

Request for Interest  
Regarding Leasing and Constructing  
Renewable Energy Resources  
San Luis Project Lands near Los Banos, CA

July 26, 2011

**PURPOSE:**

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), an agency within the U.S. Department of Interior (Interior), Western Area Power Administration (Western), a power marketing administration within the U.S. Department of Energy, and California Department of Water Resources (DWR); all in partnership in this initiative, are seeking interest from any entity or entities interested in using federal lands in the vicinity of the State/Federal San Luis Project to construct renewable resource generation. Portions of the existing land could be made available on a lease basis for such purposes. An expression of interest in developing a renewable resource on this property is not binding or promissory. In addition, further Requests for Interest (RFI) may be issued. Failure to respond to this RFI does not preclude the ability to respond to any future RFIs.

This RFI is not subject to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes; it does not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or any promise to issue an RFP. This RFI does not commit Western, Reclamation, nor DWR to contract for any supply or service. Responders are advised that Western, Reclamation, or DWR will not pay any cost incurred in response to this RFI. All costs associated with responding to this RFI will be solely at the interested party's expense.

**BACKGROUND:**

On October 12, 2009, Secretary of Interior Salazar and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed an agreement directing Interior agencies and California State agencies to create a unique federal-state initiative to advance development of environmentally appropriate renewable energy on U.S. lands in California. As much as 1200 acres of federal lands around the San Luis Project may be viable for such development.

#### DESCRIPTION:

Section 10 (43 U.S.C. 387) of the Reclamation Act 1939 provides the Secretary the authority, at his discretion, to grant land use authorizations (LUA), e.g. leases, licenses, easements, and rights-of-way. Other contracts and agreements between Reclamation, Western, and DWR provide for the joint operation of the San Luis Project. It is anticipated that the federal lands around the San Luis Project would be provided to the renewable energy developer on a long-term LUA. The term for such a LUA and the value to be provided to the federal government will be negotiable.

#### SITE REVIEW:

A site review of the federal lands of the San Luis Project is will be scheduled. Parties intending to submit a Statement of Interest are strongly encouraged to provide a contact name, phone number, email address, and business address to the Reclamation point of contact identified below so that they can be informed of the date of the site review.

#### RFI SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Entities identifying a proposed renewable energy project in response to this RFI should submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) containing the following information, as appropriate:

1. **Entity:** Name and general description of the entity submitting the SOI.
2. **Entity Contact Information:** Name, mailing address, telephone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address of the entity's primary contact.
3. **Renewable Energy Project Description:** Proposed renewable project description to include the type(s) of renewable resource, size and proposed general location of the resource, schedule for resource development, general location of load or markets, availability of generation-related ancillary services, a description of the entity's involvement in the renewable energy resource (if not the developer), any commitments to purchase the resulting energy and capacity from the proposed renewable resource, planning work needed for the proposed project (plan of service, cost estimates, schedules, project agreements, environmental reviews, siting activities, etc.); and any other information that would be useful in evaluating the readiness of the proposed renewable project for development. The entity

should also summarize any factors that would positively or negatively affect the entity's, Reclamation's, DWR's, Western's, or other participants' efforts to develop the proposed project.

4. **Participant Roles:** The proposed roles that the entity, Reclamation, DWR, Western, and any other project participants might play in the development, ownership, and operation of the proposed project.
5. **Public Interest:** A brief description of how the project is in the public interest.
6. **Prior Experience:** A brief description of the entity's qualifications and prior experience related to constructing, financing, facilitating or studying construction of new renewable energy resources.
7. **Financial Capability:** (Not Required at this time) ~~Verifiable information demonstrating that the entity is in sound financial condition and has the ability to secure the necessary financing to meet the project's requirements now and in the future. The entity's financial capability and any other responsibility determinations will be reviewed for stability and adequacy to meet its long-term capital and cash needs to carry out its role in developing the proposed project. Entities may use the financial capability information request outlined on the attached form in determining what information will meet the demonstration of verifiability. If the entity plans to secure financing from an outside source, an official letter from the financier confirming the financial arrangements will be required.~~
8. **Participation of Other Entities:** A brief description of any steps the entity has taken to seek interest from other entities in participating in developing the proposed project or in seeking interest in subscribers for the additional transmission capacity resulting from the proposed project.
9. **Other Information:** A brief description of any other information that would be useful in evaluating the SOI including potential lease charges the proponent would offer and prospective payment plans.

## EVALUATION:

SOIs will be evaluated by Reclamation, DWR, and Western based on the required information contained in the SOI as outlined above in Items 1 through 9 and the feasibility of developing a project that ultimately meets the following criteria:

1. that it will provide renewable resources constructed on federal lands on/around the San Luis Project,
2. that it is in the public interest,
3. that it will not adversely impact the environment,
4. that it will not adversely impact power and water system reliability, or operations, or other statutory obligations of Reclamation and DWR, and
5. that it is reasonable to expect that the project will be timely in its construction and operation.

In evaluating SOIs, Western will also consider:

- Project readiness and timeline for development.
- Project economics and cost-effectiveness.
- Project benefits and impacts.
- Participant's existing in-service projects.
- Participants' financial capabilities.
- Project footprint on federal lands at the San Luis Project.
- Location and commitments from recipients of Project output.

## PROCESS AND TIMING:

**Timing:** To be assured consideration, all SOIs should be submitted in a non-confidential manner and received by Reclamation on August 5, 2011.

**Submission of Interest:** Reclamation will accept SOIs that are submitted via e-mail to: [bmortimeyer@usbr.gov](mailto:bmortimeyer@usbr.gov).

**Questions:** Questions regarding this RFI will be accepted via e-mail at: [bmortimeyer@usbr.gov](mailto:bmortimeyer@usbr.gov). Answers will be posted on Western's website to make them available to all interested parties.

**Notification of Receipt:** An e-mail acknowledgement of receipt will be provided.

#### CONFIDENTIALITY AND USE OF INFORMATION:

Reclamation will treat data submitted by Project participants related to this authority, including financing arrangements by other parties, as available to the public through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). However, participants may request confidential treatment of all or part of a submitted document under FOIA's exemption for "Confidential Business Information." Materials so designated and which meet the criteria stipulated in the FOIA will be treated as exempt from FOIA inquiries.