



C o u n t y o f S a n L u i s O b i s p o

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PS-#1149

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR THE San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District OCEANO LAGOON AREA BIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Questions and Answers

September 29, 2011

Question 1. How much weight will be placed on proposals that can cover both Part I and Optional Part II vs those that address only Part I. We currently do not have in-house ecological risk assessment capabilities, but could potentially bring on a subconsultant to cover that task if it will be viewed favorably in the proposal review process. If not, we will simply focus on preparation of a comprehensive proposal for the Part I scope of work.

Response 1. The District's initial expectation is that proposals will address both Part I and Part II; that is, Part II is optional on the part of the District. Proposers should be aware that the inclusion of Part II is partly dependent on the District and the South County Sanitation District reaching agreement on a cost sharing arrangement. Should an agreement not be forthcoming then the consultant selection process would not include Part II 2 proposals, otherwise, proposals with both Parts included would be preferred.

Question 2. Part II (tasks E and F) focuses on impacts that have occurred, rather than on impacts that may occur from the flood waters and associated raw sewage. Does the District anticipate a substantial sampling and analysis component to this evaluation, including not only water, soil, sediment, and buildings, but also potentially affected plants and animals? Can you provide any further specifics on the level of effort that the District is seeking?

Response. 2. The focus of Task E is to evaluate and as best as possible determine the impacts of the spill from the surrounding sewers on the lagoon. Task E and F contain the specific wording of the Water Board as contained in the Notice of Violation. The consultant will need to perform studies necessary to address Tasks E and F. The Sanitation District has been sampling water in the lagoon and Meadow Creek tributary at 9 different locations on a monthly basis since March of 2011. Those samples have only been for fecal coliform but the results are available upon written request to the Sanitation District. The Sanitation District intends to continue water sampling at these locations for at least a year in order to determine a water quality baseline.

Question 3. Assuming that the District is looking for a comprehensive sampling effort, can you provide some specifics (e.g., areal extent, time of inundation, identification of homes and

buildings affected, any testing results, etc.) on the December 2010 flood? Is there a way to gain access to the referenced report?

Response 3. It is not the Sanitation District's intent to specify what testing is required. That would be left to the consultant to best determine how to meet the requirements previously issued by the Water Board. As to the extent, time of inundation etc, a report has been filed with the Water Board with much if not all of this information. As noted in the RFP, the document is available upon written request to the Sanitation District (see below).

Question 4. In addition to assessing the effects of flooding and raw sewage on the ecological community, the RFP also calls for assessing the effects to human receptors. Is the District looking for a comparison of estimated water and solid waste contaminant levels to published standards for human contact OR for all potential impacts associated with water and sewage inundating homes?

Response 4. The assessment will need to address the requirements as specified by the Water Board in their Notice of Violation dated April 18, 2011, and contained in the RFP Tasks E and F. (Contact the Sanitation District as identified below).

Question 5. We are working on a proposal in response to your Oceano Lagoon Area Biological Investigations RFP and noticed that a copy of the spill report was available from the Sanitation District to assist with proposal preparation. Can we please get a copy of that document?

Response 5. Please contact Bill Lindahl, Sanitation District Engineering Staff, at bill@wallacegroup.us or by phone 805 544 4011 for an email copy

Question 6. Will local tidal data, recent aerial photography, recent topographic/bathymetric data and hydrology/hydraulics data for the study area be available once the contract is awarded?

Response 6. Tidal data is collected by NOAA at their station in Port San Luis (8 miles northwest); however, it should be noted that the Oceano Lagoon is not tidally influenced; the flap gates separating the Oceano Lagoon from Arroyo Grande Creek and the ocean are 1.9 feet above the mean high high tide. The most recent aerial photography is from 2007 and is part of San Luis Obispo County's Geographic Information System. Topographic information around the lagoon is recent and available; collection of bathymetric data is planned for the near future. Hydrology/hydraulics data is lacking; the most recent is a watershed study prepared in 1989.

Question 7. What is the anticipated and/or required timeline to complete the requested biological investigations?

Response 7. The District understands that the timing of the RFP for survey work is not optimum; ideally we would prefer surveys to be conducted in the spring or as species dictate. Therefore, we expect the work cannot be done until summer of 2012 at the earliest. However, a more accelerated timeline for optional Part II is preferred in order to respond to the regulatory agency. Proposers are encouraged to identify innovative methods and approaches to these competing needs such focused interim reports, etc.

Question 8. What is the anticipated or known budget to complete the requested biological investigations?

Response 8. No budget for the work described in the RFP has been established; the District will look for proposals that best balance the need for accurate and complete biological information against the need to be efficient with public monies.

Question 9. Would it be possible to receive alternative flood reduction measures/techniques being considered?

Response 9. At this point in time the District has not developed a list of preferred or potential project activities. Our preference is to have much more of the basic site information, including biological resources present, before limiting options in any way.

Question 10. Are the pre-spill water quality data available for review?

Response 10. To our knowledge there are no pre-spill water quality data from the Oceano Lagoon. As noted above, The Sanitation District has been sampling water in the lagoon and Meadow Creek tributary at 9 different locations on a monthly basis since March of 2011. Those samples have only been for fecal coliform but the results are available upon written request to the Sanitation District. The Sanitation District intends to continue water sampling at these locations for at least a year in order to determine a water quality baseline.