REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Establishment and Maintenance Services for Habitat Restoration Sites Located in the Sacramento Area

2015-2018

RFP Release Date: ................................................. May 8, 2015
Written Questions Due: .......................................... May 15, 2015 - 4:00 p.m.
Written Proposals Due: .......................................... May 29, 2015 - 1:00 p.m.
Contract Award Date: ............................................. June 18, 2015

Submit Questions, Written Proposals, and Cost Proposals
(Excel document only) electronically to: KC Sorgen
Senior Natural Resource Specialist
SorgenK@SacCounty.net
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1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) invites your firm to submit a proposal for landscape maintenance and habitat restoration services at various locations throughout the Greater Sacramento Region including the City of Sacramento and Sacramento and Sutter Counties. SAFCA has assumed long term Operations and Maintenance (O&M) obligations for specific areas in these general locations, many of which include compensatory mitigation sites that were established to compensate for habitat impacts resulting from flood system infrastructure improvements. The Agency is required to ensure that these mitigation sites continue to meet performance criteria per statutory regulatory permits. To meet these requirements, sites are adaptively managed therefore the number and dates of maintenance actions outlined in this RFP may be adjusted based on site and or weather conditions.

1.1 DESCRIPTION OF ACTIONS

Landscape maintenance and habitat restoration actions anticipated include, but are not limited to: irrigation system installation and operation; invasive/noxious weed control using mechanical and/or chemical methods; plant protection; soil and site preparation; planting, seeding, establishment, and maintenance of trees, shrubs, herbaceous plugs, native forbs, and native grasses; and general site maintenance. Principles of adaptive management shall be implemented at all sites in order to meet site specific performance goals.

There are two discrete Project Groups (see Attachment 1) and proposals may be submitted for Group 1 and or Group 2. The identified services may be awarded as two separate contracts, to two separate contractors according to group; however, if one contractor successfully bids on both groups then those groups shall be combined and issued under a single contract. Professional services shall be required for a period of three (3) years commencing on June 18, 2015. Regular communication/meetings with SAFCA staff will be an integral part of project activities.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposals (RFP) are to be directed in writing to: SorgenK@SacCounty.net.

1.2 CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

1.2.1 CONTRACTOR LICENSING

A valid C27 Contractor License, in good standing to conduct business in California, is required by the bidder for all work identified in this RFP. The bidder or its subcontractor(s) shall also possess a current California Pesticide Applicator License and Pest Control Business License in good standing and shall have a Pest Control Advisor (PCA) available. A copy of all required licenses shall be submitted as attachments with the bidder’s proposals.
1.2.2 CONTRACTOR OR FIRM EXPERIENCE

Any bidder shall have the experience, knowledge, and skill to install, maintain, manage, and monitor a created native habitat. All projects listed in the proposal shall be projects with a public agency (local, state, federal or special district), or a non-profit entity specializing in habitat conservation and restoration. The Contractor shall submit verification of all of these qualifications as well as those specified for each group as described below for approval by SAFCA at the time of proposal submittal.

Bidders proposing on either group are required to have the following qualifications:

Under their principal contracting business worked, within the last 5 years, in specialized California native grassland, aquatic and riparian habitat establishment projects for a period of 3 to 5 years on 3 separate projects that were each at least 10 acres or greater. The work shall include planting site and seedbed soil preparation using agricultural scale/heavy equipment (e.g. dozers, tractors, tillage, mowing and herbicide equipment) and seeding using a grass seed drill or imprint type machine (hydro-seeding projects do not qualify). Also included is control of weeds mechanically and chemically, control of herbivore damage, monitoring according to prescribed performance criteria, and installation, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems.

1.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE & AGENCY COORDINATION

The Contractor shall email a weekly maintenance summary to SAFCA by the close of business each Friday, which must include the following:

1. The status of sites (i.e. changes in site conditions: fires, invasive weeds, homeless camps, etc.);
2. The maintenance activities that occurred during that week for each site; and
3. The schedule of maintenance activities for the following week.

Suggestions for remedial measures should be included in these weekly reports. The Contractor must obtain approval before implementing any proposed remedial measures or any routine maintenance with a “to be determined” (TBD) schedule. If a critical need arises, the Contractor shall contact KC Sorgen (SAFCA, Senior Natural Resource Specialist) immediately at (916) 874-6099 or SorgenK@saccounty.net. To ensure timely processing of invoices applicable weekly maintenance summaries must be submitted on time.

The Contractor shall be available to conduct monthly site visits and attend periodic meetings called at the discretion of SAFCA, with SAFCA staff, to inspect work performed by the Contractor and to determine future maintenance actions. Site inspections, if required, shall be scheduled prior to Contractor invoicing for services.

1.4 MEASUREMENT & BASIS FOR PAYMENT
Payment shall be made at the respective unit price, and shall be in full compensation for all labor, materials, and costs associated with the maintenance actions and quality assurance actions as described in this RFP. Work completed under contingency will be on a time and materials basis. As such, a schedule sheet that includes the fully loaded (profit, overhead, risk) hourly costs for each class of employee shall be provided by the bidder and included in the contractors proposal. Similarly fully loaded machine/vehicle rates (profit, overhead, risk, maintenance, fuel) anticipated to be used as part of the ‘Group 1’ and ‘Group 2’ set of project sites shall be provided in the attached schedule/table of machine rates (Attachment 2). Federal and State Prevailing wage law will apply. Receipts for materials shall be submitted with invoices.

