

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Request for Proposals for Conceptual Restoration Alternatives

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

Laguna Division Conservation Area



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region**

Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITY

Federal Agency Name:	Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Funding Opportunity Title:	<i>Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program, Laguna Division Conservation Area</i>
Announcement Type:	Initial announcement
Funding Opportunity Number:	09SF300003
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:	15.517
Application Due Date:	Monday, December 22, 2008, COB PST
Eligible Applicants:	Any Federal, Interstate, Intrastate, State and Local agencies, Public/Private nonprofit institution/organization, State Colleges or Universities, Public/Private Colleges or Universities, for profit agencies, small businesses or Federally recognized Indian tribes.
Applicant Cost Share:	Not Applicable
Federal Funding Amount:	Shall not exceed \$150,000

I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

1. Purpose: The U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program Office, is requesting proposals to provide three (3) conceptual alternatives for restoration of the Laguna Division Conservation Area, in support of the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP). A component of the LCR MSCP's goal is to create 5,940 acres of cottonwood-willow, 1,320 acres of honey mesquite, and 512 acres of marsh land cover types along the Lower Colorado River. Restoration activities in the Laguna Division, located in Reach 6 just south of Imperial Dam, would satisfy a portion of this goal. See Overall MSCP Reach Map, Appendix A.

2. Mission: The LCR MSCP is a multi-stakeholder federal and non-federal partnership responding to the need to balance the use of lower Colorado River (LCR) water resources and the conservation of native species and their habitats in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. This is a long-term (50 year) plan consisting of conservation measures for 26 covered and five evaluation species along the LCR from Lake Mead to the Southerly International Boundary with Mexico through the implementation of a Habitat

Conservation Plan (HCP).

3. Project Background: The Laguna Division has been identified as having potential for large scale riparian and marsh restoration and enhancement. In 2007, the Laguna Division Planning Group was formed to identify potential restoration projects within the division. The intent was to identify potential restoration projects and combine resources to ensure any actions taken in the area would not affect other potential restoration projects or ongoing river operations. Current river operational requirements and constraints include; water delivery, sediment removal, and power generation.

The Laguna Division Planning Group consists of representatives from the following organizations:

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Pacific Institute
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

A major component of the program is the restoration of 8,132 acres of habitat. The acreage is a blend of four specific land cover types; cottonwood-willow, honey mesquite, marsh, and backwater. A Steering Committee currently consisting of 54 entities has been formed, as described in the *LCR MSCP Funding and Management Agreement*, to provide input and oversight functions in support of LCR MSCP implementation. More information is available at <http://www.lcrmscp.gov/>.

4. How a Conservation Area Site is Selected: Selection and development of any new Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, such as Laguna Division Restoration follows a six-step process as described in the *Draft Final Guidelines for the Screening and Evaluation of Potential Conservation Areas* which can be found online at <http://www.lcrmscp.gov/>. This process outlines the procedures for site identification, screening, preparing habitat site assessments, rating, and finally selection of projects to implement.

- Step 1 – Site identification
- Step 2 – Site visit and initial restoration concepts
- Step 3 – Initial screening
- Step 4 – Assessment
- Step 5 – Assign a riparian habitat creation opportunity rating
- Step 6 – Selection and inclusion into the LCR MSCP

Once selected for the program, the Conservation Area, specifically the Laguna Division Conservation Area, is eligible for funding to complete the design, permitting, and implementation phases of the restoration project.

5. Activities to Date: The Laguna Division Planning Group is currently on **Step 4** (Assessment) of the above-mentioned selection process. The following provides the listing of activities to date:

- Step 1 – Site identification **COMPLETED**

In addition to evaluating the restoration potential of the division, the operational requirements and constraints of the Laguna Division which includes water delivery, sediment removal, and power generation facilities were identified.

The next step was to integrate the restoration potential identified with current and projected river operations. This is essential to determine the viability and sustainability of any restoration project being proposed and allows for the evaluation of impacts from implementation of any given action.

- Step 2 – Site visit and initial restoration concepts **COMPLETED**

Following a field site visit by the interdisciplinary planning team in 2007, six subareas within the division were identified as having potential for restoration and a general concept for restoration was described.

The next step in the process was to perform the initial screening. The intent of this screening was to determine the applicability of a restoration project to the LCR MSCP goals. This results in a mutual understanding of the LCR MSCP requirements for habitat creation and discusses commitments required between Reclamation, the landowner, and participating partners.

