



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
**RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION**  
D I S T R I C T

7585 South Longe Street, Stockton, CA 95206  
[www.sjcrd.org](http://www.sjcrd.org) SJCRCDD@outlook.com

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## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

### Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan

The San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (SJCRCDD) is seeking a qualified consultant to assist with the development of the Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Plan). The Plan will evaluate the potential for a new flood bypass that will reduce flood risk, improve habitat and maintain agricultural land along the San Joaquin River south of Paradise Cut. The SJCRCDD received funding for this plan from the Delta Conservancy Ecosystem Restoration and Water Quality Grant Program in June 2016 and will begin work on project tasks and deliverables in November 2016.

### Background

The SJCRCDD is working to advance plans for a new flood bypass project (Project) that will reduce flood risk, improve habitat and maintain agricultural land along the San Joaquin River south of Paradise Cut. The first phase of this process is development of the Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Plan), which will result in a conceptual plan for a new flood bypass and other information that will help move the Project forward. Concurrent with the development of the plan, the SJCRCDD will pursue the acquisition of habitat conservation and flood easements in the flood bypass expansion area to ensure feasibility of implementation. The new bypass will: Substantially reduce flood stage (1.5-3 feet) on the mainstream San Joaquin River between Mossdale and Stockton; reduce risk of catastrophic flooding in Lathrop, Manteca, Stockton, and unincorporated San Joaquin County; substantially increase flood conveyance capacity of the San Joaquin floodway; provide floodplain and riparian habitat for a variety of sensitive species including riparian brush rabbit, giant garter snake, Sacramento splittail, and juvenile Chinook salmon; and preserve agricultural land and protect it from uncontrolled flooding.

### Scope of Work

The Paradise Cut Conservation and Flood Management Plan (Plan), is the initial planning phase of the overall Project. The specific outputs and outcomes of the Plan include:

- A fully developed conceptual plan and project description sufficient for advancing a CEQA/NEPA analysis

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Associate Directors: Ralph Lucchetti, Rogene Reynolds, Brad Lange

- Identifying, analyzing, and advancing near-term restoration projects associated Paradise Cut that can be advanced in the next five years
- Improved quantification of costs and benefits so flood managers and implementation partners can make better investment decisions
- A strategy to expedite a successful Section 408 Permit (Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and codified in 33 USC 408; commonly referred to as “Section 408”)
- A finance strategy for subsequent project phases, including project implementation and long-term operations and maintenance
- A detailed scope of work and budget to complete a NEPA/CEQA analysis
- Informed local residents and officials who understand the pros and cons of the project

The consultant will be responsible for the following tasks described below:

**Task 1: Planning and Hydraulic Modeling.** This task will develop design concepts for expanding the Paradise Cut. The planning effort will build on and leverage the technical results of the DWR San Joaquin Basin-Wide Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study), a key element of the 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP). MBK Engineers, who conducted the modeling analysis for the Feasibility Study, will conduct additional hydraulic modeling analyses to refine the Feasibility Study design in a manner that maximizes flood-stage reduction benefits and minimizes adverse hydraulic impacts. The planning effort will also incorporate and build on previous work completed to formulate levee and habitat configurations that achieve the outcomes described and desired by the 2017 CVFPP, its Conservation Strategy, the Delta Plan, and the Delta Conservancy Strategic Plan.

The qualified consultant will work with MBK Engineers to evaluate the potential for levee overtopping and scour and erosion potential along the levee upstream of a new weir, and will evaluate the frequency at which inundation events would disrupt seasonal agriculture using the Expected Annual Habitat tool (EAH). The consultant will compile existing information on current site conditions, including surficial geologic mapping, geotechnical investigations, local drainage networks and related infrastructure, as well as habitat and agricultural data, to refine conceptual designs and support cost estimation. American Rivers and the consultant will convene a value-planning workshop to refine the project design concept and cost estimate in consideration of issues, factors, and approaches to engineering, levee authorization/permitting (e.g., Section 408), environmental regulatory permitting, agricultural operations, habitat restoration, and construction. Under the direction of the management team, the consultant will prepare a graphically rich summary document (formatted as a brochure) to clearly communicate the benefits and costs of the project to local stakeholders and officials.

