

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST WITHIN THE CALIFORNIAN
COOPERATIVE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES UNIT**

N62473-22-2-0015

August 2022

Project Title: Plant Surveys and DNA Barcoding on Naval Outlying Field San Nicolas Island and Other Channel Islands

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) will address measures in support of sensitive species vascular plant DNA barcoding for Navy affiliated ranges in the Channel Islands, especially Naval Outlying Field San Nicolas Island (NOLF SNI). Approximately \$67,370 is expected to be available to support the base requirements of this project. Approximately \$782,870 is expected to be available to support Optional Items in support of anticipated additional requirements and contingent upon available funding.

Item	Estimated Funding
Base Period	\$67,370.00
Option Items	\$1,371,000

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:

Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) provides site operation support services to the military defense complex that encompasses all military activities at NBVC Port Hueneme, Point Mugu, Naval Outlying Field San Nicolas Island (SNI), and Special Areas. Through this effort, the installation supports more than 40 tenant commands (including US Coast Guard, US Air Force, US Marines, and US Army) with diverse DoD missions ranging from Seabee support to test and evaluation of air and shipboard weapons systems within the Point Mugu Sea Range and beyond. Biological and ecological studies and analyses support environmental documentation and regulatory consultations (Army Corps of Engineers permits and USFWS consultations) and NEPA, as well as, Range Complex Management Plans and Integrated Natural Resources Plans (INRMP). The Environmental Division of NBVC and other installations involved in this agreement are responsible for ensuring compliance with all county, state, and federal environmental laws, rules and regulations that impact operations at their respective installations. A crucial part of that work involves the management and monitoring of installation flora and fauna.

This project supports the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 7(a)(1), to implement Conservation Programs for endangered species in the Navy Channel Islands.

This project also supports the implementation of the SNI Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), a requirement of the Sikes Act (16 USCA Section 670a), as the identification and management of plant and invertebrate species is detailed in the INRMP as crucial to the continued health of the island ecosystem. The Cooperative Agreement meets the requirements of the Sikes Act through implementation of the INRMP. This Cooperative Agreement supports the following INRMP objectives:

- **Special Status Species:** Minimize the potential for adverse effects on special status species and their associated ecosystems while protecting the operational functionality of the installation mission by using an ecosystem-based management approach.
- **Data Integration, Access, and Reporting:** Ensure the technically sound, practical and appropriate use of library and computer technology to organize, analyze, and communicate natural resource information in support of management decisions.

Brief Description of the Anticipated Work:

The Department of the Navy (DoN) is seeking statements of interest for the plant collection and DNA barcoding on NOLF SNI and possibly other Navy affiliated Channel Islands, San Clemente Island and San Miguel Island. Generally, the Navy’s requirements include: (1) collection and circumscription of vascular plant species on SNI, (2) build a DNA barcode library for vascular plants of the Islands (3) publish results in a peer-reviewed journal.

Period of Performance:

The period of performance covered by this agreement is 60 months upon award. The award of any optional work elements will not extend the period of performance further and will be subject to the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. § 1341).

Period	Period of Performance	Anticipated Award Date
Base Period	Date of Award – 60 Months	Fall 2022
Option Items	Various*	Various* Not later than the 48 month of the Base Period of performance

*Please see scope of work for details regarding Option Items Periods of Performances

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to: Kevin Magennis (Contract Specialist), (619) 705-5566; kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.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."

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, 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 that provisions are in place project and personnel supervision, quality control and meeting of reporting requirements on a daily basis. This person shall have, at the minimum:

- i. A PhD in Systematic Botany or related science.
- ii. Experience and knowledge of micro-algal taxonomy, as demonstrated by at least 10 years of previous work or research experience.
- iii. Specific knowledge of Channel Islands micro algae taxonomy, as demonstrated by at least one peer-reviewed research paper on soil inhabiting micro-algae on Channel Islands.

B. Research Associates: The person(s) shall have, or have immediate access to personnel that have, at the minimum:

- i. A minimum of a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology or related science disciplines.

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 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 L.
- 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 L.
- 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 L.
- 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 L.

Budget Justification (Field L 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.

Please send electronic responses and questions to:

Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator, kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil.

Point of Contact Information:

Kevin Magennis, Cooperative Agreement Administrator
 Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Southwest
 750 Pacific Highway San Diego, CA 92132
 Phone Number: 619-705-5566
 Email: kevin.e.magennis.civ@us.navy.mil

Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:

We request that Statements of Interest be submitted by September 14, 2022 2:00 PM PDT. This Request for

Statements of Interest will remain open for two weeks until an investigator team is selected. Statements of Interest received after September 14, 2022 2:00 PM PDT will be deemed “late” and may not be considered. Please submit requests for information/questions no later than September 12, 2022 2:00 PM PDT.