- Step 3 – Initial screening **COMPLETED**

Six subareas were identified for restoration and were approved for further investigation. However, for LCR MSCP purposes, the Laguna Division Conservation Area as shown in Appendix B was selected for preparation of a conceptual alternative. The Conservation Area was selected due to its scale and complexity and its implementation would have the greatest affect on other subareas. Upon conclusion of this conceptual alternative, other subareas may be incorporated, by Reclamation, as appropriate.

- Step 4 – Assessment **IN PROGRESS**

The Laguna Division Conservation Area is a relatively wide, undeveloped area with a series of low linear depressions, which are remnants of former river meanders. The intent is to shape and contour multiple meandering channels which would be maintained with a maximum base flow of 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the Mittry Lake inlet canal. If necessary, up to 85 cfs can be diverted to the Conservation Area. The open water areas could be created in the form of linear excavations aligned with historic river meanders east of lands identified as future stockpiling areas for dredged silt removed from the river (Laguna settling basin). Cuts and fills could follow the existing topography where feasible to minimize earthwork. Adjacent terraces would be graded to allow flooding and establishment of native riparian species. Water control structures would be created to manage water levels. Upland areas would be established either by flooding or drip irrigation.

To support the concept described above, modifications to the point of diversion and concrete lined Mittry Lake inlet canal, to allow for up to 100 cfs capacity, would be required. This diversion ditch/pipe system should be engineered to allow for maximum management flexibility including diverting the entire flow to Mittry Lake, the Laguna Division Conservation Area, or the old river channel.

The planning group has gathered technical information required to determine the feasibility of implementing the restoration project. This information is summarized in Section VII Additional Technical Information and includes; topographic data for the entire division with two-foot contour intervals, groundwater well information, existing water surface elevations, GIS coverage, depth to groundwater, and soil texture/salinity. The intent of this grant is to combine the technical information provided in Appendix F with the information discussed in section 9 and develop three restoration alternatives. It is assumed additional data collection will be necessary prior to actual construction. This information would include; land surveying which would include profiles and cross-sections, water surface and/or stage discharge relationships, and sediment load sampling.

6. Statement of Work: The Laguna Division Conservation Area is being evaluated to determine the cost effectiveness and technical feasibility of establishing a mosaic of native vegetation land cover types. The objective of this request for proposals (RFP) is to define and estimate the cost of three restoration alternatives for the Conservation Area. Proposals from eligible applicants should evaluate the provided technical data and conceive three studies for large-scale restoration, adjust the project according to feedback from the planning group, and ultimately suggest an overall restoration plan for the creation of riparian and marsh land cover types. The final preferred concept should maximize the creation of native riparian and marsh land cover types using the assumed water resources, while minimizing the amount of earthwork required. This final recommendation allows for responsible resource management decisions, which may or may not lead to actual

project implementation. Each alternative, at a minimum, must address the following issues:

- **Conceptual Study.** The alternatives should clearly articulate the approach for restoration which would include; removal of existing non-native vegetation, balancing of cuts and fills, reshaping and contouring of the project area, and establishment of native vegetation. Stay within the project boundary as depicted in Appendix B. Restoration activities are not authorized within the Laguna dredge disposal area.
- **Conceptual Benefits.** The alternatives should describe the anticipated benefits to the LCR MSCP including the projected acreage by land cover type.
- **Hydrologic Modeling.** The alternatives should describe any hydrologic/hydraulic modeling used to estimate water surface profiles within the project area.
- **Flow Regime.** The alternatives should provide a conceptual operational hydrograph and include estimates of the timing and delivery rate of projected water demands for the site, as well as resultant design water levels. The alternatives should address possible seasonal flooding for maintenance and establishment of native plants, projected water surface elevations, and estimate the rate at which flooded areas would recede. Sufficient flow through created marshes to maintain water quality necessary to maintain habitat conditions for covered species.
- **Water Balance.** The alternatives should address the seasonal water requirements and losses by providing a conceptual water balance. Water balance should be estimated for one calendar year with inflows, outflows, and changes in storage tracked on a monthly basis. This simplified water accounting balance is intended to show the relative magnitude of water requirements and would not be construed as a final determination of water accounting. The conceptual water accounting may be subject to wide variation. The final accounting would be determined by Reclamation through strict application, and in conformance with, the Lower Colorado River Accounting System.
- **Conveyance of Water.** The alternatives should address the modifications required to the existing Mittry Lake inlet canal to increase capacity to 100 cfs. Additional modifications to the inlet canal, such as extending the lined portion or creating new turnouts, should be identified and that cost included in the cost estimate.
- **Water Elevation Control.** The alternatives should identify the location, size, access to, maintenance of, and approximate cost of any on-site water control structures intended to control water elevations.
- **Sediment Load.** The alternative should address the potential for increasing sediment load into the lower Colorado River.
- **Operation and Maintenance Requirements.** The alternatives should address future operation and maintenance requirements for the Conservation Area. This would include engineered features such as canals, water control structures; roads, as well as maintenance of the created land cover types.
- **Conceptual Cost Estimates.** The alternatives should provide a planning-level estimate of the anticipated cost for development and management of the Conservation Area. Cost estimates are solely for comparison purposes, to give a very general sense of the project's scale.
- **Cultural Resources.** Do not include Federal compliance requirements or costs of NEPA compliance activities in the budget formulation.

