

February 25, 2010

Potential Salinity Services Vendors

Notification to all recommended/requested vendors via email
Posted at <http://cvsalinity.org/index.php/procurement>

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

Beneficial Use and Objective Study Phase 1 (2010-001)

The Central Valley Salinity Coalition is requesting proposals in response to the attached request.

Important Dates

Pre proposal Conference Call March 4th 2010 at 10:00 am; the agenda be posted at website shown above; The Call-in number (218) 339-4600 Participant Code: 927571#.

Question Deadline – March 5th at 4:00 pm email questions to the email address below. Answers will be posted at website shown above by March 9th 2010.

Proposals are due – March 19, 2010 4:00 pm

Submissions

Please reply by email to the address below if you intend to participate in this procurement.
Submit your proposal electronically by email to dcozad@cvsalinity.org. You can expect a response soon after the proposal is received. If you have any doubt please email for confirmation without the attachments.

Please submit as a single PDF file in an email with the subject line: Salt and Nitrate Sources Work Plan and Pilot Implementation Study. If file is larger than 10 MB send web link/FTP for download.

AND

By Mail or FedEx

Submit six hardcopies to be received prior to the deadline to:
Central Valley Salinity Coalition
360 Lakeside Ave
Redlands, California 92373

A Standard Services Agreement for the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority is attached to the RFP for Review.

We appreciate your interest in providing services to help understand and solve salt and nitrate issues in the Central Valley.



Daniel B. Cozad, Executive Director
Central Valley Salinity Coalition Inc.

Request for Proposal February 25, 2010

Central Valley Salinity Coalition with CV-SALTS Initiative

Request for Proposal (RFP) 2010-001 For Consulting Services to Conduct

Beneficial Use and Objective Study - Phase 1

1 INTRODUCTION

Organization Background

The Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) was formed in 2008 to integrate and augment the efforts of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) initiative. The purpose of the organization is the governance and organization of the efforts needed to plan, develop and implement the salinity and nitrate management plan for the Central Valley. This plan will incorporate, and become implemented through, a basin plan amendments for the basins in the Central Valley.

Project Background

The overall purpose of the Beneficial Use and Objectives (BUO) Study is to review research information and current conditions and data, and integrate the results of Salt and Nitrate Source Pilot Implementation Study to determine both the appropriateness of the existing beneficial uses for water bodies on the Central Valley and their long-term attainability. The BUO Study will proceed in Phases and will complement and build on the findings of the Salt and Nitrate Source Implementation Pilot Study.

The BUO study will assemble and review existing policy, data, and information to list existing objectives and/or develop preliminary numeric objectives where none exist (or propose modifications where existing objectives may be changed). New (or modified) beneficial uses and associated objectives may also be proposed. The BUO Study (in consultation with the Salt and Nitrate Source Implementation Pilot Study.) will develop procedures for the uniform data collection of data for all areas of the Central Valley. Such data collection may occur in a distributed manner by regional or subregional entities.

Funding for this project will contain funds from the State Water Resources Control Board and some or all elements of the contracting process may be conducted by the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority.

The full scope of work will evolve based on direction from the Economic and Social Cost and Technical Advisory Committees. The current initial scope of work was approved by the committees and the Executive Committee in December 2009.

Significant salinity and nitrate work has been accomplished in the region; Attachment A provides a (non-exclusive) list of references and sources of information the contractor should utilize for the BUO Study.

The BUO Study findings must be compatible with the information listed in Attachment A, with exceptions identified and justified.

This scope of work focuses on Phase 1 because further work is needed to develop Phases 2 and 3. In addition, implementation of Phase 1 will provide information that may influence the scope of work required under subsequent phases.

The draft work plan can be found at

http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/documents/doc_download/53-work-plan-outline-version-9.

Future updates to all program documents are available www.cvsalinity.org. Appendix B provides a look at future phases of work but it has not been developed further and is for context only.

2 SJVDA Contract, CVSC and CV-SALTS Coordination

The funding for the project will come from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority (SJVDA). The contract will be executed between the SJVDA and the Contractor for the scope. Primary day to day coordination will be with CVSC management. CVSC Program Manager will be Daniel Cozad or project coordinator designee. Contractors will also be coordinating and working with the Technical Advisory and Executive Committees (Committees) or subcommittees for this project. All efforts will be reviewed and be found acceptable by the Committee prior to start of work.