2  SCOPE OF WORK & POLICIES

The following is a summary of definitions and actions common to many or all mitigation/restoration sites. Unless otherwise noted in the bid sheet that describes actions for each individual site, cost assumptions shall be based on these definitions.

Biweekly: every other week  Weekly: once per week  Semi-weekly: twice per week
Bimonthly: every other month  Monthly: once per month

Healthy Plant: Healthy plants shall be those that are of good form, free of disease and insect infestation, are robust, and exhibit vigorous growth (foliage and wood). Plants must not be heat or water stressed.

The anticipated frequency of maintenance events (i.e. biweekly, weekly, etc.,) is outlined for each site below in Site Specific Maintenance Actions. In some cases the timing and frequency of maintenance events may be adjusted based on weather factors and/or site conditions, or as guided, or approved by SAFCA.

2.1  IRRIGATION

The contractor shall coordinate with SAFCA to determine the beginning and end of the irrigation season. In general, the irrigation season is defined to occur between April 15 and October 31 each year. The contractor shall schedule regular irrigation events once the irrigation season has begun until the irrigation season ends. The Contractor is responsible for the following:

• Prior to the Irrigation season, weeds and debris shall be cleared from all planting basins and where applicable the entire irrigation system (i.e. emitters, sprinkler heads, pipes, hoses, back flow devices, etc.) shall be inspected and repaired as necessary.
• Ensure the irrigation system(s), remains operational to deliver an adequate amount of water to sustain ‘healthy plants’ as previously defined. Water would be applied at a rate sufficient to wet the soil and saturate the root zone of installed plants without causing erosion, damage to plants,
or excessive runoff. A provision for system repairs and maintenance shall be included in cost assumptions.

- **Scheduled irrigation events** shall be during the early morning hours. There shall be at least two days between semiweekly irrigation events. The system shall be operated for a minimum of twelve (12) hours per event at a rate sufficient to wet the soil and saturate the root zone of installed plants. During irrigation events, the Contractor will ensure basins and berms are maintained free of weeds. If the site requires hand watering (including watering by buckets, truck and/or hoses) the Contractor shall ensure no erosion occurs while irrigating. Additionally, all pumps that take water from rivers, creeks, lakes, or ponds shall be outfitted with fish screens. Events shall not occur on rainy days. For sites irrigated once per week, irrigation shall not occur during a week that has received rain (unless otherwise instructed).

### 2.1.1 IRRIGATION SYSTEM (18A)

SAFCA is undertaking a culvert replacement/expansion and floodplain enhancement project at Site 18A (under Group 2) to improve floodplain conditions for salmonids. Under this RFP the Contractor, following completion of the culvert expansion project, the affected floodplain and grading footprint will install plants (described in section 2.5.3) and an irrigation system to irrigate the container plants per the following specifications:

- **Mainline pipe** shall be 2-6 inch class 200 PVC sized to deliver necessary water to all plants requiring irrigation;
- **Isolation values** shall be utility ball valves PVC white, all of the thermoplastic ball valves shall be Utility sealed unit type constructed from PVC Type I, ASTM D 1784 Cell Classification 12454 or CPVC Type IV, ASTM D 1784 Cell, or equal. 2-inch size for shutoff on main line pipe; 1-1/2 inch size for control valves for drip emitters. Flow capacity of the valves shall be designed to deliver the projected water needed to fully irrigate all the plants.
- **Lateral line pipe** shall be schedule 40 PVC or equal;
- **Pipe fittings** shall be schedule 40 PVC solvent weld fittings. Threaded joints, only factory formed joints on PVC pipe fittings;
- **Drip emitters** shall be Rain Bird, Landscape Dripline Coil Model No. LD-06-12-250 0.6GPH pre-punched emitter, 12-inch spacing, or approved equal. 3 inline emitters per plant as necessary to provide proper watering;
- **Flexible tubing** shall be high quality, durable, PVC flexible tubing, ¾-inch diameter. Every 5-feet O.C., flexible tubing shall have a group of inline drip emitters. In this group, emitters shall be set 1-foot apart for a total of 3 emitters;
- **Drip tubing fittings** shall be “Perma-loc” or Power-loc” locking compression and use tees or couplings as appropriate;
- **Flush outs** shall be Figure-8 hose-end clamps used to close the end of ¾-inch diameter flexible tubing, to allow for easy opening and flushing flexible tubing;
• Air vacuum relief valve shall be Rain Bird Air/Vacuum Relief Valve Kit to allow air to escape pipeline to prevent water blockage, and to enter lines at shutdown to prevent suction of dirt into the system;
• Pipe/tubing anchors shall be #3 rebar, 24-inches in length, bent into a U-shape;
• Point of connection enclosure to protect irrigation system equipment near the point of connection and shall be of quality and durability to withstand vandalism and theft. The water supply shall be from County of Sacramento point of connection located in the general vicinity as shown in Attachment 1).

