delays or other factors force a hiatus in fieldwork, the PAPLs may assist EAFB staff with general CRM duties related to the Solar EUL project, or similar archaeological site management

4. TASK SPECIFIC DELIVERABLES

Together, the PAPL archaeologists shall:

- Make contact with EAFB CRM staff as soon as possible, via phone or email, following any significant discovery or when or problem event occurs
- Write weekly reports, submitted via email to the CRM staff at EAFB, describing work completed during the week and summarizing any significant events
- Write monthly summary progress reports, submitted via email, listing work areas or sites completed, problems encountered, significant discovery or other events, etc.
- Collate, track, review, and comment on monitoring reports and field reports from the developer
- This project culminates with a technical report that describes all work performed during the period of performance, observations and findings, and how issues or complications were resolved. Include a chronology of major events, and maps and photographs as appropriate to convey the information. A GIS data deliverable is not required. Submit a draft of the technical report, allowing at least 30 days for Government review, then submit an electronic only pre-final response to comments (in table format, along with redline markup of the report. Allow 30 days for review, then incorporate any further comments and submit the final technical report. Submit five hard copies plus electronic files and a full version in PDF format.

5. QUALIFICATIONS

The NFE should meet the minimum qualifications necessary to perform tasks described in the project work statement. The principal investigator should have experience directing the efforts of the project team. NFE personnel shall have the technical experience, the field implementation experience, any required state and federal certifications, and any required state or federal handling or application permits likely to be used in this project.

General archaeological experience involving excavations, documentation, monitoring, and other common practices are expected, in addition to:

- Literacy and experience with common GIS and GPS programs and practices
- Experience working with and around heavy machinery (e.g., backhoes, pan-scrapers) on sites

- Experience monitoring machinery excavations and earth-moving construction
- Experience working on survey and excavation crews in the Great Basin or Mojave Desert or general field experience plus thorough background knowledge of the Great Basin, Mojave, or High Desert
- Skilled in observation, documentation, and reporting both verbally and in writing

6. GOVERNMENT FURNISHED MATERIALS OR PROPERTY

The government will provide maps, INRMP, master plans, and previous reports relevant to this Cooperative Agreement.

Government-furnished materials or property is governed by 2 C.F.R. Part 200.312, which states that a) Title to federally-owned property remains vested in the Federal government. The non-Federal entity must submit annually an inventory listing of federally-owned property in its custody to the Federal awarding agency. Upon completion of the Federal award or when the property is no longer needed, the non-Federal entity must return the property to the Federal awarding agency for further Federal agency utilization.

7. OPTIONS

No option years available.

8. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

The period of performance is 18 months. With 2 optional 6 month extensions depending on the construction schedule.

9. COORDINATION

USACE POC
Kali Evans, PM
402-768-1048
kali.l.evans@usace.army.mil

Daniel F. Garcia
AFCEC/CZOW, Edwards ISS Program Manager
1172 Iceland Avenue; Bldg 11432
Vandenberg AFB, CA 94347
(805) 606-9834
daniel.garcia.23@us.af.mil

10. DELIVERABLES

Submit deliverables as listed below, or as otherwise specified in the NFE's proposal. Deliverable schedule must be within the period of performance of the contract. The NFE

may propose an alternate schedule but should not reduce the opportunities for and duration of Government review periods.

Deliverable Title	Submission Schedule	Format
Weekly Status Reports	Friday prior to upcoming field work week	Email
Monthly Status Reports	Within 14 days after end of each month	Email
Draft Technical Report	To be determined by NFE	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Pre-final Response to Comments	30 days after receipt of Government comments	Microsoft Word editable: Electronic only (e-mail attachment, or file transfer)
Final Technical Report	21 days after Government approval of NFE's response to all Government comments	PDF Format: Full electronic version (email attachment or file transfer) Hard Copies: 5 hard copies spiral or comb-bound, each with a CD containing the full document and all references.

10.1. Quarterly Progress Reports - The NFE shall submit quarterly progress reports via email to summarize work completed to date, work anticipated in the next quarter, and any concerns or recommendations. The report shall be due as of the last day of the third month (**quarterly**) and shall be transmitted via electronic mail, facsimile, or regular mail no later than the 10th calendar day following the end of the reporting period. Invoices for partial payment shall be submitted to coincide with receipt of the quarterly progress reports. No partial payment will be approved unless the government has received all progress reports which are due.

10.2. Monthly Progress Reports & Meeting Minutes - One typed report describing progress on the project. The report shall be due two days before the scheduled monthly meeting and shall be transmitted via electronic mail. Meeting minutes are due within 2 days following the monthly meeting to include a summary of action items.

10.3. Annual Inventory – Federally owned property - an annual inventory listing Federal property (to include description of the property, a serial number or other identification number) that is in the custody of the recipient; Copies to be sent to USACE – SWF and the EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS.

10.4. Annual Inventory – Acquired Property (purchased with funding from award) - property records must be maintained that includes description of the property, serial number or other identification number, source of funding, who holds title, acquisition date, cost of property, percentage of Federal participation in project costs, location, use and condition of property, and ultimate disposition including date of disposal and sale price. A physical inventory must be taken and results reconciled every two years. Copies of the inventory to be sent

annually to USACE – SWF and the EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS.

10.5. Draft Project Reports –Electronic copies of draft final reports should be submitted no later than one month before end of the project. **All draft deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues.** At a minimum, the reports shall contain an executive summary, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and recommendations section. Each report shall summarize work accomplished for the Task. EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS staff will review and provide comments *within 30 calendar days after receipt.*

10.6. Final Project Reports – See each task for task specific reports. **All final deliverables shall be reviewed by an experienced editor to fix any editorial issues.** Electronic copies of the final report, incorporating EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS comments on the draft shall be submitted no later than 21 days after receipt of the EAFB and AFCEC Edwards ISS comments.

11. This cooperative agreement may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

Any resulting cooperative agreement will be subject to and NFE shall comply with 2 CFR 200.313 “Equipment”, 200.314 “Supplies”, and 200.315 “Intangible Property” which includes use of research data.

End of SOO