Deliverables: a) existing conditions technical memorandum and baseline conditions monitoring plan; b) hydraulic analyses technical memorandum; c) conceptual designs sufficient to support hydraulic modeling and habitat assessments and an accompanying technical memorandum; d) tech memo with cost estimate and results of value planning; e) graphically rich summary brochure with maps, graphics, and text designed to communicate the costs and benefits of the project to stakeholders and local officials to attract support and funding.

**Task 2: Identify, Model, Develop, and Advance Near-Term Opportunities.** American Rivers, NRDC, MBK Engineers, and the consultant will identify, analyze, and develop

conceptual designs for near-term ecosystem restoration project opportunities that are consistent with the Paradise Cut Expansion Plan that can be implemented in the next five years with Proposition 1 funds. The team will focus on identifying locally supported near-term implementation opportunities in the vicinity of Paradise Cut and the San Joaquin River. The consultant will build on previous opportunities and constraints analyses to prioritize opportunities and develop conceptual designs for the most promising opportunities. MBK engineers will support conceptual design development and refinement by modeling project opportunities using both one and two-dimensional hydraulic models, as needed, to optimize hydraulic and ecological performance. The consultant, with assistance from Ron Melcer of DWR, will use habitat quantification tools developed by the Central Valley Habitat Exchange to predict the habitat value of these projects for sensitive species. Using cost-share funds, American Rivers will develop work plans, budgets, and proposals to obtain public and private funds to implement these opportunities.

Deliverables: a) Technical memorandum and map describing restoration opportunities considered and prioritized, with design concepts illustrated for the top three opportunities along with a description of the projected habitat value using the HQT method, b) Technical memorandum describing screening-level modeling that supports design refinements, along with modeling results for the final three, refined design concepts, c) At least five funding applications for private or public funds to further advance the opportunities.

**Task 3: Environmental Compliance and Permitting Strategy.** The consultant will develop a draft project description as a step toward NEPA/CEQA compliance along with a levee-modification permit strategy to identify opportunities for navigating the USACE 408 permitting process. The consultant will use these documents to develop a work plan and cost estimate for full NEPA/CEQA compliance.

Deliverables: a) strategy for obtaining a 408 levee modification permit from USACE and associated CVFPP encroachment permit; b) draft project description for preparation for EIR/EIS; c) work plan and cost estimate for NEPA/CEQA compliance.

**All work must be completed by December 31, 2019 to meet the grant contract timeline.**

#### Selection Process

A request for qualifications (RFP) process will be used to select a consultant to provide the services outlined above. If you are interested in responding to this request for qualifications, please submit a proposal to the SJCRCD before 5:00 p.m. on November 4, 2016. Late submittals will not be considered, and the SJCRCD reserves the right to reject proposals for any reason.

The consultant's qualification package must include the following:

- Firm Qualifications**  
Please include your firm's qualifications for this assignment. Please include summaries of at least three projects your firm has worked on that are similar to the assignment discussed in this request for proposals. Identify for what work your firm was responsible.
- Staff Qualifications**

Please identify who would be working on this assignment and describe their qualifications for this assignment. Please include resumes for each person anticipated to work on this assignment and their expected role.

**3. Timeline**

Please indicate your firm's ability to meet the timeline described in this request for proposals.

**4. Budget**

Please submit a budget for this assignment, showing hourly rates for each staff person working on this assignment, along with the time and budget required to complete each of the six tasks. The SJCRCD will pay for these services based upon a maximum not-to-exceed amount of \$79,000. The consultant must submit a detailed cost proposal broken down by task, person, and hourly rate.

**5. References**

Please provide up to three references of people who can attest to the consultant's work. Please include the organization name and address, the name, email address, and telephone number of a contact person, and a brief description of the services performed by the consulting firm and the outcome. Indicate the role of proposed team members in the projects.

Final consultant selection will be based on demonstrated competence, professional qualifications for the types of services described herein, and the reasonableness of the cost proposal. The SJCRCD hopes to select a consultant within one week of receiving the submittals.

Please direct all questions to Shasta Burns at [sjcrcd@outlook.com](mailto:sjcrcd@outlook.com).

Thank you,

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District Board of Directors