7. Location: The project area is located in the central portion of the Laguna Division. The area is roughly bounded to on the north by Imperial Dam and to the south by Laguna Dam. The proposed restoration area is approximately 3.5 miles in length and contains approximately 750 acres. See Laguna Site Map located in Appendix B.

8. Existing Conditions and Key Assumptions: The Laguna Division is a stable and highly modified reach of the LCR which extends from Laguna Dam (RM 43.2) to Imperial Dam (RM 49.2). Laguna Dam was constructed in 1909 to provide a consistent delivery of water from the LCR to the growing agricultural industry. At the time Laguna Dam was constructed, Hoover Dam had not been constructed and the resulting high river sediment load contributed to rapid siltation upstream of the dam. The Imperial Dam, completed in 1938, allows consistent delivery of water through the All-American Canal and the Gila Main Gravity Canal. A large portion of the Colorado River is diverted for agricultural or domestic purposes at Imperial Dam, with the exception of sluicing flows and a small inflow into Mittry Lake, a water body along the eastern edge of the area. Mittry Lake was dredged by Reclamation and provides significant recreational opportunities, and riparian and marsh habitat.

The Laguna settling basin is located within this reach, downstream of the Imperial Dam. Sediment derived from the Parker, Palo Verde, Cibola, and Imperial divisions accumulates at the upstream face of Imperial Dam, and at the headworks for the All-American Canal and the Gila Gravity Main Canal. The sediment is then sluiced or dredged into the Laguna settling basin where suspended materials are removed from the water column. After deposition in the settling basin the sediment is dredged and disposed of in the adjacent uplands.

Proposals must not adversely affect the Mittry Lake Wildlife Management Area, the old river channel, or current river operations. Measures that are intended to protect these areas or impact river operations must be clearly addressed in the alternatives.

9. Services to Be Performed: The intent of this agreement is to analyze existing data and information to prepare an appraisal-level study. Appraisal studies are preliminary surveys of problems, needs, and conceptual solutions to help identify a workable alternative.

9.1. Task 1 – Draft Conceptual Alternatives, and Preliminary Cost Estimates to

Reclamation: Analyze existing data and the statement of work provided to create three preliminary, conceptual approaches for creating riparian habitat. These concept-level proposals would create a minimum of 700 acres of habitat. Habitat is defined in detail in chapter 5 of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) which can be found online at <http://www.lcrmscp.gov/>. Present these three alternatives to Reclamation to answer questions and eliminate erroneous approaches. Do not spend a lot of time calculating quantities in this first task.

The recipient shall be responsible for the following deliverable:

- Within 30 calendar days of agreement award, presentation of three draft alternatives to Reclamation staff in Boulder City, NV.
- Estimated costs based on the conceptual alternatives, estimated construction costs including materials, equipment, and personnel. Do not include environmental compliance estimates. The information should be described in sufficient detail to facilitate an analysis/comparison of proposed costs.

9.2. Task 2 – Draft Detailed Conceptual Alternatives, and Detailed Cost Estimates to

Planning Team: Incorporate Reclamation’s comments and recommendations to further develop alternative concepts and combinations of concepts which reasonably might be applied at this site. Present these three detailed alternatives to the Laguna Planning Team.