### 2.2 BROWSE PROTECTION

Linear fences or individual tree cages have been installed at many sites to protect specific trees susceptible to beaver damage (and in some cases as browse protection from deer). Typically, linear fencing consists of 3-4 foot tall welded wire fence supported by rebar or t-posts 6-8 feet on center. Cages consist of welded wire supported with rebar or t-posts with a diameter of at least 3 feet (cage diameter will vary based on tree diameter). Cages and fences require maintenance to ensure that the vegetation remains protected. The contractor will schedule cage and/or fence maintenance events unless directed otherwise. The Contractor is responsible for the following:

- **Inspect and repair of linear beaver fences** to ensure fence is upright, has adequate tension, without gaps below, or breaks in the mesh that would allow beavers to access the site. In areas with heavy public use, the Contractor shall install either a self-closing gate or fence maze with approval or by request of SAFCA.
- **Inspection and repair of individual tree cages** to ensure cages are not damaging the leader or main branches of the trees. If a cage is girdling or rubbing the tree stem or main branches, the cage shall be widened or the mesh opened slightly. Tree trunks/plant leaders shall emerge from the top opening of the cage.
- **Cage relocations** shall occur when the cage is no longer protecting a living tree. The cage shall be removed and installed around another on-site tree-in the following order of priority: cottonwood, sycamore, yellow willow, alder, arroyo willow, Oregon ash, and valley oak. If there are no vulnerable trees in the area the cage should be disposed of at a disposal facility.
- **New cage installations** shall consist of 3-4 foot high welded wire with either rebar or t-posts used for support unless otherwise indicated. The cages should be wide enough to allow for growth without harming the plant (at least 12” from the trunk of the tree). In some instances where trees are unprotected and close together, it is acceptable to surround the clump of trees with fence material creating a pod fence.
2.3 WEED & GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

The timing and frequency of all weeding and grassland management events (as defined below) may be adjusted or slightly modified based on the conditions of the sites as directed by SAFCA. Additionally, these activities, specifically for groups 1 and 2, are contingent upon the grazing activities performed by SAFCA’s grazing contractor (release of the grazing RFP is anticipated for June 2015) or Lessee. To help ensure that the work under this RFP does not conflict with the work of the grazing contractor SAFCA will determine and/or approve when the Contractor will schedule events. The Contractor is responsible for the following:

- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act Compliance** – To avoid negatively affecting nesting birds in areas to be mowed/string-trimmed all of the Contractor’s field crew that perform these activities is obligated to receive awareness training from a SAFCA Natural Resource Specialist (or designee). Furthermore, during nesting bird season (March – August) a nesting bird survey shall be conducted within 3 days and prior to any activity to be conducted by a SAFCA Natural Resource Specialist (or designee) and one of the Contractor’s field crew employees. As such, the Contractor must also coordinate their scheduling activities with SAFCA staff. Any nests found will have a buffer area flagged where mowing/string trimming activities will be prohibited.

- **Mowing** shall include incidental string trimming in areas that are inaccessible to mowing equipment (i.e. poles, gates, trees, fences, etc.). Mowing height and treatment areas shall be specified by SAFCA. Typically, for firebreaks, vegetation is mowed between 2 to 4 inches high in 30-foot widths.

- **Mowing of developing native grasslands** shall be by flail mower. Mowing shall be optimally timed to prevent both annual grass and broadleaf weed from setting viable seed. Grasslands shall be mowed to ensure adequate mastication of residual thatch that may smother developing seedlings or impede herbicide penetration to the soil. The height of cut grass will be specified by SAFCA.

- **Herbicide Policy** shall be adhered to at all times (Attachment 3).

- **Herbicides** recommended may be of a class that requires a County permit, which the contractor shall obtain. All herbicide applications shall include the use of dye. If it is determined that treatment did not affect the targeted weeds as indicated then a retreatment may be requested at the contractor’s expense.

- **Weed Management** is defined as hand pulling to remove shoots and roots, string trimming (to a height of less than 6 inches), and herbicide control of non-native plant species. Hand pulling shall be the preferred method of weed control, particularly within plant basins, unless otherwise stated. Target weeds will be specified by SAFCA.

- **Noxious Weed Removal** is defined as removal of all non-native woody tree, shrub, and vine species, and associated seedpods, from a site). Removal methods can include hand or mechanical methods e.g. masticator, weed wrench, and/or herbicide treatments (e.g. foliar
spray, cut and paint). Timing of noxious weed removal events shall be coordinated with SAFCA. Noxious weeds to be removed include, but are not limited to the following:

- Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
- Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)
- Catalpa (*Catalpa spp.*)
- Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*)
- Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*)
- Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*)
- Fig (*Ficus spp.*)
- French broom (*Genista monspessulana*)
- Privet (*Ligustrum spp.*)
- Water primrose (*Ludwigia spp.*)
- Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)
- Tabaco Tree (*Nicotiana glauca*)
- Almond/Plum (*Prunus spp.*)
- Pyrakan (Pyracantha *angustifolia*)
- Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*)
- Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*)
- Red sesbania (*Sesbania punicea*)
- Spanish broom (*Spartinum junceum*)
- Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- Elm (*Ulmus sp.*)

### 2.4 TRASH, DEBRIS & ILLEGAL CAMPSITE REMOVAL

Trash/debris removal shall be a regularly scheduled task as outlined under Site Specific Details & Maintenance Requirements or as directed/approved by SAFCA. The Contractor is responsible for the following:

- **Report all illegal campers/campsites** to the Sacramento County Park Rangers and follow-up with an email notice to KC Sorgen (*sorgenk@saccounty.net*) indicating the location and GPS coordinates of the camp and when notice was given to the Rangers.

