

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Solar Evaporation Pond Consulting Services for Salton Sea Restoration Planning

Salton Sea Authority
78-401 Highway 111, Suite T
La Quinta, CA 92253-2930

September 25, 2000

OVERVIEW

The Salton Sea Authority (Authority) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are undertaking efforts to improve conditions at the Salton Sea (Sea), California. Our restoration objectives are:

- Maintaining the Sea as a repository of agricultural drainage from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys
- Providing a safe, productive environment for resident and migratory birds and threatened and endangered species
- Restoring recreational uses
- Maintaining a viable sport fishery
- Providing opportunities for economic development along the shoreline

The Sea is located in the southeastern desert of California and spans Riverside and Imperial Counties. The Pilot Solar Evaporation Pond Project (the Project) will be constructed near the Niland Marina (now closed) on land leased by the Salton Sea Authority. The closest communities to the project area are Bombay Beach to the north and Niland to the south.

The Sea, having a surface elevation of approximately 227 feet below sea level, is situated in a closed basin. It is sustained by inflow of drainage waters from irrigated agriculture in both the Coachella Valley to the north and the Imperial Valley to the south and by river flows from Mexico, which consist mostly of agricultural drainage and some municipal and industrial wastewater.

The Authority is a regional agency. It was formed as a Joint Powers Agency by the Coachella Valley Water District, the Imperial Irrigation District, the County of Riverside and the County of Imperial. Additional information about the Sea and restoration efforts (including draft EIS/R) is provided at www.lc.usbr.gov.

The Authority is seeking services for two aspects of the solar evaporation pond work which are described in two separate Requests For Proposals (RFPs):

Design/build/operate pilot solar evaporation ponds

Solar evaporation pond consulting services for restoration planning

This document is the “Consulting Services” RFP. The “Design/Build/Operate” RFP can be found at the following website: www.lc.usbr.gov/~saltnsea/current_rfp.html. Proposals can be made on one or both of the RFPs.

Background

The Salton Sea Authority and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are the lead agencies charged with restoring the Salton Sea. In January, 2000, a Draft EIS/EIR¹ was issued by the lead agencies. Among other restoration proposals, the draft EIS/EIR included 5 salinity control alternatives; none were identified as a preferred project. An independent assessment of the alternatives concluded that none were “fatally flawed.” However, the assessment suggested consideration of solar evaporation ponds, similar to those in use to harvest salt around the world.

The lead agencies are in the process of reviewing and addressing the comments received on the Draft EIS/EIR. Additionally, the lead agencies are refining alternatives and assessing the application of solar evaporation ponds for restoration purposes.

While operation of the solar evaporation test ponds will yield much information, long term restoration planning is still essential to ensure timely project authorization, land acquisition, funding, etc. The Authority seeks consulting expertise to augment Authority/Reclamation resources with respect to solar evaporation ponds and the disposal of salts. The services required are at restoration scale: a 5-10 million ton/year facility. Specifically, the Authority is seeking individuals with insight and expertise related to:

- Evaporation pond design, including size, location, number of ponds.
- Solid phase salt disposal facility design, including size and location.
- Bittern disposal facility design, including size and location.

Ponds and other facilities may be designed in-sea or near the Sea. Expertise and understanding of the nature of salt precipitation characteristics, geotechnical constraints and civil engineering is expected.

Proposal Requirements

The proposal shall include the following:

1. **Introduction & Approach**
Identify staff that will perform consulting services and describe the approach you would use to interact with the Authority and Bureau of Reclamation.

¹ The draft environmental impact statement/report can be found at www.lc.usbr.gov

2. **Experience**
Describe your experience with similar solar evaporation pond projects and climates.
3. **Salton Sea Project**
Identify any preliminary recommendations or insights you have with respect to the use of solar evaporation ponds at the Salton Sea.
3. **Remuneration**
Provide your recommended compensation/contractual approach and rate information as applicable

Proposals will be accepted no later than 5:00 p.m. (P.S.T.) on [October 26th](#), 2000. They should be addressed to:

Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Salton Sea Authority
78-401 Highway 111, Suite T
La Quinta, CA 92253

Submit seven, unbound, proposals. Proposals should be restricted to eight pages, all background information, resumes and promotional materials can be attached as an appendices. Proposals will be evaluated with respect to: team experience/qualifications, quality of the proposal and cost.

Funding for this work program comes from a grant issued through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Authority encourages small, minority and women-owned businesses to submit proposals.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any informality or irregularity in any proposal received, and to be the sole judge of the merits of the respective proposals received. The Authority is not required to award a contract based on the lowest price proposal. The award will be made, if at all, based upon the best interests of the restoration project.

Questions may be directed in writing to Rob Renke at renke@salton-sea.dst.ca.us or via fax to (760) 564-5288. Questions and any responses will be posted at www.lc.usbr.gov/~saltnsea/current_rfp.html.