The recipient shall be responsible for the following deliverable:

- Within 60 calendars of agreement award, presentation of three draft detailed conceptual alternatives and preliminary cost estimates to the Laguna Planning Team, in Yuma, AZ.
- Estimated costs based on the conceptual alternatives, estimated construction costs including materials, equipment, and personnel. Do not include environmental compliance estimates. The information

- should be described in sufficient detail to facilitate an analysis/comparison of proposed costs.
- The components of the proposed alternatives must take into consideration the following characteristics as depicted in Figure 1:

It may be beneficial to consider broader potential widths for the various habitat characteristics where practicable. For example, expanding marsh or riparian widths where elevation and distance from the water table are favorable and minimal earth-moving would be required. While preparing these detailed alternatives, take into consideration the following habitat variety and size requirements:

- 9.2.1. Open Water and Marsh:** The open water area should be approximately 50 feet wide with a minimum depth of 6 feet. These channels convey base flows and are periodically flooded to deeper depths during larger pulse flow events. Do not include Mittry Lake or the old river channel as a part of this open water. The marsh area will be comprised of herbaceous sedge and bulrush type plants. The marsh requirement is for a minimum of 50 acres and a maximum of approximately 100 acres. This area will have an average of 25 feet on each side of the open-water channel. Banks should slope gently from the channel edge. Elevations above channel invert range up to a maximum of 3 feet.
- 9.2.2. Riparian:** This area will be comprised of dense plantings of native tree species such as Coyote willow (*Salix exigua*) and these areas could be periodically inundated by pulse flows and maintain relatively high soil moisture. The requirement is for a minimum of 200 acres for riparian. This area will have an average of 50 feet width on each side of the channel. It slopes gently from the channel edge. The slightly higher elevation of this terrace will result in less inundation and a deeper groundwater table which is expected to support such species such as Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and Goodings willow (*Salix Goodingii*). Elevations above channel invert range from 3 feet to 8 feet.
- 9.2.3. Upland:** These higher areas will still be connected to available groundwater and support more xeric native community including of Honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and quailbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*). The requirement is for a maximum of 500 acres of which would include the remainder of the project area. Elevations above the channel invert range greater than 8 feet.