- **Remove all trash and debris**, including remnants of any illegal/homeless camps (after the appropriate law enforcement official has provided notice and the proper time has elapsed) from each site. Other materials including those related to maintenance actions such as pin flags, flagging tape, wooden stakes, fencing, cardboard cartons, and rebar shall also be disposed. All trash and debris shall be disposed offsite to an appropriate landfill or recycling facility.

### 2.5 PLANTING & SEEDING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES

SAFCA is in the process of enhancing, and or establishing native plant communities, including native forbs and perennial grasses on properties under its ownership. In addition, new upland and wetland vegetation at the 18A restoration site is anticipated.

Seeds and or plants utilized for these projects shall be provided by the Contractor and shall be from genotypes originating in the Central Valley and /or surrounding foothills (i.e. Sacramento, Sutter, Colusa, Yolo, Butte, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, and/or Yuba County). Seed mixtures shall be pre-mixed by the supplier and shall not be contaminated with noxious weed seed or mold. General requirements for seeding, and or planting are as follows:
2.5.1 **NATIVE FORBS**

Forb seeding shall be accomplished using a hand broadcast seeder followed by raking to cover the seed and create ‘seed-soil’ contact. Corn meal shall be included in the seed mix at a rate of 20 pounds per acre as a control measure to verify where seed has been broadcast. Some areas or sites that have been previously seeded in grasslands may be ‘over-seeded’ with native forbs to accomplish the Agency’s objective for a particular site. The anticipated seed mix and seeding rate is provided in Table 1 below. Note adjustments in species and rates may be necessary due to site specific conditions (e.g. ‘over-seeding’ areas within existing forb communities).

**Table 1 - Native Forb Mix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Seeding Rate (bulk pounds/acre)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Achillea millefolium</em></td>
<td>White Yarrow</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Calandrinia cliiata</em></td>
<td>Red Maids</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Clarkia williamsontii</em></td>
<td>Fort Miller Clarkia</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Eschscholzia californica</em></td>
<td>California Poppy</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Grindellia camporum</em></td>
<td>Gum Plant</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lasthenia glabrata</em></td>
<td>Yellow Ray Gold Fields</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lupinus densiflorus</em></td>
<td>Golden Lupine</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lupinus formosus</em></td>
<td>Summer Lupine</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lupinus succulentus</em></td>
<td>Arroyo Lupine</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Madia elegans ssp. densifolia</em></td>
<td>Common Madia</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Oenothera elata</em></td>
<td>Evening Primrose</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Phacelia californica</em></td>
<td>California Phacelia</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Phacelia tanacetifolia</em></td>
<td>Lacey Phacelia</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Trichostema lanceolatum</em></td>
<td>Vinegarweed</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FOR NATIVE FORB MIX</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5.2 **NATIVE GRASSLANDS**

Due to the large scale and often rough/uneven landscape associated with various site locations under the proposed scope of work, equipment required to adequately and efficiently conduct the requested grassland activity shall consist of large scale agricultural machinery. Equipment shall include, but is not limited to light, moderate, or heavy duty agricultural tillage equipment for preparation of surface soil as dictated by site conditions to ensure clumps/clods are less than 2 inches in diameter and tilled to a depth of up to 18 inches. As well as a road grader, front-end loader or bulldozer to knock down small berms if needed. Additionally, agricultural scale ground spray equipment, and an appropriately sized flail mower (see Section 3.3) will also be required. SAFCA has a custom-built Ridger Roller Seeder (RRS) available for general contractor use upon request. The RRS is a substantial piece of equipment and will require a wide track D6 caterpillar (or equivalent), with appropriate hydraulic and electrical connections, as a power source. It is considered a ‘broadcast’ seeder and as such its operation must be coupled with an adequately sized
and scaled ring roller that is pulled behind to create the required seed/soil contact necessary. Note all seeding of levee slopes within the Group 1 (Natomas) work area shall be accomplished by the RRS. The contractor will be responsible for its safe transportation to and from the storage site and its routine maintenance and care. Routine maintenance and or repairs needed (i.e. lubrication, replacement injector knives, bolts, fertilizer injection hoses, hydraulic fittings etc.) shall be provided or undertaken by the manufacturer SWECO in Sutter, CA. Following completion of use, seed boxes shall be vacuumed to remove any residual seed and the fertilizer tank & lines shall be flushed to remove residual fertilizer.

Grass seed mixes and seeding rates for Site 18A under Group 4 is provided in Table 2. Table 3 provides a general seed mix and rate for all other seeding areas. Note seed mixes and rates may be adjusted to accommodate for site conditions or objectives (e.g. over-seeding areas).

