



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

23 JUN 2020

REQUEST FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST
Number W9126G-20-2-SOI-4488
Project to be initiated in 2020

***INTERESTED PARTIES MUST BE a partner in one of the
Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) National Network:***
Gulf Coast, W9126G-12-2-0019
Colorado Plateau, W9126G-14-2-0018
Great Plains, W9126G-10-2-2010

**Project Title: FIELD SUPPORT FOR WATERS OF THE US AND OTHER SURFACE
WATER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT REVIEW PURSUANT TO THE SIKES ACT
ON AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS**

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 its **Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)** in order to facilitate successful implementation of the **16 USC 670c-1 Sikes Act**. Approximately **\$459,360** is expected to be available to support this project for the base task.

NOTE: Attached to this document you will find **a DRAFT Statement of Work** for your reference only. Again, at this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and skills for performing similar or same type of work. **A full study proposal and proposed budget are NOT requested at this time.**

Background:

The primary objective of this project is providing technical expertise, strategic evaluation and assistance to ensure that AF, federal, and state environmental regulations are met while minimizing the impact of AF activities on natural resources including Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and overseas natural resources under control of the AF or governed by DoD developed Final Governing Standards (FGS). See the attached Scope of Objectives (SOO) for further details.

Type of Award:

In accordance with 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 the CESU Unit to be qualified to be considered.

Brief Description of Anticipated Work:

This project focuses on the following objective:

Task 1: Environmental Compliance Program Review:

The cooperator shall provide support, document review, site visits to identified installations, and data analysis, in coordination with the AF Water Quality Subject Matter Expert (SME), Installation Support Section (ISS) and/or Air Force Installation Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) detachment (Det) and the installation.

Task 2: AF Training Update: Assist with development or update of necessary training programs to promote process improvement for water resource protection through the education of military users in the field.

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.

Period of Performance.

The period of performance is 12 months from date of award. Two (2) option periods extending for 12 months each are anticipated subject to availability of funds.

Materials Requested for Statement of Interest/Qualifications:

Please provide the following via e-mail attachment to:

sandra.justman@usace.army.mil and sarah.j.miller2@usace.army.mil

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

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Duns number, and Contact Information
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:

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Sarah Miller
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Environmental Remediation Branch
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Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest: The RSOI is required to be posted for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals. Responses due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **24 JUL 2020**.

[End of RSOI]

[See below for DRAFT Statement of Work]

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES (SOO)
for
FIELD SUPPORT FOR WATERS OF THE US AND OTHER SURFACE WATER
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT REVIEW PURSUANT TO THE SIKES ACT
ON AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS

Article III, (D) of the Applicable Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU)

1. PURPOSE

1.0 General. This request seeks to provide natural resources management, specifically water quality support to the United States Air Force (AF) for the implementation of installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) prepared in support of the Sikes Act (Title 16 United States Code, Section 670). The Cooperator will provide expertise for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act to support the Air Force installations as identified in this Performance Work Statement (PWS) and as directed by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Environmental Directorate, Technical Division (AFCEC/CZTQ). The Government shall not exercise any supervision or control over the Cooperator or Cooperator employees. Cooperator employees shall be accountable solely to the Cooperator.

1.1 This work shall involve: providing technical expertise, strategic evaluation and assistance to ensure that AF, federal, and state environmental regulations are met while minimizing the impact of AF activities on natural resources including Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and overseas natural resources under control of the AF or governed by DoD developed Final Governing Standards (FGS). This support includes installation, regional, and enterprise-wide wastewater, stormwater and drinking water programs and initiatives focusing on the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Final Governing Standards (if applicable).

1.2 Policy and Guidance. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670 *et seq.*) provides the direction for the management of natural resources on military installations.

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.

2. AUTHORITY

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

2.1. In agreement with the above stated goals, the NFE agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, AFCEC's 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*.¹¹ *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

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.), 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 as accepted in the Master MOU for the establishment and continuation of the CESU program Article II 1-4 and Article VI 1-7.

