

**South San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project**  
**Science Team Members: Social Scientists**  
**Request for Qualifications**  
**Coastal Conservancy Association**

**\*\*Please feel free to distribute this announcement to your colleague\*\***

**Introduction**

In 2003, the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project (the Project), lead by California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California State Coastal Conservancy, initiated long-term restoration and management for 15,100 acres of salt ponds and associated habitats in the South Bay. These ponds were acquired by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from the Cargill Corporation. Complete background information on the Project can be found at [www.southbayrestoration.org](http://www.southbayrestoration.org).

The goal of the restoration planning process is to develop a scientifically-sound, publicly-supported plan for the overall project and for Phase 1 implementation, which will occur in 2008. The Project Management Team (PMT), composed of members of the three lead agencies, local and federal flood management agencies, and the Lead Scientist for the Project, are responsible for project decisions. A Consultant Team was selected in 2004 to develop the technical documents for the EIR/EIS and Record of Decision, needed to implement the Project. The PMT has developed a large and robust public participation process that, through the Stakeholder Forum, provides direct public input to the planning process.

A well-developed scientific foundation is another essential component of the Project, for both the short-term planning and long-term implementation. The PMT receives scientific guidance from the Science Team, a body of local wetland science and restoration experts directed by the Lead Scientist. The work of the Science Team and the PMT is reviewed and critiqued twice a year by the Project's National Science Panel (NSP), a group of national and international scientific experts.

The Science Team is currently composed of physical and natural scientists with expertise in Bay processes and ecological restoration. While some of the Science Team members do interdisciplinary research that includes human-ecological interactions, none of the current members is a pure social scientist able to fully address the human dimensions of the Project. The NSP has recommended that social scientists be added to the Science Team, a recommendation that the PMT fully endorses. Thus, the PMT is seeking one or more social scientists to join the Science Team and help the Project address social science needs.

## **Science Team Operation**

The primary tasks of the Science Team are to:

1. Advise the PMT on important scientific or technical issues, such as modeling, monitoring needs, and long-term science needs.
2. Develop and help implement a science program that is based on the key scientific uncertainties associated with the Project and that provides plans for monitoring and applied studies (research), which will address those key uncertainties.

The Science Team meets approximately every two months to discuss technical issues related to project planning and the scientific direction. All Science Team members are required to regularly attend meetings and actively participate in the development of the science program and some focused technical review of Consultant Team products.

## **Social Science Needs**

The human dimension is a major part of any large-scale restoration project, especially in the San Francisco Bay Area, where the public is so involved in environmental issues. How well the public understands and supports large-scale, long-term ecosystem restoration projects, such as this one, is an essential issue. The PMT must understand public concerns and desires if the Project is to be successful in making major changes to the current environment and acquiring long-term financial support.

Since this restoration project is set in an urban environment, it must be viewed as part of the South Bay cultural landscape. Viewed from this perspective, the PMT would like to know: What primary social factors (demographic, economic, political, and cultural), which influence people's needs, desires and values, have shaped the current cultural landscape in the South Bay? And, what critical social factors will encourage or inhibit developing a cultural landscape that promotes Bay protection and habitat restoration into the future?

Specifically, the PMT must know what key social factors will assist or hinder them in reaching the Project Objectives. Once key social factors influencing the support of restoration are identified, we would want to know how to use physical and ecological information on South Bay restoration in combination with those key social dynamics to achieve the Project Objectives.

These general concepts frame some of the social science issues as the PMT currently views them. However, the PMT will look to social scientists on the Science Team to clearly identify and frame key social science issues.

Specifically, the social scientist(s) we select for the Science Team will be charged with these tasks:

1. identifying the most critical social science needs or uncertainties associated with the Project that may support or prevent achieving the Project Objectives;

2. researching and writing a Science Synthesis, a focused scientific review, on one or more of the key social science uncertainties (see the *Science Team* page of the Project website for examples of completed Science Syntheses);
3. providing input to the Adaptive Management Plan on monitoring needed to achieve social goals and applied studies to address key social science uncertainties.