**Table 2 - 18A Grass Seed Mix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Seeding Rate (pounds/acre – PLS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Agrostis exarata</em></td>
<td>bentgrass</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Deschampsia cespitosa</em></td>
<td>tufted hairgrass</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Elymus glaucus</em></td>
<td>blue wildrye</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Elymus trachycaulus</em></td>
<td>slender wheatgrass</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hordeum brachyantherum</em></td>
<td>meadow barley</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Leymus triticoides</em></td>
<td>creeping wildrye</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhlenbergia rigens</td>
<td>deergrass</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Sporobolus airoides</em></td>
<td>alkali sacaton</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FOR NATIVE GRASS MIX</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 flood tolerant ecotype
2 *mayus* ecotype from the Sacramento Valley
3 Flood tolerant ‘Rio’ or ‘Yolo’ ecotypes

**Table 3 - General Grass Seed Mix**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Seeding Rate (pounds/acre – PLS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Elymus glaucus</em></td>
<td>blue wildrye</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Elymus trachycaulus</em></td>
<td>slender wheatgrass</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hordeum brachyantherum spp. californicum</em></td>
<td>meadow barley</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Leymus triticoides</em></td>
<td>creeping wildrye</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Melica Californica</em></td>
<td>California melic</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nassella pulchra</em></td>
<td>purple needlegrass</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Poa secunda ssp secunda</em></td>
<td>pine bluegrass</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FOR NATIVE GRASS MIX</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.5.3 WETLAND & UPLAND PLANTING

SAFCA is undertaking a culvert replacement/expansion and floodplain enhancement project at Site 18A (under Group 2) to improve floodplain conditions for salmonids. Following completion of the culvert expansion project, the affected floodplain and grading footprint will be re-vegetated with a combination of aquatic and terrestrial vegetation. Container plants to be supplied by the Contractor will be installed in 2016 during the fall months. A planting plan will be provided to the contractor prior to planting and an on-site staging area shall be identified at that time. The planting palette, including tree, shrub, and vine species is provided in Table 4.

The health and vigor of the container plants is the sole responsibility of the Contractor. Prior to installation, with 5 business days advanced notice, SAFCA shall be given an opportunity to inspect the container plants at the nursery, collection site or on the project site. Any plants deemed unacceptable by SAFCA shall be replaced before the start of planting at the Contractor's expense. Note there may be minor quantity adjustments based on site conditions and or plant availability at the time of planting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Planting type/size</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer negundo</td>
<td>boxelder</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesculus californica</td>
<td>California buckeye</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baccharis pilularis</td>
<td>coyote brush</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baccharis salicifolia</td>
<td>mulefat</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cercis occidentalis</td>
<td>Western Redbud</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus latifolia</td>
<td>Oregon ash</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juglans nigra</td>
<td>black walnut</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanus racemosa</td>
<td>California sycamore</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Populus fremontii</td>
<td>Fremont cottonwood</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus lobata</td>
<td>Valley oak</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercus wislizeni</td>
<td>interior live oak</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa californica</td>
<td>California wildrose</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubus ursinus</td>
<td>California blackberry</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix exigua spp. hindsiana</td>
<td>sandbar willow</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix gooddingii</td>
<td>black willow</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salix lasiolepis</td>
<td>Arroyo willow</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitis californica</td>
<td>California wild grape</td>
<td>Treepot 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A Treepot 4 is approximately 16 square inches at the top and 14 inches deep (4x4x14)

2.6 SAFETY AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

In the event of a safety or hazard issue the Contractor field crew must be able to communicate with the Contractor’s project manager, SAFCA (916-874-7606), County Park Rangers (916-875-6961)
and/or other emergency personal while conducting work under the contract. The Contractor is also responsible for the following:

- **Fuels.** At no time will fuel cans/containers (glass bottles and jugs are prohibited) be placed within 100 feet of a river/creek or lake/pond. Additionally, reasonable precautions shall be taken to prevent spills of petro-chemical fuels and at no time will fuels/oils be used or placed within 100 feet of a waterway (i.e. river, creek, pond, or lake). In the event of a hazardous material spill, the Contractor will immediately notify SAFCA.

- **Fire Safety.** During periods of very high and extreme fire danger, specific equipment and fire precautionary measures are applicable as follows:
  - Meet the minimum requirements of Sections 4427 and 4428 of the California Public Resources Code (CPRC).
  - during mowing activities a 500 gallon water tank (filled with water) with a pump & hose shall be on-site and available for backup fire suppression
  - Each internal combustion engine (including but not limited to trucks and tractors) shall always be equipped with an operational and maintained fire extinguisher for oil and grease fires (Class 4-B, C, or larger). Additionally, there will always be enough appropriate sized shovels that are 46 inches in length (or greater) and 2.5 pound axes (or larger) that are 28 inches in length (or greater) to equip each employee present.
  - All equipment and internal combustion engines shall be equipped with spark arrestors as approved and according to Sections 4442 and 4443 of the CPRC. Spark arrestors shall be a model that has been tested and approved under Forest Service Standard 5100-1a (April 1970) and shall be maintained in good operating condition. Motor vehicles equipped with a maintained muffler as defined by CPRC Section 4442 and 4443 or tractors with exhaust-operated turbochargers are excluded from the spark arrestor requirement.
  - One fire extinguisher meeting specifications of CPRC Section 4431 and a size 0 shovel that is 46 inches in length shall be kept with each operating power saw.
  - Smoking by all employees is prohibited within the work area.
  - The fire department must be notified immediately if initial control actions fail to extinguish a fire. SAFCA shall be notified immediately after the fire department is notified.