3 Work Schedule and Budget

The contractor shall propose a budget and schedule for all tasks in Phase 1. The overall draft deliverable from Task 1 is due by May 30, 2010 based on progress expectations from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). All phase 1 efforts are expected to be completed by July 30, 2010. To provide potential contractors a sense of the depth of scope, the Committees have estimated the project should cost less than \$50,000 and take less than 4 months from notice to proceed. Cost and schedule should be well documented in the proposal, and should be organized to allow increases or decreased in scope based on available funding. The funding for the budget may be developed from multiple sources but will be primarily from a State Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Contract. This program may be contracted in component tasks due to funding availability and timing. The contractor selected for Phase 1 may or may not be retained for future phases of the program.

4 Request for Work

This request is for professional services to support CV-SALTS and related activities as phase 1 of the Beneficial Use and Objective Study. The selected contractor will provide all materials, equipment, labor, planning and coordination to provide the deliverables listed below with Technical and Economic Committee input and oversight. The contractor will provide a proposal documenting scope of work to be performed, project budget, project schedule and development of a peer/technical review panel. Each phase of this work may be separated in execution due to funding or program development timing.

5 Scope of Work

The Technical and Economic and Social Cost committees through a subcommittee developed the following tasks as described on the following pages.

5.1 Task 1: Identification of Existing and Potential Beneficial Uses in the Central Valley

The purpose of this task is to identify and document, using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping layers*, the beneficial use categories assigned to surface and ground waters within the Central Valley (the region covered by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board).

Contractor will include base map layers available in the public domain or supplied by the Regional or State Board, Irrigation and Water Districts where available, or DWR. These layers shall contain:

- Regional board boundaries
- County and city boundaries
- DWR Bulletin 118 groundwater basin boundaries
- Integrated Regional Water Management Planning Boundaries provided to DWR in the Regional Acceptance Process submittals
- Elevation and topography
- Major roads
- Major water supply or conveyance facilities and points of diversion
- Ag Land and Dairies
- State and local water districts
- Land Cover
- Other geographic information needed to locate points of interest/aid conceptual understanding.

Contractor will provide all coverages according to the GIS specification attached with projection, standards and all metadata available to work with existing layers or coverages used by the SWRCB/CVRWQCB and DWR. Coverages received from the State are to be posted for the procurement at <http://intpln.com/GIS/>

Contractor will identify all surface and groundwaters on GIS layers at least one layer for surface waters and one for groundwater basins. Contractor will identify all beneficial use categories assigned to identified surface and groundwaters that have limitation due to salinity or nitrate. Beneficial uses likely including the categories:

- MUN
- DOM
- IND
- PRO
- AGR
- WILD
- WARM
- COLD
- MIGR
- SPWN

Other uses may need to be considered based on committee feedback. The RWQCB may be able to provide clarification on the necessity for assessment of aquatic habitat beneficial uses.

Some elements of this work may be underway or may have been completed by the SWRCB; the contractor will utilize any available coverages or layers. Additional information and status of these products will be provided at the pre-proposal meeting. Some existing work may be able to be provided at the pre-proposal meeting.

California Water Code Section 13050(f) provides all beneficial uses for the region. The list of beneficial use types may be refined by a Regional Board staff report, if completed. Contractor will use information from all available efficient sources, at a minimum, the existing Basin Plans, Regional Board Documentation or maps from inland surface water planning, Department of Water Resources' Bulletin 118, and products of the coalitions operating under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Where the plans do not cover the areas, the Contractor will work with the Regional Board to document the currently implemented process for beneficial use designation, such as the tributary rule and will coordinate with State Board on GIS Coverages for Beneficial Uses. Contractor will specify existing and potential beneficial uses and add this attribute to the layers or coverages.

Contractor proposal will quantify the level of information that will be provided for the mapped layers for each beneficial use.

All layers or coverages will be delivered in a format that functions easily with publicly available, public domain or open sources GIS software and will include original format electronic files as well as any final or translated or modified files. The files or geodatabase should be usable by both GIS technicians and General Interest uses/Stakeholders. The contractor will indicate the methods and formats the data products will be provided in and demonstrate how the both groups will easily be able to use the completed products. Contractor may also consider output as a geo-referenced PDF Map file such as produces by TerraGo or similar.