The installation further (hence DoD) agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under the appropriate master agreement to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Air Force POC's are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing
- Air Force POC's 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
- Air Force POC's incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Providing staff time to work on the project

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTIVES

The consultation and review shall support AF compliance with environmental requirements to protect water resources of the U.S and HN water resources under control of US Forces. The following can be expected for the installations subject to review:

- Stormwater: Installations may have multi-sector general permits, MS4 permits, individual NPDES permits, discharge consents, or FGS standards with compliance requirements. Outfalls may include direct discharges, sheet runoff, diversion structures, and oil-water separators. Stormwater related documents will be provided for review such as permits, management and pollution prevention plans, monitoring records, maps, system drawings, etc.
- Wastewater: Installations may have state permits, federal permits, pretreatment permits, discharge consents/agreements, or FGS standards with compliance requirements. Wastewater related documents will be provided for review - permits, management and pollution prevention plans, monitoring records, maps, system drawings, etc.
- Drinking Water: Installations may be regulated public water systems subject to federal or state regulation, or subject to the FGS of the Host Nation. Documents and plans which may require review may include O&M manuals, drinking water system sampling data for distributed water as well as drinking water sources, Water and Wellhead Protection Plans, and system drawing and maps.

3.1 Task 1: Environmental Compliance Program Review:

The cooperator shall provide support, document review, site visits to identified installations, and data analysis, in coordination with the AF Water Quality Subject Matter Expert (SME), Installation Support Section (ISS) and/or Air Force Installation Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) detachment (Det) and the installation. The review shall include the following:

- 3.1.1. Provide technical guidance to installations identified in Attachment 1 by identifying process improvements in order to improve water quality and regulatory compliance.
- 3.1.2 Stormwater: Assess stormwater program environmental compliance as prioritized in Attachment 1. Assessment may include review of outfall monitoring and stormwater management techniques. Provide expertise to identify sources of contaminants, methods to improve compliance, and optimize operational and management efficiencies. Provide technical expertise to determine stormwater system deficiencies. Evaluate flooding events and recommend methods to improve flood protection/mitigation.
- 3.1.3 Wastewater: Conduct compliance review of overall wastewater management at specified installations as prioritized in Attachment 1. Reviews may include providing technical expertise to assess wastewater compliance for FOTW effluent or discharges to POTWs. Identify source of discharge exceedances to include operational deficiencies and contaminants introduced to the wastewater system, and provide prevention and mitigation opportunities. Provide technical review of O&M procedures and documentation/manuals. Review and provide recommendations for infrastructure planning and programming using results of recent inflow/infiltration studies, and analysis of system for sustainability and growth.

- 3.1.4. Drinking Water: Evaluate recent MCL exceedances, research causes of exceedances, and recommend mitigation options as prioritized in Attachment 1. Evaluation may include provide technical review of O&M manuals providing updates as required. Provide technical expertise to evaluate drinking water system, sources, and use, identify impacts such as inflow/infiltration, salt water intrusion and contaminants, and develop course of action and projects to sustain ground and surface water sources. Provide technical expertise to update Source Water and Wellhead Protection Plans.
- 3.1.5. Analyze AF data to make recommendations to ensure installation compliance with DoD, local, state, and federal environmental laws and regulations.
- 3.1.6. Assist the AF in identifying compliance improvement strategies with all applicable installations concerning local, state and federal environmental laws and regulations including FGS for overseas; and assisting in identifying wastewater treatment, stormwater discharge, or drinking water compliance issues.
- 3.1.7. Develop a technical report of consolidated data analysis findings for each site reviewed remotely or through records review and site visit.

The NFE will be required to travel to 10 installations or equivalent travel, including travel to up to two overseas locations (2 person(s) per round trip).

3.2 Task 2: AF Training Update:

Assist with development or update of necessary training programs to promote process improvement for water resource protection through the education of military users in the field. This includes:

- 3.2.1. Reviewing AF training and guidance materials to identify opportunities to incorporate findings into training and guidance and improve enterprise-wide compliance. This includes training materials for Air Force Institute of Technology courses (Water Quality Management Course, Storm Water Construction Seminar, general TEACH Courses).
- 3.2.2. Provide materials for training AF water professionals regarding findings of reviews and common recommendations to improve compliance performance.
- 3.2.3. Review templates for AFCEC standard Environmental Management Plans (EMP) for Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP).

4.0 Reports, Deliverables, and Schedule. Deliverables shall be submitted in electronic format to the identified USACE and USAF points of contact.

4.1 Progress Reports (Quarterly) - The Cooperator shall submit quarterly progress reports summarizing activities as follows:

- List of the activities per military installation identified in Attachment 1
- List of decision meetings, briefings and follow on activities
- List of meetings attended including purpose/objective, decisions and attendees
- List of major action item support, policy review, and taskers accomplished
- Status of project progress, problems identified, solutions implemented, and schedule adjustments if appropriate
- List of all draft and final technical reports provide for installations identified in Attachment 1
- Any critical communications not reported in other sections

A project schedule shall be submitted with the first quarterly progress report. Schedule changes shall be presented as appropriate with subsequent progress reports.