### 2.7 SITE ACCESS

Vehicle access is allowed on existing access roads only. Speed Limits are 10 mph on all unpaved access roads and paved bike trails, and 5 mph on blind curves. Vehicle use of the American River Bike Trail is only permitted when no alternative route is available. Contractor must use emergency hazard lights while operating on Bike Trail. The Contractor must abide by the conditions in the County Parks Encroachment Permit, which will be obtained by SAFCA prior to work in the American River Parkway.
3 SITE SPECIFIC MAINTENANCE ACTIONS

3.1 GROUP 1 (NORTH NATOMAS)

This service area is located within the North Natomas Basin and extends along the Natomas Cross Canal (NCC), Pleasant Grove Creek Canal (PGCC) and the Sacramento River East Levee (SREL). The specific work areas include grasslands and forb areas that have been established in operations and maintenance corridors adjacent to the levees; established woodlands, landside of the SREL, extending approximately one mile south of Riego Road; and incidental ‘over seeding’ in areas where some seeded native grasslands need to be augmented. Anticipated maintenance actions include:

- **Herbicide Treatments (Johnson Grass)** – 9 events *spot* treating multiple locations up to 1 acre each event
- **Herbicide Treatments (Forb Areas)** – 2 events *spot* treating multiple locations up to 3 acres each event
- **Herbicide (Various Weeds)** – 6 events between 20 to 150 acres each event
- **Mowing (Native Gasses)** – 6 events between 20 to 150 acres each event
- **Seeding (Native Gasses)** – 3 events seeding between 10 to 30 acres each event (use of SAFCA’s RRS will be required on levee slopes)
- **Seeding (Native Forbs)** – 3 events seeding between 1 to 5 acres each event
- **Trash Removal** – 6 events across entire area (includes removal of cartons and wooden stakes)
- **Weeding/Hand Pulling** – 20 events to target specified weeds (1 event = 8 hours on site with 5 workers and 1 experienced supervisor/botanist)
3.2 GROUP 2 (NORTH SACRAMENTO)

This service area is located generally to the east of the Natomas Basin and includes several mitigation sites, as well as riparian and floodplain habitat along Lower Dry Creek. Also included are two sites within the American River Parkway and one site in the southern portion of the Natomas Basin. Below are the anticipated maintenance actions for each site.

**WOLF RANCH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (~65 ACRES)**

Wolf Ranch is located along Steelhead Creek south of Elkhorn Blvd along Sorento Road and features open water, wetland, riparian and upland habitat (including native grasses).

- **Cage Maintenance** – 6 events includes fence surrounding large pods of vegetation
- **Culvert Maintenance** – 3 events to remove debris from the two culverts to ensure flow in and out of the pond
- **Herbicide (Native Grasses)** 6 events up to 5 acres each event
- **Herbicide (Various Weeds)** – 6 events up to 5 acres each event
- **Herbicide (Water Primrose)** - 6 events up to 5 acres each event
- **Mowing (Firebreaks)** – 6 events up to 5 acres each event (includes ~0.5 acres of string trimming inside the irrigation cage and along the eastern edge/ditch adjacent to UPRR railroad tracks; see attachment 4)
- **Mowing (Native Grasses)** – 3 events up to 5 acres each event
- **Noxious Weed Removal** – 9 events
- **Trash Removal** – 18 events (conducted bimonthly)
- **Well Facility Maintenance** – 24 events during operating season (includes inspection and maintenance of oil levels, main delivery pipe, confirmation system is operational during SMUDs off-peak hours only, and to set or turn off timer when indicated by SAFCA)
**DRY CREEK FLOODPLAIN PROPERTIES**

These properties are located between Elkhorn Boulevard to the north, the Sacramento Northern Bike Trail to the east, Robla Creek on the south and the NEMDC/Steelhead Creek to the west.

- **Disking (Seedbed Prep)** – 6 events disking between 20 to 62 acres each event
- **Herbicide (Native Grasses)** – 9 events treating between 20 to 112 acres each event
- **Mowing (Firebreaks)** – 6 events up to 12 acres each event (each event includes ~2 acres of string trimming along roadside ditches and around fences/posts; see attachment 4)
- **Mowing (Native Grasses)** – 6 events mowing between 20 to 112 acres each event
- **Noxious Weed Removal** – 24 events targeting red sesbania (event = 4 workers on-site for 8 hours)
- **Seeding (Native Grasses)** – 3 events seeding up to 42 acres but no less than 10 acres each event
- **Seeding (Native Forbs)** – 5 events to broadcast a total of 1 acre each event
- **Trash/Debris Removal** – 6 events to remove debris dams in the creek & debris on the upland area (includes removal of debris from two fence lines crossing the creek)
- **Vegetation Removal** – 3 events (~0.1 acres of in-stream vegetation removal (Hayer Dam))

**ARCADE CREEK & STEELHEAD CREEK**

These two sites were established more than 15 years ago with tree, and or, shrub plantings along about a half-mile length along low flow channels. The Arcade Creek site begins approximately 0.25 miles downstream of Norwood Avenue along the north bank to the railroad crossing. The Steelhead Creek site has valley oak trees established along both banks beginning below the confluence with Robla Creek and extending south of Main Ave.

