



July 7, 2020

**ADDENDUM NUMBER 1  
TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR BASELINE DRY SEASON IN-CHANNEL VEGETATION MAPPING  
IN THE LOS ANGELES RIVER**

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Mark Stanley

On June 25, 2021, the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Baseline Dry Season In-Channel Vegetation Mapping in the Los Angeles River.

Answers to questions received by the end date for questions of Wednesday July 7 are being issued in this Addendum.

- Q1** We note that the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) has prepared two studies for the LA River Environmental Flows Project. Is SCCWRP eligible to propose on this work as well?
- A1** **This request for proposals is to supplement the SCCWRP work. SCCWRP may be technically qualified but is not expected to submit a proposal for this RFP.**
- Q2** The proposal due date is July 19 and the start of the performance period is July 22nd. These dates do not appear to leave sufficient time for contracting. Please explain WCA's selection and contracting process.
- A2** **The WCA will request board action in July to approve negotiation and award of contract ahead of the due date. That said, while the preferred start date is as quickly as possible following evaluation of proposals and negotiation, actual start date may be later than July 22nd. Additionally, two separate contracts are anticipated out of this RFP, from both the WCA and the MRCA.**
- Q3** Will a list of consultants with intent to submit and/or interested parties be made available?
- A3** **The WCA does not have a standard practice of listing consultants with intent to submit for RFPs, and while we appreciate notice of interest to ensure updated communications the WCA will accept all eligible proposals up to the due date for this RFP.**
- Q4** Are proposals limited to those from consultants already included in the WCA master agreement?

**A4 This RFP is outside the WCA master agreement, and any applications meeting the terms of the RFP and submitted by the due date will be accepted.**

Q5 If so, what about sub-consultants/sub-contractors? Would they have to be listed in the master agreement? Is there a way to see which other consultants were included in the master agreement so we can consider potential collaboration?

**A5 There is not a requirement to be on the master list for this RFP. You can also see a list of the consultants approved for the WCA Master Agreement for Specialty Technical Services in Item 15 of the November 2020 Board Meeting:  
[https://www.wca.ca.gov/2020\\_november\\_board\\_meeting](https://www.wca.ca.gov/2020_november_board_meeting)**

Q6 I would imagine there are concerns in potentially having two different contractors map vegetation using different methodologies, vegetation classifications and/or resolutions, etc. Therefore, significant communication will have to take place to ensure consistency. Will WCA or an identified TAC help coordinate and advise, especially to ensure the collected data would inform and support the Flow Study model?

**A6 This is correct, consistency is critical. WCA and MRCA staff will coordinate on methods for consultant or consultants awarded with contracts.**

Q7 Which agencies, if any, will review the product? Will they be responsible for approving the product?

**A7 The WCA and the MRCA will both be reviewing and accepting the product for the Flows Study Supplemental Analysis. Additionally, two separate contracts are anticipated out of this RFP, from both the WCA and the MRCA.**

Q8 Please define “in channel” in this project context. Are you referring to only the “low flow” channel that typically conveys treated effluent during the dry season, or the broader channel bed of the Los Angeles river from toe of levee bank to toe of levee bank, including the low flow channel and remaining areas that are typically dry during the dry season? Based on our reading of the Flows Study and modeling, it seems they looked only at aquatic vegetation that typically occurs within permanently wet areas of the channel, but did not address other vegetation (e.g. riparian vegetation) that occurs within the channel bed away from the low flow channel within soft bottom reaches. Please confirm if you would like to include mapping for all areas between the toe of levees for the upper and lower sections of the river.

**A8 The intent of this mapping is for the area between the toe of levees of the upper and lower sections of the river and tributaries. Proposals may be made for only sections of the river, but total areas to be mapped include the Lower Los Angeles River from the Estuary (Mile 0) to Vernon (Mile 19), as well as Upper Los Angeles River (North of Vernon) to the headwaters at Canoga Park (Mile 51), and at least some portions of Compton Creek and the Rio Hondo.**

**Proposer may choose mapping areas that will yield the most information that is relevant to understanding ecologies supported by current base flows—including with justification mapping of or notations on elements outside the channel that affect specific elements of in-channel ecology. However, the main focus of data collection should be Sepulveda Basin to**

**Willow Street, because this is the portion of the river that will be directly impacted by reduction of base flows from upstream Wastewater Reclamation Plants.**

Q9 Can vegetation mapping performed previously be acceptable for consideration or should each reach be mapped specific to this RFP? Understanding that recent vegetation clearing from flood management activities may have changed vegetation structure and composition.

**A9 Vegetation mapping for this RFP is to be completed within the dry season of 2021 as specified in 3. Background and Overview, and consistency in methods will be critical. As baseline flows are a focus the dry season is anticipated to be most significant, but proposers are to determine an optimal schedule and explain why that schedule was chosen. Applying previous work completed may be proposed for consideration as an option in a competitive proposal.**

Q10 Does the work involve mapping specific species (e.g. the focal species and habitats/end-member species listed in the two reference documents) or does it involve more general observations for vegetation?

**A10 The RFP requests that proposers outline preferred methods for mapping. As part of this baseline inventory discrete species, their associations, and general observations are all of interest. However, for contracts awarded establishing consistency will be critical. WCA and MRCA staff will coordinate on methods for consultant or consultants awarded with contracts.**

Q11 Is remote sensing for the mapping expected to occur in addition to field verification as part of the work?

**A11 Remote sensing is not necessary for a qualified application to this RFP. Observations of ground-truthed elements are of greatest interest for the gaps this supplement is intended to address. However, recommendations for use of remote sensing may be included for consideration in a proposal.**