Contractor will make presentations for each task to the CV-SALTS committees on progress and to explain work and any issues or resolve any technical questions with any of the tasks.

5.2 Task 2: Identification of Existing Water Quality Objectives

The purpose of this task is to develop GIS layers* of the existing water quality objectives ascribed to surface and groundwaters within the Central Valley (both in general because of the defined beneficial use and in site-specific locations). Contractor will use existing Basin Plans to map water quality objectives for electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, any salinity ions, and nutrient species. Contractor will map sites identified where site specific discharge limits have been developed through waste discharge requirements or NPDES permits. Because of the large number of WDR/NPDES permits containing salinity effluent limitations the task will be limited to indicator permits and facilities identified by the RWQCB as significant for salt and nitrates. The RWQCB will provide more information on the number of these permits available at the preproposal meeting. Upon award Contractor and CVSC will meet with RWQCB personnel to identify permits and materials needed and availability.

Contractor will identify additional constituents (non-salt and nitrate related) for which numeric water quality objective exist and may propose to map those as well. If proposed, mapping of other constituent

limits should be priced separately. Additionally, an internal database of limits may be available from the Regional Board; if available the Contractor will use that database or be consistent with the database.

Taken together with Task 1, this information is intended to provide a conceptual understanding of the regulatory map of the Central Valley. This conceptual mapping will also be the basis for future analysis and decisions about management and implementation efforts.

5.3 Task 3: Literature Search of Water Quality Criteria

The purpose of this task is to assemble existing water quality criteria assigned to the identified beneficial uses (as agreed upon in Task 1), and the status of current scientific study related to these criteria. Contractor will utilize the memoranda developed by the Central Valley Drinking Water Policy Workgroup, *UC Davis Ag research (Harder and others)* and work by Dr. Hoffman performed for the State Water Resources Control Board, and other sources, exploring the development and use of criteria within the state, the nation, and around the world, to identify the current state of regulation and science to protect the identified beneficial uses related to nutrients and salts, water quality objectives for electrical conductivity, total dissolved solids, all salinity ions, and nutrient species. The contractor will produce a GIS layer or coverage that provides the attributes for these criteria where their beneficial use waterbodies are present for surface or groundwaters.

Water Quality Criteria in this section means the section 131.11 of the Water Quality Standards Regulation which covers water quality criteria. Water quality standards include criteria, defined as either numeric limits or narrative statements that establish the levels of a pollutant that, if met, will allow the use to be attained. Criteria are scientifically-based and must be set to protect the designated uses fully. EPA produces water quality criteria recommendations under section 304(a) of the Act. These criteria are used as the basis for State water quality standards. However, the regulation allows the States to develop their own criteria or site-specific criteria modifications to EPA's recommendations. The 304(a) criteria are scientific recommendations and are not Federal standards. Water quality criteria include aquatic life criteria, human health criteria, biological criteria, and nutrient criteria. Water quality criteria have no force of law until they have been incorporated into State and Tribal water quality standards and approved by EPA.

Contractor will make presentations for each task to the CV-SALTS committees on progress and to explain work and any issues or resolve any technical questions with any of the tasks.

*** Description of GIS requirements** - GIS Layers/coverages to be developed with spatial, numeric and appropriately populated metadata to indicate sources and any assumptions know in an ESRI shapefile format or compatible. Base mapping coverages provided must be royalty free or public domain. Products should be compatible with:

Cal Atlas <http://atlas.ca.gov/>

California Water Data Library <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary>

Integrated Water Resources Information System <http://www.water.ca.gov/iwris>

California Integrated Water Quality System

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ciwqs

Electronic Water Rights Information Management System

<http://waterrightsmaps.waterboards.ca.gov/ewrims/help/metadata.htm>.

Here is an example of metadata in the Cal Atlas format.

http://projects.atlas.ca.gov/frs/download.php/1779/NED_index_2010.shp.xml

Products should include all compatible or equivalent metadata to these sources. The Contractor's proposal shall indicate how they will acquire and organize the layers/coverages and metadata for the efforts. A review group will be established for the GIS work and will include staff from the SWRCB and CVRWQCB.