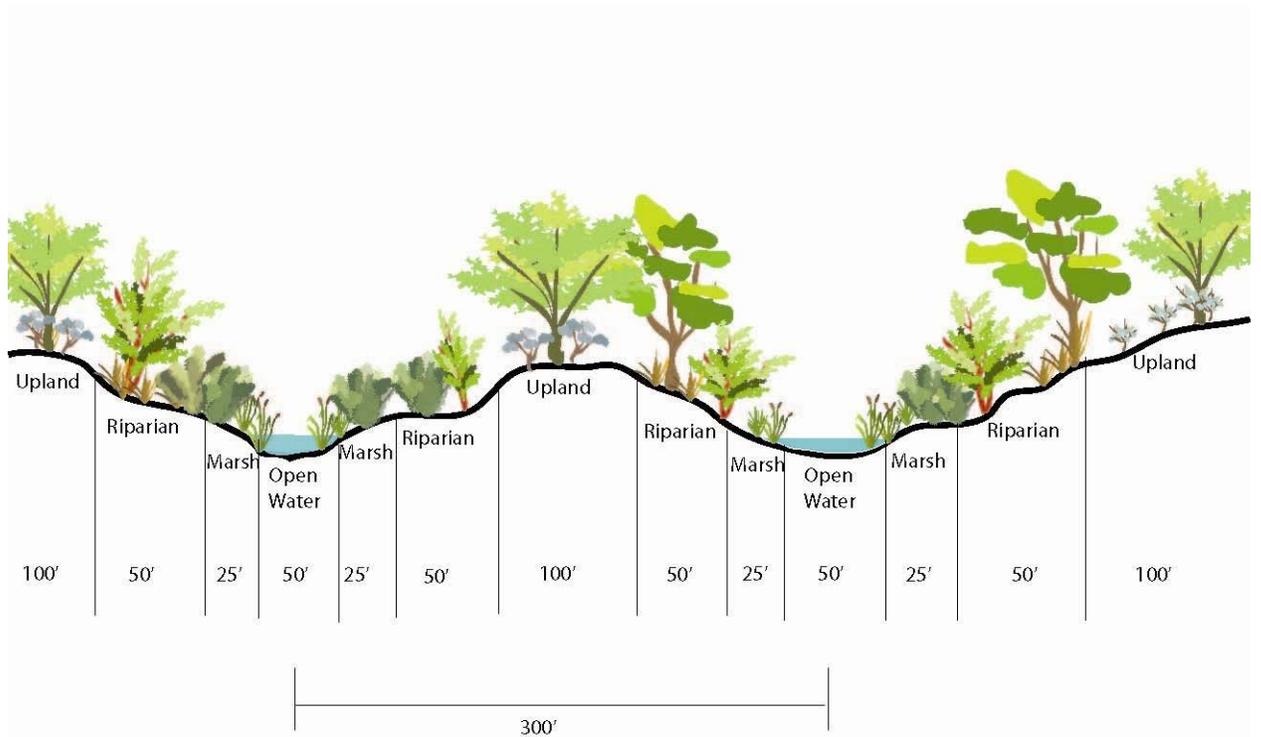


Figure 1: Typical Vegetation Cross Section

9.3. Task 3 – Final/Preferred Concept & Detailed Cost to Planning Team: Selection and recommendation of the best solution from the array of alternatives which have been considered. This final concept shall include a general site plan showing the potential boundary and elevations of the graded marsh and alignments, profiles and sections of the various channels within the marsh.

The recipient shall be responsible for the following deliverable:

- Within 90 calendars of agreement award, presentation of the final concept and preliminary cost estimates to the Laguna Planning Team, in Yuma, AZ.
- Estimated costs should be based on the final concept, estimated construction costs including materials, equipment, and personnel. Do not include environmental compliance estimates.

9.4. Task 4 – Final Concept & Detailed Cost Estimates to MSCP Steering Committee:

Selection and recommendation of the final concept based on comments and recommendations from the Planning Team presentation in Task 3. This final concept shall include a general site plan showing the potential boundary and elevations of the graded marsh and alignments, profiles and sections of the various channels within the marsh.

The recipient shall be responsible for the following deliverable:

- Present final findings to the MSCP Steering Committee meeting in April, 2009. Exact date and location will be provided once determined.

9.5. Task 5 – Final Written Report and Drawings:

An all-inclusive final report must be submitted in duplicate along with a final electronic copy on CD/DVD for archival purposes. This final report must include a summary of the project, project findings or conclusions, and all deliverable items.

The recipient shall be responsible for the following deliverable:

- Within 150 calendar days of agreement award, submittal of final written report and drawings.

- Estimated costs based on the final alternatives, estimated construction costs including materials, equipment, and personnel. Do not include environmental compliance estimates.

10. Government Furnished Property and Services

- Reclamation will furnish those records listed in Section VII.
- A DVD or aerial footage flown August 18, 2008, is available upon request.
- Satellite imagery from 1938 thru 2004 in 10-year increments is available upon request.

Program Authority

This Program is administered in accordance with the authority of Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, Public Law 85-624 (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), as amended.

This Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to, and cooperate with, Federal, State, and public or private agencies for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat associated with water systems or water supplies affected by Reclamation projects.

II. AWARD DELIVERABLES / PRODUCTS / REIMBURSEMENT

Proposal Due Date

Proposals will be accepted until close of business on December 22, 2008.

Schedule of Deliverables

Task	Deliverable	Date	Location
1	Draft Conceptual Alternatives & Preliminary Cost Estimates Presentation to Reclamation	AD + 30 calendar days *	Boulder City, NV
2	Draft Detailed Conceptual Alternatives & Detailed Cost Estimates Presentation to Laguna Planning Team	AD + 60 calendar days *	Yuma, AZ
3	Presentation of Final/Preferred Concept and Detailed Costs to Laguna Planning Team	AD + 90 calendar days *	Yuma, AZ
4	Presentation of Final Concept and Detailed Costs to MSCP Steering Committee	April 2009	
5	Submittal of Final Written Report and Drawings	AD + 150 calendar days *	Boulder City, NV

Products

An all-inclusive final report, due at the conclusion of the period of performance of the agreement, must be submitted in duplicate along with a final electronic copy on CD/DVD for archival purposes. The final report must include a summary of the project, project findings or conclusions, and all deliverable items.

Project Reimbursement

It is anticipated that the best proposal will be awarded for the LCR MSCP will not exceed \$150,000. Payments will be made based on the reimbursement for expenses incurred by the recipient.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include Federal, Interstate, Intrastate, State, and Local agencies; Public/Private nonprofit institution/organization; State Colleges or Universities; Public/Private Colleges or Universities; or Federally-recognized Indian tribes whose tribal lands are located in the geographic planning area described in Section I.

Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing is not required.

