

RFP 9047 – South County Ag CEQA

Pre-Proposal Questions & Answers

Meeting Date: February 4, 2019 Questions Due: February 11, 2019

Questions:

1. Has the overall program received clearance for the reallocation of water from the discharge? Are there any pending permits?
 - a. Because the *California Water Commission Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Grant* was funded with Proposition 1 money, Regional San withdrew its *Proposition 1 SRF Application* and no CEQA+ consultation was completed by the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Financial Assistance. The petition for change for water rights has been filed. Several protests were submitted and Regional San has developed proposed settlement terms with each protestant. Regional San is awaiting the Draft Order from the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights.
2. The RFP references CEQA+ and NEPA, but the SRF application has been withdrawn. Are these studies still needed?
 - a. Regional San still wants to see that consultant has experience with CEQA+ and NEPA in case they are needed. Other sources of funding may require NEPA such as Regional San's *WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse* application.
3. In the RFP on page 12 there is a reference to a desired study; what does it mean?
 - a. Task 2.1 of the proposed scope includes completion of Technical Studies that Regional San believes will be necessary for preparation of supplemental CEQA documentation. To stay on schedule, Regional San has a target date of August 31, 2019 for completion of those Technical Studies.

4. For the optional items, there could be a wide range of scopes and costs based on different assumptions. How can each consultant provide a proposal with a fair comparison to others?
 - a. The RFP states that consultants should assume that there are no new significant impacts that were not identified in the *Program EIR* and that the results of the Initial Study will allow preparation of either an Addendum to the *Program EIR* or a Mitigated Negative Declaration. Please refer to the Scope of Services in the RFP for a description of the environmental documentation that should be assumed for each project element.

5. Is there information available about the ecosystem improvements?
 - a. Yes, see the *California Water Commission Water Storage Investment Program (WSIP) Application* on the following website for the South County Ag Program:

<https://cwc.ca.gov/Water-Storage/WSIP-Project-Review-Portal/All-Projects/South-Sacramento-County-Agriculture>

Specific details about the ecosystem improvements are available here:

https://cwc.ca.gov/-/media/CWC-Website/Files/Projects/South-County-Ag-Program/Application/Regional-San_Conceptual-Ecological-Plan_A-2-Ecosystem-Benefits_SecPPB.pdf

6. Is there a reason that consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is not required?
 - a. As noted under question 1, Regional San has initiated the Water Rights Process. As part of the Water Rights process Regional San has reached agreements with the Bureau of Reclamation and California Department of Fish and Wildlife that are intended to ensure that reductions in

wastewater discharge do not have adverse effects on the Sacramento River. Regional San has agreed to discharge recycled water during critical dry periods so as to ensure that flow reductions do not adversely affect federally or state-listed fish species. Regional San thus believes that there would be no adverse effects on sensitive fish in the Sacramento River and that informal consultation with NMFS will be sufficient to achieve concurrence with this finding.

7. What role, if any, will Regional San’s public/stakeholder outreach team play in the CEQA process?

a. Regional San will support all outreach in terms of logistics—reserving conference rooms, buying refreshments, etc. The consultant should be prepared to work with Regional San to schedule all meetings, and to prepare the presentations for all scoping meetings and other CEQA specific and permit specific meetings.

Regional San will work with the CEQA consultant on strategy regarding outreach to individual groups and to the public in general because Regional San has already developed networks of stakeholders and supporters through the development of this program.

In terms of materials, Regional San is developing fact sheets, handouts, etc., Regional San is taking care of printing the materials as well.

Additional Note

- Page 18 of the RFP states that Regional San expects to obtain coverage under the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan for state and federally listed species, but note that this would just cover terrestrial species.

<https://www.southsachcp.com/>