6 Instructions

Responses to this RFP must be made according to the requirements set forth in this section for content and sequence. Failure to adhere to these requirements or to include conditions, limitations, or misrepresentations may be cause for rejection of the proposal. Any correction and resubmission by the proposer will not extend the time for evaluation of the proposal. Proposals will likely be reviewed by a selection group composed of members of the Technical Advisory Committee, RWQCB, and SWRCB.

Submit one electronic file and six (6) complete copies of the proposal and related information to:

Daniel Cozad
Central Valley Salinity Coalition
360 Lakeside Ave
Redlands, California 92373
dcozad@cvsalinity.org

All proposals must be received by March 19, 2010 – 4:00 pm or the date and time stipulated in the cover letter/email.

6.1 Required Information

All proposals must include the following information:

1. Cover letter, including name, telephone number, and address of the firm.
2. Table of contents.
3. Description of the proposer's business; *i.e.*, individual, partnership, joint venture, etc.
4. Background information about the proposer, including technical qualifications and licenses.
5. Description of the proposer's experience, including the scope of similar projects.
6. Organizational chart showing proposed management and project team.
7. Complete list of personnel, including subcontractors that will be dedicated to this project.
8. Assigned personnel background, experience, and job title/classification.
9. Proposed scope of work including deliverable formats and products.
10. Detailed project schedule.

11. Fee proposal shall include breakdown of labor hours by employee billing classification, expense reimbursement schedule that includes cost of non-labor and sub-contractor services.
12. Hourly billing rates for personnel to be assigned to the project
13. Any exceptions to the Standard Services Agreement (Attachment B).

7 Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation of Technical Qualifications will be conducted on the following:

1. Responsiveness to the RFP
2. Project approach and technical understanding in the scope of work
3. Completeness and implementability of the project
4. Contractor proposes to complete scope on schedule
5. Experience and qualifications of the assigned individuals in preparing similar studies
6. Experience and qualifications of the firm in
 - a. GIS development
 - b. Stakeholder projects
 - c. Water quality regulation
 - d. Beneficial Use and Objectives requirements
 - e. Data acquisition and analysis
 - f. Regional/ Basin Planning
 - g. Salts and nutrients
7. Project management qualifications of the firm and staff
 - a. Stakeholder Committee Coordination
 - b. Demonstrated completion on schedule
 - c. Cost and schedule
 - d. Coordination, reporting and responsiveness

Evaluation of Cost will be on the basis of the following:

8. Clarity and completeness of the breakdown of costs and explanation
9. Appropriateness of proposed fee structure and anticipated value and quality of services received
10. Total Cost compared to the value of products and services

CVSC reserves the sole right to evaluate and select the successful proposal. The selection process is anticipated to include an evaluation of the proposal and an interview with the top proposing firms.

8 General Requirements

All proposers are hereby advised that this RFP is an informal solicitation and is not a commitment or offer to enter into an agreement or engage into any competitive bidding or negotiation pursuant to any statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation. CVSC reserves the right to negotiate with any qualified source. CVSC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason or for no reason at all.

CVSC reserves the right to request further information from the proposer, either in writing or orally. Such request will be addressed to that person or persons authorized by the proposer to represent the proposer.

CVSC reserves the sole right to judge the proposer's representations, either written or oral.

Proposers understand and agree that submission of a proposal constitutes acknowledgement and acceptance of, and a willingness to comply with, all terms, conditions, and criteria contained in this RFP.

False, incomplete, or unresponsive statements in connection with a proposal may be sufficient cause for the rejection of the proposal. The valuation and determination of the fulfillment of the above requirement will be CVSC's responsibility and its decision shall be final.

CVSC reserves the right to interpret or change any provisions of this RFP at any time prior to the proposal submission date. Such interpretations or changes will be in the form of addenda to this RFP. Such addenda will become part of this RFP and may become part of any resultant contract. Such addenda will be made available to each person or organization that has received an RFP. Should such addenda require additional information not previously requested, a proposer's failure to address the requirements of such addenda might result in the proposal being disqualified. All proposals submitted in response to this RFP will become the exclusive property of CVSC and will be made available to CVSC members and CV-SALTS stakeholders.