IV. APPLICATION AND PROPOSAL SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Proposal Format and Length

Proposals shall be limited to **ten (10)** 8-1/2 inch X 11 inch pages, excluding any forms required in these instructions, **single-spaced** on one side of the page. The font used shall be at least 11 points in size and shall be easily readable. The cover sheet (Standard Form 424), Assurances (Standard Form 424B or D, as applicable), Budget (Standard Form 424A or C), blank pages, title pages, blueprints, Appendices, and table of content pages, will not be counted in the 10-page limit. All pages shall be consecutively numbered, including pages with tables and exhibits. **Do not include** a cover letter (use the Title Page format requested in the Table above) or organization literature and/or brochures with your proposal. **Do not use** place proposals into binders or plastic sheathings and **do not use any staples to bind papers** (paper clips are acceptable.) Submission packet must include one original, two copies and one digital copy saved to a CD/DVD in Micro Soft Word or PDF format. Facsimiles submissions will NOT be accepted.

RFP Administrative Point of Contact

Requests for hardcopy mailing of the RFP itself, <http://www.grants.gov> questions or any other questions can be directed to Shawna Thompson at smthompson@lc.usbr.gov.

Date for Receipt of Proposals

Applicants shall submit an original and two copies of all proposal documents. Proposals will be accepted until COB on **December 22, 2008**.

Notification

All applicants will receive written notification regarding agreement decisions in January 2009. Unsuccessful applicants may contact the Administrative Point of Contact within 30 days of notification to discuss reason(s) for denial.

Budget Submission

Describe how each budget item relates to the project activity and provides clear rationale/breakdown for the amount of each budget item. Award will not be made to any applicant who fails to provide narrative information.

Line Item Number	Service / Task / Description	Unit	Price
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Task 1: Draft Conceptual Alternatives & Preliminary Cost Estimates Presentation to Reclamation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Inclusive of breakdown of sub tasks)</p>	Job	\$ _____
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Task 2: Draft Detailed Conceptual Alternatives & Detailed Cost Estimates Presentation to Laguna Planning Team</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Inclusive of breakdown of sub tasks)</p>	Job	\$ _____
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Task 3: Presentation of Final/Preferred Concept and Detailed Costs to Laguna Planning Team</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Inclusive of breakdown of sub tasks)</p>	Job	\$ _____
4	<p style="text-align: center;">Task 4: Presentation of Final Concept and Detailed Costs to MSCP Steering Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Inclusive of breakdown of sub tasks)</p>	Job	\$ _____
5	<p style="text-align: center;">Task 5: Submittal of Final Written Report and Drawings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Inclusive of breakdown of sub tasks)</p>	Job	\$ _____
	Total Price of Proposal		\$ _____

REQUIRED FORMS AND SUBMISSION TABLE

Due COB December 22, 2008

Submit one (1) original and two (2) copies

What to submit	Required form or format
TECHNICAL PROPOSAL:	
Cover sheet	Form SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance available on the internet at http://www.grants.gov/agencies/forms_repository_information.jsp
Assurances	Form SF-424B (Non-Construction) or SF 424D (Construction) available on the internet at http://www.grants.gov/agencies/aapproved_standard_forms.jsp
Title Page	Include RFP Number and date of submission
Table of Contents	Major sections of the proposal
Executive Summary	Discuss briefly the technical feasibility of enhancing the riparian habitat in the Laguna Division of the Lower Colorado River
Background Data	Location, information and other relevant data to the proposal
Qualifications and Experience of Design Team	List qualifications and previous experience on similar type activities
Statement of Work	Describe in detail the technical site suitability investigation described under statement of work, the activities to address the issue/need, outcomes expected and evaluation techniques to assess how the issues/needs were alleviated. Discuss the approach and evaluation techniques to accomplish the proposed work. This discussion shall be in sufficient detail to permit a comprehensive evaluation of the proposal and its outcomes. The final concept should maximize the creation of native riparian and marsh habitat using limited water resources, while minimizing the amount of earthwork required. This final concept recommendation will lead to responsible resource management restoration decisions, which may or may not lead to actual project construction.
BUDGET PROPOSAL:	
Budget information	Form SF-424A Budget Information (Non-Construction Programs) or 424C (Construction Programs) available on the internet at http://www.grants.gov/agencies/aapproved_standard_forms.jsp
Budget Narrative	Describe how each budget item relates to the project activity and provides clear rationale/breakdown for the amount of each budget item. Award will not be made to any applicant who fails to provide narrative information.

