

RECLAMATION DISTRICT 2092
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**SCOPING AND FUNDING A REGIONAL CONSERVATION INVESTMENT
STRATEGY FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER**

**A component of the
MID SAN JOAQUIN REGIONAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022 UPDATE**

December 2020

Reclamation District 2092 (District) is seeking qualifications from environmental consulting firms to perform outreach, partnership engagement, project scoping, and funding proposal development that results in funding for a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) for the San Joaquin River. RD 2092 seeks a qualified firm to assist the District and subcontracted entities (River Partners, Environmental Science Associates and Stanislaus County) that are currently leading the Mid San Joaquin Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP) 2022 Update process.

The qualified consultants' project team will have demonstrated and verifiable experience and expertise in developing Regional Conservation Investment Strategies, coordinating mitigation crediting agreements, and navigating the agency landscape in California.

Introduction

Reclamation District 2092 began working with DWR and Stanislaus County in 2012 to complete the RFMP for the Mid San Joaquin River Region. Through a series of facilitated workshops, site visits, meetings, and other communications, this partnership delivered the 2014 Mid San Joaquin River RFMP and associated deliverables. This plan was referenced and considered in the development of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) adopted by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) in 2017. This same partnership is now in the process of updating the RFMP in preparation for the 2022 update to the CVFPP.

The goals of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) RFMP Program are to build upon flood risk management information developed through, and contained in the CVFPP, and to develop a long-term vision for "a flood safe region" through the use of more detailed regional information and a collaborative local planning process. Developing and implement innovative approaches to permitting within the region is a critical component of the 2022 Mid San Joaquin RFMP Update. The consultant hired under this RFQ will work with Reclamation District 2092 (District) and Regional Partners to engage with regional flood management program stakeholders within the San Joaquin Basin to facilitate the introduction of the RCIS concept, conduct outreach to local partners, develop an RCIS scope, and submit a funding application to WCB to develop the RCIS. RD 2092 envisions this to be a 6-month process.

This scope of work briefly lays out what needs to be done to develop an RCIS concept and funding proposal to support the Mid-San Joaquin RFMP. The RFMP will be completed and submitted to the District by July 15, 2022.

Services

The consultant shall perform planning, coordination, and technical services related to the RCIS Scoping and Funding effort. The work will be performed for the San Joaquin Basin under an agreement focused on the Mid San Joaquin Region (extends from the Merced to the Stanislaus Confluence with the San Joaquin River). The RCIS is expected to cover an area larger than just the Mid San Joaquin Region and will require coordination with other RFMP efforts that RD 2092 is aware of including the Upper and Lower San Joaquin regions. These regional plans encompass the areas that are protected by the State Plan of Flood Control Facilities along the San Joaquin River, but it is possible scoping of the RCIS may extend to the tributaries influencing these regions. The following services will be required under this contract.

Task 1. Develop RCIS Overview and Present to Potential Partners

The consultant will prepare a formal presentation on the RCIS program to support information gathering and outreach to potential partners within the Mid-San Joaquin RFMP region as well as other regions in the watershed. The presentation should specifically highlight the ways in which RCISs and Mitigation Crediting Agreements (MCAs) can help the region navigate permitting hurdles and provide value in the context of flood system management and habitat restoration. The presentation should also thoroughly discuss the linkage to the CVFPP Conservation Strategy.

Task 2. Regional Stakeholder Outreach

The consultant will assist the Regional Flood Management Planning team in convening and facilitating discussions with key regional partners to clarify the potential scope and value of a San Joaquin RCIS.

Task 3. Develop RCIS Scope

The consultant will develop a proposed scope for a San Joaquin RCIS to be reviewed by the RFMP Team and shared widely with Regional Stakeholders based on the presentation and outreach processes in Tasks 1 and 2. The scope should include a proposed RCIS geographic region and potential focal species and habitats, provide a clear connection to local floodplain management and habitat needs, tie to the Conservation Strategy, and focus on a coordinated, regional conservation vision. The consultant should also prepare material to present proposed Mitigation Crediting Agreements with the RFMP Team as a component of this task.

Task 4. Prepare and Submit Funding Application to WCB

The consultant will create a full WCB funding proposal for submission by River Partners and/or the RFMP Team to develop a San Joaquin RCIS. This proposal should include all required sections of the WCB application, including maps and other focal pieces, a

description of how the RCIS will advance climate resilience in the region, and a description of potential Steering Committee Members.

Submittal Instructions

Please prepare a Statement of Qualifications (not to exceed 10 pages all inclusive) including the following items:

1. Organizational background for prime consultant and any proposed sub-consultants
2. Key Personnel: one-page resume for each key consultant, organizational chart for the proposed team
3. Project Approach: in addition to describing how your team will complete the Scope of Work outlined above, please provide a brief (no more than 3 pages) description of key considerations in your team's project approach that will assist RD 2092 and key stakeholders in developing an RCIS approach and obtaining funding.
4. Example Projects: provide project summaries for 3 example projects that illustrate your team's abilities to complete the project as described, and your team's familiarity with the regional geography and flood management, water supply and environmental quality concerns. Include client contact information, total project budget, key collaborators, and pertinent outcomes.

SOQs will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria and decisions will be announced within 10 days after the submission deadline:

1. Cost competitiveness
2. Experience drafting grant proposals to WCB for RCIS funds
3. Experience with the conservation strategy and flood planning in the Central Valley.
4. Experience assisting clients with RCIS or mitigation credit agreement

Please submit the full SOQ in one electronic file via email by **12 pm, Wednesday, December 16, 2020**. Include "San Joaquin River RCIS SOQ" in the subject header of your email.

Submit to:

Maggie Blankinship, Secretary RD 2092, maggieblankinship@gmail.com