

South San Francisco Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project
Technical Committee Participants
Request for Qualifications
Coastal Conservancy Association

Introduction

The California State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are embarking upon the long-term restoration planning for 15,100 acres of salt ponds and associated habitats being acquired in the South Bay from Cargill. Background information can be found at www.southbayrestoration.org.

The draft Memorandum of Understanding the three agencies will be entering into to memorialize the objectives of the project, roles and responsibilities, and proposed management structure and workplan is available at http://www.southbayrestoration.org/pdf_files/MOU.htm.

The anticipated structure the California State Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will use for project management, technical review, public input, and decision-making is available at http://www.southbayrestoration.org/pdf_files/short%20structure.pdf.

The anticipated schedule for the project is available at http://www.southbayrestoration.org/pdf_files/SB%20Sched-Flowchart%20Rev.pdf.

Scientific/Technical Oversight

The Coastal Conservancy Association (formerly the North Coast Interpretive Association), a non-profit 501(c)(3) that cooperates with the State Coastal Conservancy on projects, will be managing technical oversight and intends to establish a Technical Committee and a National Science Panel to provide technical oversight and assistance.

Technical Committee

The Technical Committee will consist of recognized local experts on wetland restoration, hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, fish and wildlife, flood management, engineering, mosquito control, public access, introduced species, etc. in the San Francisco Bay. Members of the Committee may be in academia, in private industry/consulting, may be self-employed, or may be employed by local, state, or federal agencies. Committee membership will be on an invitation-only basis, and will require a commitment to regularly attend meetings and actively participate in technical review.

The Technical Committee will provide technical oversight for the planning effort, and will help develop scopes of work for technical services. Participants will also contribute their applicable knowledge (and where possible, data or studies) regarding the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration. The general Committee will meet based upon need, to receive status updates from the Project Management Team, and to review and provide input that requires face-to-face discussion. Other work will be conducted electronically, and will consist of reviews of technical documents.

The Committee will frequently form ad-hoc subcommittees to develop scopes of work and review work products in various disciplines. Currently it is anticipated that subcommittees will review goals and objectives, hydrologic data collection and modeling, impacts and benefits to fish and wildlife, preliminary design and cost estimates, the monitoring and adaptive management plan, and permit applications. Other technical documents and activities may also require review. Subcommittees will be formed as needed and may be constituted for just one meeting or for the entire project planning period.

Technical Committee participants will be selected based on the following factors: 1) scientific knowledge of the San Francisco Bay Estuary, particularly as related to wetland restoration; 2) recent successful experience in technical advisory roles; 3) experience conducting quality control; 4) technical expertise in specific fields needed for this project, such as wetland restoration, hydrology, geomorphology, water quality, fish and wildlife, flood management, engineering, mosquito control, public access, introduced species, etc.; 5) ability to attend meetings and actively participate in project review; and 6) interest and ability to serve on ad-hoc subcommittees.

Selections for general Technical Committee meetings and subcommittees 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).

National Science Panel

This RFQ is only for those interested in being a Participant of the Technical Committee. The following description of the National Science Panel is provided for information only. The National Science Panel has already been constituted.

The National Science Panel will consist of approximately seven recognized national experts on wetland restoration. Members of the Panel may be in academia, in private industry/consulting, or may be employed by local, state, or federal agencies. Panel membership will be on an invitation-only basis, and will require: 1) nationally recognized knowledge of wetland restoration and estuarine systems; 2) recent successful participation in projects of similar scale and complexity, with numerous stakeholders; 3) technical expertise in specific fields needed for the project, such as hydrology, geomorphology, biology, engineering, or water quality; and 4) ability to attend annual to semi-annual meetings and actively participate in project review.

The Panel will meet at major project milestones to analyze the structure, workplan, and science being employed in the planning process, assess whether appropriate factors are being considered in the planning effort, review progress, and provide overall guidance. The Panel will ensure that the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration project learns from the efforts of wetland restoration efforts nationally and internationally, and is employing a scientific rigorous planning process. Current Panel membership includes: Denise Reed, University of New Orleans (Chair); Sam Luoma, CALFED; Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific; Charles "Si" Simenstad, University of Washington; Jorg Imberger, University

of Western Australia; John Teal, Woods Hole; and Michael Erwin, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Compensation and Contracting

Members of the Technical Committee who are not employed by public agencies will be compensated for their time, at a rate of \$100 per hour. Members of the Technical Committee 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 Technical Committee, and National Science Panel, during this time period. CCA/NCIA may, however, enter into shorter contract periods (one to two years) with Technical Committee 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 Technical Committee 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 Technical Committee. We recognize that this is an issue and will work to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest. Participation in the Technical Committee 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 Technical Committee 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 page) describing your interest in the Technical Committee 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 staffpeople selected to represent your public agency with brief bios (one to two paragraphs each) for each staffperson. Please note that the Technical Committee is a separate entity from the South Bay Salt Pond Regulatory Agency Group and the Technical Committee will not be a venue for regulatory consultation or advice.

Please submit your statement of qualifications by the close of business on May 26, 2003 via mail or hand delivery to:

CCA/NCIA c/o
Amy Hutzal
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Or via email (.pdf documents only, please) to: ahutzal@scc.ca.gov

No faxes please.

Questions may be addressed to: Amy Hutzal at (510) 286-4180 or ahutzal@scc.ca.gov.

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 will review submittals. Submittals deemed qualified will be used to select participants for ad-hoc subcommittees and general Technical Committee 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 May 26, 2003 may still be considered for Technical Committee participation and this RFQ may be reissued as needed.