This project is intended to be funding from grant funds awarded by the SWRCB. The terms and condition of those grant funds and the requirements of that contract will apply to the contractor. CVSC may at its discretion fund this project from proceeds of State, Federal or other grants or agreements and consultant contract may be managed by the agency providing funding with different or additional requirements which must be complied with. These issues will be resolved at the time of contracting with the selected contractor.

CVSC shall not in any way be liable for any costs incurred in connection with the preparation of any proposal submitted in response to this RFP.

The contractor shall execute the Standard DRAINAGE AUTHORITY Agreement for services with the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority accepting terms and conditions without exception unless noted in the proposal.

9 Schedule of Proposal Events

The following table contains the expected schedule of events for the RFP process. CVSC retains the right to modify this schedule as needed to support unexpected circumstances.

Activity	Dates
RFP Distributed/posted to website	February 25, 2010
Pre-Proposal Meeting/Call	March 4, 2010 - Tentative Date
Proposals Due	March 19, 2010 – 4:00 pm
Proposal Review with Short List Contractors	March 26, 2010
Recommendation and Agreement Approval	April 2, 2010
Execution of Agreement with Contractor	April 9, 2010

10 Proposal Authorization

(Please provide this document on your letterhead)

I certify I am authorized to submit a binding proposal on behalf of my company,
_____ (company name), and this proposal conforms to required specifications unless
otherwise noted.

Company Name

Proposal Submitted by

Title

Signature

Date

Email

Telephone Number

Facsimile Number

11 Attachment A - List of References for Salinity and Nitrate Works in the Central Valley

Prior Works and Potential Data Sources

- Santa Ana Basin Salt and Nitrate Basin Plan Amendment and Reclamation Guidance Document
- Hilmar Supplemental Environmental Project Study <http://www.hilmarsep.com>
- Rainbow Report <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/03-ahccfinalrpt.pdf>
- Economic Report for CV-SALTS 2009 Howitt <ftp://swrcb2a.waterboards.ca.gov/pub/swrcb/cvsp>
- Metadata Guide for Salinity Data Sources for the Central Valley – 2008 California Water Institute
- Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/
- Technical Analysis to Support Development of Drinking Water Policy for the Central Valley Basin Plan http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/drinking_water_policy/
- Chapter 5, CALFED Water Quality Program Stage 1 Final Assessment: http://www.calwater.ca.gov/content/Documents/Draft_Final.pdf
- Staff Report for the San Joaquin River at Vernalis Salt and Boron TMDL and Basin Plan Amendment http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/vernalis_salt_boron/index.shtml#July2004DraftFinal
- DO TMDL Monitoring Report - Stringfellow <http://www.sjrdotmdl.org/studies.html>
- Nitrate in Drinking Water Report to the Legislature – 1988 by State Water Board <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/legislative/docs/1999prior/8811wq1988.pdf>
- Technical Committee Report "Regulation of Agricultural Drainage to the San Joaquin River", State Water Board Order No. WQ 85-1 1987
- Shallow Groundwater Quality on Dairy Farms with Irrigated Forage Crops, UC Davis in Journal of Contaminant Hydrology, 2002.
- GAMA Data Series Reports - <http://ca.water.usgs.gov/gama/publications.htm>.
- DWR has lists of groups that have received public money for GW studies in recent years: <http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/grants/assistance.cfm> these lists may include work that is not included in GAMA or any of the more accessible datasets.
- Water Quality Survey of Tile Drainage Discharges in the San Joaquin River Basin – 1988 by CV Regional Water Quality Control Board
- SWRCB Order No. WQ 85-1 Technical Committee Report "Regulation of Agricultural Drainage to the San Joaquin River", August 1987
- San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program's "Status Report on Drainage Management in the San Joaquin Valley", 1998
- San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program's "Evaluation of the Rainbow Report", 2000
- San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program's "Drainage Management Strategy", 2000
- San Joaquin Valley Drainage Implementation Program's "Agricultural Drainage in the San Joaquin Valley - A Gap Analysis, 2002.
- CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrate Source Pilot Implementation Study <http://www.cvsalinity.org/index.php/component/content/article/18-events/60-admin>
- Salt Tolerance of Crops in the Southern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta by Glenn Hoffman http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/

Additional Reference may be located at www.cvsalinity.org or www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/salinity

12 Attachment B – Standard Services Agreement

[*Drainage Authority Standard Services Agreement*](#)