We understand that no one individual will possess expertise in all these diverse areas. In general, the PMT and Science Team will choose one or more social scientists whose experience covers the broadest range of issues and specific fields most critical to the success of the Project.

Science Team members for this RFQ will be selected based on the following factors: 1) technical knowledge of specific human dimensions of San Francisco Bay Area, particularly as related to economic, demographic, communications, sociological, psychological, cultural, or political aspects; 2) demonstrated general expertise in one or more specific social science fields as described here; 3) recent successful experience in technical advisory roles; 4) ability to attend meetings and actively participate in project development and document review; 5) interest and ability to serve on ad-hoc subcommittees; 6) demonstrated success working as a contributing member of an interdisciplinary team on a complex natural resource project.

Applicants may be from academia, private industry/consulting, may be self-employed, or may be employed by local, state, or federal agencies. Selections for this component of the Science Team will be made on an as-needed basis, from a list of those deemed qualified as a result of responses to this RFQ (see Selection Procedure).

### **Compensation and Contracting**

Members of the Science Team who are not employed by public agencies will be compensated for their time, at a rate of \$100 per hour. Members of the Science Team who will be compensated will enter into contracts with the Coastal Conservancy Association, formerly North Coast Interpretive Association (“CCA/NCIA”), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Invoices should be submitted on a monthly to quarterly basis to CCA/NCIA and paid by CCA/NCIA. Planning for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration project is expected to take five years. We will strive to maintain consistency on the Science Team, and National Science Panel, during this time period. CCA/NCIA may, however, enter into shorter contract periods (one to two years) with Science Team participants or enter into one-time contracts for technical assistance needed on ad-hoc subcommittees.

### **Conflicts of Interest**

We expect that many individuals interested in serving on the Science Team will also be interested in providing services for the South Bay Salt Pond restoration project. We encourage you to still submit your qualifications for the Science Team. We recognize that

this is an issue and will work to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. Participation in the Science Team will not prohibit you or your firm, agency, or organization from responding to requests for proposals or from working under contract with the California Coastal Conservancy on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. As a Science Team participant, you will be expected to remove yourself from any decisions that could benefit you or your firm, agency, or organization.

### **Submitting Statements of Qualifications**

#### *All Except Public Agencies*

Please submit a letter (no more than two pages) describing your interest in the Science Team and how you meet the factors described in this RFQ. Also attach a resume (no more than two pages), with a description of your relevant experience and education, specialized qualifications, small business status and/or disabled veteran business status of your firm, and a list of three references, including contact name and telephone number or email.

#### *Public Agencies*

While we cannot provide hourly rates for public agency staff, we encourage public agencies to submit Statements of Qualifications for selected staff. Please submit a letter (no more than two page) describing your agency's interest in the project and Technical Committee. Also attach a list of staff people selected to represent your public agency with brief bios (one to two paragraphs each) for each staff person. Please note that the Science Team is a separate entity from the South Bay Salt Pond Regulatory Agency Group and the Science Team will not be a venue for regulatory consultation or advice.

Please submit your statement of qualifications by the close of business on September 30, 2005 via mail or hand delivery to:

CCA/NCIA c/o

Steve Ritchie, Executive Project Manager

State Coastal Conservancy

1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

Or via email (.pdf documents only, please) to: [sritchie@scc.ca.gov](mailto:sritchie@scc.ca.gov)

No faxes please.

Questions may be addressed to: Steve Ritchie at (510) 384-4105

### **Selection Procedure**

Staff from the State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Fish and Game, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Coastal Conservancy Association/North Coast Interpretive Association, the Lead Scientist, and the Science Team will review submittals. Submittals deemed qualified will be used to select participants for ad-hoc subcommittees and general

Science Team meetings. Time and materials contracts with CCA/NCIA will be set up with those who: 1) are deemed qualified, 2) are needed for participation in subcommittees or general meetings, and 3) can receive compensation for time and reimbursement for travel. Contracts will be set up throughout the project, as needed, and may be long-term contracts (several years), short-term contracts (1-2 years), or one-time contracts associated with formation of an ad-hoc subcommittee or a one-time general meeting. Applications received after September 30, 2005 may still be considered for Science Team participation and this RFQ may be reissued as needed.