Approximate types and numbers of deliverables to be submitted to the USACE POC (electronic only) and USAF POC (electronic and/or hard copy as requested for each item) will include:

4.2. Training Materials (optional): Three (3) Training Summary per 3.2.1, 3.2.2, and 3.2.3

4.3. Technical Memorandums: Ten (10) Technical Reports – Technical Consultation, Review and Recommendations Summary per installation identified in Attachment 1

4.4. Briefing Packages: Two (2) briefing packages

4.5. Trip Reports: Ten (10) trip reports

5.0 QUALIFICATIONS

Cooperator employees assigned to support the Water Quality Program shall have a demonstrable level of knowledge, skill, and experience in working with the Clean Drinking Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Final Governing Standards and other associated environmental laws and executive orders. Cooperator personnel must meet, at minimum, the professional standards outlined by recognized certifications such as professional engineer or professional geologist licensing or applicable industry certifications, as well as 10 years of prior experience with wastewater, stormwater and drinking water compliance. Specific experience preferable in managing compliance with NPDES permits and/or public water systems meeting Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. The cooperator shall provide technically proficient employees with skills required to carry out the requirements of SOO.

Cooperator personnel are also required to have a functional knowledge of Microsoft Office software applications. Knowledge of computer software is required to write correspondence, update social media, complete forms and records as to Air Force policies and standards, manage

electronic and paper filing systems, and develop and manage databases using Microsoft Excel and Access.

The Cooperator must meet these requirements and be approved by the government prior to placement by the cooperator. The cooperator personnel performing this work will be required to frequently perform field work and shall be experienced with working in outdoor conditions.

7.0 PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.

7.1 The base period of agreement will extend 12 months from date of award.

7.2 Two (2) option periods extending for 12 months each are anticipated subject to availability of funds.

8.0 Quality Control. The Cooperator shall develop and maintain an effective quality control program to ensure services are performed in accordance with this PWS. The Cooperator shall develop and implement procedures to identify and prevent defective services.

9.0 Points of Contact.

USACE POC
Sarah Miller, PM
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10. 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 recipient/cooperator 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]

DRAFT

ATTACHMENT 1-SITES FOR EVALUATION

Priority Level	Installation	Approx. days on-site	Area of focus, past concerns
1	Robins AFB, GA	4	WW: Complex CWA permit and series of treatment plants. Recurring enforcement actions and reporting per OSD metrics Review follow-up I&I study.
1	Beale AFB, CA	4	WW & SW: Old WWTP, reportable per OSD metrics last 3 years
1	McConnell AFB, KS	4	SW, WW, DW: Review stormwater conveyance infrastructure. SW permit reportable per OSD metrics. Review drinking water hydraulic model follow up. Review follow up of I&I study
2	Tinker AFB, OK	4	SW: On EPA SNC list for SW permit, recurring reportable violation per OSD metrics.
2	JBLE-Langley AFB, VA	4	WW, SW: Review programming for infrastructure repair projects that will soon be required by the Hampton Roads Sanitation District Consent Agreement. Review of implementation of MS4 program and SWMP ensure all requirements are identified and covered by support contract.
2	Scott AFB, IL	4	WW: Identify potential source(s) of permit exceedances. SW: Review stormwater conveyance infrastructure. SW permit reportable per OSD metrics. Identify potential source(s) of state screening level exceedances at several outfalls.
2	JB Charleston AFB, SC	4	WW & SW: Review permit complexity and plans implementation to determine if there is a way to reduce the total number of permits and plans.
2	Offutt AFB, NE	4	SW & DW: Verify the new storm sewer outfall limitations and identify potential improvements/alternatives concerning the likelihood for future flood events.

ATTACHMENT 1-SITES FOR EVALUATION

			Follow up the hydraulic model results.
3	Lajes Field AFB, Azores, Portugal	4	DW: Review corrective actions taken by base to correct disinfection byproduct exceedances in drinking water. Evaluate drinking water sources and systems and develop course of action options to help prevent further degradation.
3	Incirlik, Turkey**	4	DW: Review installation Source Water and Wellhead Protection Plan. Existing plan is from 2006 and does not reflect current conditions. Review impacts of Dec 2019 flooding event (latest in a series of significant flooding events) which contaminated one of the few remaining DW wells (taken out of service).

* WW = wastewater; SW = stormwater; DW = drinking water

** Travel tentative based on travel restrictions. Additional OCONUS security requirements may apply and will be expanded upon in the RFP.