- **Cage Maintenance** – 1 event at each site (includes cage removal from the button willows)
MAGPIE CREEK DIVERSION CHANNEL - RIO LINDA CREEK CONSERVATION AREA (MCDC-RLCCA)

This area is primarily located along the west side of Dry Creek Road. The southernmost extent is slightly south of the Dry Creek Rd bridge (where it crosses Magpie Creek) and extends north to C Street. A small work area is located east of Dry Creek Road (north of C Street) along both sides of the Rio Linda Creek Channel. This work area features wetland, riparian, and woody upland vegetation, as well as native grasses.

- **Cage maintenance** – 6 events includes some linear fence (May & September)
- **Debris Removal** – 9 events (if needed after high water events at MCDC)
- **Disking (Seedbed Prep)** – 9 events up to 7 acres each event
- **Herbicide (Native Grasses)** – 9 events up to 7 acres each event
- **Herbicide (Water Primrose)** – 4 events up to 5.5 acres targeting water primrose
- **Irrigation** – 22 events (includes setup of automated system)
- **Trash Removal** – 6 events (May & September)
- **Noxious Weed Removal** – 8 events
- **Mowing (Firebreaks)** – 9 events up to 5 acres each event (includes ~1 acre of string trimming; see attachment 4)
- **Mowing (Native Grasses)** – 9 events up to 7 acres each event
- **Seeding (Native Grasses)** – 1 event up to 7 acres
- **Weeding/Hand Pulling** – 6 events to target specified weeds (1 event = 8 hours on site with 5 workers and 1 experienced supervisor/botanist)

**SITE 18A**

Located just north of the LAR and bordered by, Steelhead Creek to the north, the American River Bike Trail to the east, Del Paso Blvd. to the south, Northgate Blvd. to the west.

- **Cage Installation** – 1 event to install up to 400 cages or pod style fences
- **Debris Removal** – 6 events (timing TBD and based on high water events)
- **Herbicide (Native Grasses)** – 9 events up to 5 acres each event
- **Irrigation Installation** – 1 event to install an above ground irrigation system (see specifications under section 2.1.1)
- **Irrigation** – 84 events (weekly with 24 hour run times each event)
- **Mowing (Native Grasses)** – 6 events up to 5 acres each event
- **Noxious Weed Management** – 3 events
- **Planting** – 1 event to plant 810 container plants shown in Table 4.
- **Seeding (Native Grasses)** – up to 5 acres (see Table 2)
- **Trash Removal** – 6 events (May & September)
RM 0.5R

This site is located just upstream from of the I-5 Highway overpass within Discovery Park along the north bank of the American River adjacent to the American River bike trail. This site recently received approximately 360 transplanted elderberry shrubs in advance of a riverbank floodplain habitat enhancement project, which is anticipated to begin during the summer of 2015. The planting basins for the transplanted elderberry shrubs are approximately 25-feet in diameter.

- Herbicide (Various Weeds) – 2 events treating up to 3 acres each event
- Irrigation (Transplants) – 15 events (weekly via truck to fill each basin, min. 500 gals/basin)
- Mowing – 1 event up to 3 acres (includes any string trimming in and around basins)
- Weeding/Hand Pulling – 10 events to target specified weeds (1 event = 8 hours on site with 2 workers and 1 experienced supervisor/botanist)

SITE 19A

Located along the north side of the Garden Hwy, east of I-80, and adjacent to Wheelhouse Ave. A total of 25 Valley Oaks were transplanted in February 2015 along Wheelhouse Ave.

- Disking (Seedbed Prep) – 9 events disking up to 8 acres each event
- Herbicide (Various Weeds) – 9 events treating between up to 8 acres each event
- Irrigation (Transplants) – 84 events (weekly via truck to fill each basin, min. 500 gals/basin)
- Mowing – 9 events up to 8 acres each event (includes incidental string trimming around berms)
- Mulch Application – 1 event to provide 8 inches of mulch to cover each planting basin
- Seeding (Native Gasses) – 1 event up to 8 acres
- Seeding (Native Forbs) – 1 event up to 0.5 acres
- Weeding/Hand Pulling – 20 events to target specified weeds (1 event = 8 hours on site with 2 workers and 1 experienced supervisor/botanist)

4 ORGANIZATION OF PROPOSAL

4.1 WRITTEN PROPOSAL

To be judged responsive to this RFP, or portions thereof, the bidder must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of SAFCA, they and any entity or sub-contractor identified in the proposal possesses the experience and licenses required to perform the work as specified in Section 1.2 above.

The Agency Reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to independently verify all of the bidders submittals, and if necessary, require additional information. Failure to provide the
information required in this proposal may render the proposal non-responsive and may result in its rejection.

The written proposal shall be submitted as a PDF or Word file. Proposals received after the due date and time will not be accepted. The proposal shall contain the following information in the sequence noted:

4.1.1 DETAILED PROJECT APPROACH (1 PAGE MAX FOR EACH GROUP)

Describe your firms’ proposed approach to the Scope of Work tasks including proposed equipment, as they relate to each site, for each of the Groups to be bid.

4.1.2 ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

Provide the following background information: 1) Business address, 2) Firm leadership (names, title and qualifications of executive officers), 3) Years in business, 4) Years performing maintenance at habitat restoration/mitigation sites, and 5) Any disqualifications, judgments, claims, arbitration proceedings or suits pending or outstanding against your organization or its officers.

