

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of Reclamation's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	R10AS20107 CESU
Project Title	Pelagic Organism Decline/Habitat Study Group Investigations
Recipient	University of California, Davis
Principle Investigator	Frank Loge
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$230,220.00
Cost Share	None
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Length of Agreement	2 years
Anticipated Period of Performance	Date of execution through June 30, 2012
Award Instrument	Cooperative Agreement
Statutory Authority	Public Law 102-575, Central Valley Project Improvement Act, , Title 34, Section 3406 (b)(1)
CFDA Number	15.512
Single Source Justification Criteria Cited	Justification Criterion: (2) Continuation and (4) (Unique Qualifications), of the Department of Interior Single Source Policy Requirements
Reclamation Point of Contact	Vivian Davis, vdavis@usbr.gov

OVERVIEW

Reclamation operates the Federal Central Valley Project (CVP) in coordination with the State Water Project (SWP) which is operated by the California Department of Water Resources. The diversion of water by the CVP and the SWP from their pumping facilities in the southern portion of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) have been implicated as one of the possible causes of an apparent step-decline in the indices of abundance of a number of pelagic fish populations including the delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), an endemic species listed as 'threatened' under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), a candidate for ESA listing. This agreement is directed at investigating the causes of this apparent decline and providing scientific information necessary to formulate ways to reverse it. The work will be conducted under the auspices of the Interagency Ecological Program, a consortium of nine federal and three state agencies responsible for monitoring and special studies in the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The recipient shall complete the following tasks:

Task 1. Adult and juvenile maximum consumption and metabolic experiments

The work carried out in this task is designed to determine the physiological requirements of longfin smelt. This task addresses the following question: (i) What is the metabolic rate of longfin smelt? The work required to answer this question comprises the following sub-tasks (described in detail in the attached proposal): (a) determine the oxygen consumption of longfin smelt; (b) determine the critical swimming velocities of longfin smelt; and (c) analyze resulting data and prepare newsletter article and presentation.

Deliverables for Task 1:

1. Presentation of results at the IEP Workshop.
2. Manuscript submitted to peer-reviewed science journal.

Task 2. Develop longfin smelt bioenergetics model

The purpose of this task is to complete the development of a bioenergetics model for longfin smelt. The resulting model and supporting data will be used to complete a population life-cycle model for longfin smelt that lacks a biologically relevant method for determining growth. The work required for this task comprises the following sub-tasks (described in detail in the attached proposal): (a) incorporate the information gained from task 1 into a bioenergetics model that will become an element of the life-cycle model; and (b) analyze resulting data and prepare newsletter article and presentation.

Deliverables for Task 1:

1. Presentation of results at the IEP Workshop.
2. Manuscript submitted to peer-reviewed science journal.

RECLAMATION INVOLVEMENT

Reclamation will work closely with the Federal and UCD co-PIs to ensure that study designs, sampling methods, statistical analyses, and other technical elements of the program are fully implemented and that the terms of the agreement are fully met.

The federal co-PI on this project is Mr. Fred Feyrer, a Reclamation fisheries biologist. Mr. Feyrer will share responsibility for the implementation of the study design and ensure that the sampling methods, statistical analyses other technical elements of the program are fully and properly implemented. Mr. Feyrer will co-author any peer reviewed publications stemming from this work.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria:

- (1) Unsolicited Proposal – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;
- (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;
- (4) Unique Qualifications – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) Emergencies – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.

Reclamation did not solicit full and open competition for this award based on the following criteria:

CONTINUATION/UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS

This agreement provides funding for a UC Davis study initiated under a competitive grant awarded under the IEP Proposal Solicitation. Dr. Loge (UCD) and Mr. Feyrer (DOI) have assembled a team that is uniquely qualified to continue this research. The team includes two post-doctoral scholars. The necessary laboratory and numerical modeling methods have been perfected and all support personnel have been trained. The leaders of the team have published extensively on this subject in peer reviewed

scientific journals. It would not be cost effective for the government to work with another university cooperator on these particular aspects of the program because it would require that most of the work conducted during previous phases of this effort be repeated. The UCD team is thus uniquely qualified to continue this effort model the bioenergetics of longfin smelt.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Public Law 102-575, Section 3406 (b)(1):

(b) FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACTIVITIES- The Secretary, immediately upon the enactment of this title, shall operate the Central Valley Project to meet all obligations under State and Federal law, including but not limited to the Federal Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq., and all decisions of the California State Water Resources Control Board establishing conditions on applicable licenses and permits for the project. The Secretary, in consultation with other State and Federal agencies, Indian tribes, and affected interests, is further authorized and directed to:

(1) develop within three years of enactment and implement a program which makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that, by the year 2002, natural production of anadromous fish in Central Valley rivers and streams will be sustainable, on a long-term basis, at levels not less than twice the average levels attained during the period of 1967-1991; Provided, That this goal shall not apply to the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the Mendota Pool, for which a separate program is authorized under subsection 3406(c) of this title; Provided further, That the programs and activities authorized by this section shall, when fully implemented, be deemed to meet the mitigation, protection, restoration, and enhancement purposes established by subsection 3406(a) of this title; And provided further, That in the course of developing and implementing this program the Secretary shall make all reasonable efforts consistent with the requirements of this section to address other identified adverse environmental impacts of the Central Valley Project not specifically enumerated in this section.

Section 3407(e):

(e) FUNDING TO NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.--If the Secretary determines that the State of California or an agency or subdivision thereof, an Indian tribe, or a non-profit entity concerned with restoration, protection, or enhancement of fish, wildlife, habitat, or environmental values is able to assist in implementing any action authorized by this title in an efficient, timely, and cost effective manner, the Secretary is authorized to provide funding to such entity on such terms and conditions as he deems necessary to assist in implementing the identified action.