Proposal Delivery Instructions

Proposals shall be addressed as follows:

Mailing Address:

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Shawna Thompson
P O Box 61470
Boulder City NV 89006

Physical Location (for express mail/delivery services):

Bureau of Reclamation
Attn: Shawna Thompson
500 Fir Street
Boulder City NV 89005
Mailroom: (702) 293-8683

Facsimile transmissions will NOT be accepted.

Electronic Submission via Grants.gov

Reclamation is participating in the Grants.gov Initiative that provides the Grant Community with a single site to find and apply for agreement funding opportunities. Reclamation encourages applicants to submit their applications electronically through <http://www.grants.gov/Apply>. The use of <http://www.grants.gov> is NOT REQUIRED; Reclamation will continue to accept applications via hard copy. It is at the discretion of the applicant in the method of proposal delivery chosen. Chosen method of delivery will not impact or determine the award or non-award of any agreement. Please see Section VII B, Special Provision 23, regarding this option.

V. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The relative importance to be placed on the evaluation criteria is shown below. Proposals will be evaluated by the appropriate program officials in accordance with these criteria and the corresponding weights assigned to each criterion.

1. Expertise

This criterion addresses whether the approach is technically sound (no unproven or unsuccessful methods), if the methods are practical in achieving the stated goals and objectives of creating riparian habitat in the Laguna Division utilizing available water. The proposal will be evaluated on the feasibility of the technical approach, the demonstration of biological and engineering applications, and the potential benefits to LCR MSCP covered species and their habitat.

2. Previous Experience

This criterion addresses whether the applicant possesses the necessary knowledge of engineering practices, previous experience with similar projects and administrative resources to prepare the technical investigation. It shall also address prior work experience in this general line of work.

3. Price

This criterion evaluates whether the budget is sufficiently detailed, realistic (meaning inclusive of labor rates, equipment rental costs, etc) and commensurate to support the estimated costs associated with the proposed work in the specified time-frame. This criterion also evaluates whether the costs are reasonable, allocable and appropriate for the work proposed.

Although cost sharing or matching is not required, evaluation of an applicant's ability to bring resources to the project will be evaluated. Sharing of scarce resources is of viable interest to the LCR MSCP. Cost sharing or matching may include, but is not limited to, cash, in-kind services or contributions, land, water, or volunteer time, from either the applicant or an applicant's partner. Partners are defined as those non-federal entities which can provide a signed letter of intent stating the form and valuation of their contribution. This letter is to be delivered to Reclamation by the due date of this RFP.

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals which do not meet the requirements of this opportunity and which are determined to be outside the scope of this Request for Proposal. Awards will be made to the responsible applicants submitting proposals which conform to the opportunity and are most advantageous to the Government considering the factors and any significant sub-factors listed above. The evaluation process will be comprised of three levels.

First Level Screening (Administrative Review)

All proposals received will be screened to ensure that proposal meets the requirements of the RFP and that applicant meets the eligibility requirements stated in Section III of this document.

Second Level Evaluation (Technical Review)

If the proposal meets the first level screening, the applications are sent for technical review by a committee comprised of LCR MSCP program and technical project managers to document and rank proposals based on the eligibility criterion listed in above, comprising a possibility of 20 total points of the total evaluation weight. The committee members may also provide narrative evaluation on the merits of the proposed project/activity.

Third Level Evaluation (Managerial Review)

Management will conduct a final review to prioritize proposals based on availability of funds and the proposal's contribution to the LCR MSCP. After completion of the Third Level Evaluation, Reclamation will notify applicants of its initial selections and begin the process of awarding the agreement.

VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Award Notices

Successful applicants from this opportunity will receive notification that the application proposal has been recommended for funding by the cognizant Grants Officer. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance of the project. An official Notice of Award is the authorizing document signed by the Grants Officer and the Recipient. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their proposal was not selected for recommendation.

2. Administration Requirements

If your organization is awarded an agreement as a result of this request for proposals, the administrative requirements are listed in the General and Special Provisions are herein included and will be included in the final Notice of Award documentation.

VII. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

- Appendix A: Overall MSCP Reach Map
- Appendix B: Laguna Division Conservation Area Map
- Appendix C: Vegetation Mapping Drawings (2004)
- Appendix D: Photos
- Appendix E: RFP Evaluation Criteria
- Appendix F: Technical Information (available on cd upon request)