4.1.3 LICENSES

The Contractor must hold a current C-27 Landscaping License with the State of California, as well as a Pest Control Business License and Qualified Applicators License with the State of California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Attach copies of these licenses to the submitted proposal.

4.1.4 RELATED EXPERIENCE

List and provide the following information for three (3) projects, specific to each grouping of sites as appropriate, that you have maintained within the last five (5) years: a) name and location of project, b) acreage, c) habitat type and features, d) plant species list, e) estimated number of plants, f) success/performance criteria and if success was achieved, g) brief description of routine maintenance actions performed including weed management strategies employed, h) brief description of adaptive management actions performed, i) contract start and end dates, and j) the owner/client’s (public agency or non-profit entity) name, contact person and phone number. For Groups 1 and 2, identify (2) perennial native grasslands projects greater than 10 seeded acres, with the same site specific information as described above, including a description of the heavy equipment utilized and the seeding equipment employed (hydroteeething projects do not qualify).
4.1.5 STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

Identify staff proposed and list their roles, relevant experience, and training received applicable to this RFP including native plants, invasive species management, perennial native grassland restoration and maintenance (for sites under groups 1 and 2) and special status species. For staff performing and supervising herbicide work, provide their qualifications (past projects performed) regarding the selection, application, and knowledge of regulations governing herbicides. Attach all staff resumes.

4.1.6 SUBCONTRACTORS

If applicable, identify subcontractor or joint venture relationships proposed in the performance of the work. Identify their role and details of the work to be performed under this contract. Provide resumes for all subcontractor key staff and a copy of the subcontractor’s valid California C-27 Landscaping License. If the subcontractor will be applying herbicide, provide their qualifications (past projects performed). Provide copies of Pest control Business License and Qualified Applicators License with the State of California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

4.1.7 INSURANCE COVERAGE

Respondents must maintain the following minimum limits of insurance:

1. General Liability shall be on an Occurrence basis (as opposed to Claims Made basis) and the Contractor’s general liability Aggregate Limit of Insurance shall be endorsed to apply separately to each job site or project, as provided for by Insurance Services Office form CG-2503 Amendment-Aggregate Limits of Insurance (Per Project). Minimum limits and structure shall be:

   - General Aggregate: $2,000,000
   - Products Comp/Op Aggregate: $2,000,000
   - Personal & Adv. Injury: $1,000,000
   - Each Occurrence: $1,000,000
   - Fire Damage: $100,000

2. Automobile Liability: Corporate/business owned vehicles including non-owned and hired, $1,000,000 Combined Single Limit. Individually owned vehicles, $250,000 per person, $500,000 each accident, $100,000 property damage;

3. Workers' Compensation: Statutory including endorsements to provide coverage under the Jones Act and the USL&HW Act. Employer’s liability: $1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury or disease;

4. Environmental Pollution Liability: $1,000,000 per occurrence or per claim (if written on a claims-made form);
4.1.8 REFERENCES

Provide a minimum of three (3) pertinent references that can unequivocally support the Contractor’s experience for each of the tasks identified. Include the responsible project manager, including name, current address, current telephone number, and current email address (if available) of clients’ representatives.

4.2 COST PROPOSAL

The Contractor’s cost proposal shall be a fixed fee proposal to conduct the scope of services requested. The cost proposal shall adhere to each discrete work Group and the specific maintenance activities related to the sites in the work group as described under Scope of Services and Site Specific Maintenance Requirements.

The respondent will be required to adhere to State of California prevailing wage law and as such shall provide verification of certified payroll when requested. The cost estimate proposed shall include incidental expenses for routine repair and replacement of materials on the site. Costs for extraordinary repair or replacement habitat at a project site due to severe flood or fire damage are outside the scope of this proposal.

Contractor’s may submit a cost proposal for any or all of the Project Groups listed above. Costs shall include a 10% contingency of the total cost calculated for each Project Group. Any proposal submitted for two (2) or more contracts shall specify a proposed discount (if any) due to economies of scale if awarded.

Please use the electronic bid sheets (Attachment 5). This cost proposal shall be submitted electronically to KC Sorgen at SorgenK@sSccCunty.net; no other forms of cost proposals shall be accepted.

4.3 SELECTION PROCESS & CONTRACT AWARD

Contract award will be to the most qualified and experienced Contractor that meets the minimum qualifications as determined by SAFCA. In addition to cost, consideration will be given to:

- The ability, capacity and skill of the Contractor to perform the Work;
- The ability of the Contractor to perform the Work within the time specified, without delay;
- The ability of the Contractor to perform the Work in a safe manner;
- The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience and efficiency of the Contractor; and
- The quality of the Contractor’s performance on previous work with the Agency (if any has occurred).
A selection panel will rate the proposals and, if necessary, interview the most highly qualified firms. If an interview is deemed necessary, the members of the Contractor’s team may be asked to make a presentation at this interview. Once the Contracts have been awarded, all Contractors will be notified of the results. Upon award of each contract, the selected Contractor/s shall be required to participate in a tour of sites with SAFCA staff prior to each maintenance season to discuss the scope of work.

SAFCA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to independently verify all of the above, and if necessary require additional information from bidders. Failure to comply with all the information required in this proposal may render the proposal non-responsive and may result in its rejection.