Request for Feasibility and Design Proposals

Camano Island State Park Tidal Marsh Reconnection, Island County, WA

OVERVIEW

The Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) is seeking proposals from qualified coastal engineering firms to conduct an analysis of tidal channel sustainability and, if results indicate a feasible project, provide preliminary design services for the Camano Island State Park Tidal Marsh Reconnection Project. SRSC is partnering with Washington State Parks to assess the feasibility of restoring natural hydrologic processes to a historic tidal marsh within the park in a manner that meets the ecological needs of juvenile Chinook and other native salmon, and is complementary to current and planned future recreational and educational uses of the park.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Camano Island State Park project site is a nearshore pocket estuary within Camano Island State Park at Lowell Point, situated at the lower end of a small watershed along the southwest shoreline of Camano Island. The former lagoon and salt marsh proposed for study here is separated from Saratoga Passage by a beach berm, and is bordered on the upland side by steep forested bluffs. An eroding feeder bluff to the south serves the beaches along the project site via processes of alongshore drift. A popular boat launch is present near the north end of the site, and areas south of the boat launch are commonly used for picnicking and other recreational activities. A picnic shelter and non-functioning rustic toilet facilities are present within this portion of the site.

The primary goal of the Camano Island State Park Tidal Marsh Reconnection Project is to sustainably reintroduce natural processes, conditions, functions, and biological responses to the historic tidal marsh at Lowell Point. Small, non-natal coastal lagoons and salt marshes such as this are typically supplied with freshwater via small streams or other sources and exhibit lower salinities; such sites have been shown to confer growth and survivorship advantages to juvenile salmonids relative to adjacent nearshore habitats (Beamer et al. 2005). Within both the Skagit River Delta and the Whidbey Basin nearshore, habitat availability is thought to be one of the greatest factors limiting Chinook production (SRSC and WDFW 2005, Island County 2005, SIRC 2005).

Modeling completed for SRSC by Battelle in 2010 as part of a preliminary analysis of restoration potential indicated that the historic lagoon footprint would be inundated through much of the tide cycle, but would drain completely during

low tides (McBride and Beamer 2010). Analysis of outlet channel stability indicated that flow velocities would be sufficient to clear 90% of the sediment grain sizes found along the shoreline at the project site. Channel configuration will have some bearing on the ability of the channel to clear the largest 10% of the sediment classes; typically, such sediments are deposited infrequently, during storm events. The modeled channel dimensions were based upon comparison to inlet width vs lagoon area for nearby pocket estuary sites (ibid.).

The current phase of the project will build upon the previous work by taking a more detailed look at channel configuration and evaluating whether a sustainable tidal connection can be achieved while working within existing and planned land use constraints and minimizing ongoing maintenance requirements. If results indicate that a sustainable tidal channel is feasible, the project will proceed with a preliminary design that can achieve ecological objectives while remaining consistent with the recreational and educational uses of the park envisioned by Washington State Parks staff and citizen user groups (Washington State Parks 2013). Restoration of daily tidal inundation, freshwater mixing, and access to the marsh by juvenile Chinook and other native salmon are critical objectives.

This engineering assessment will cover long-term self-sustainability of an outlet channel near the location of the existing boat launch (though other outlet locations may be explored), including evaluation of maintenance requirements and the potential to reduce the need for current ongoing maintenance of the boat launch through project design. Low maintenance costs and high long-term sustainability must be maximized while protecting infrastructure associated with the boat launch. State Parks has stated a desire for uninterrupted access to the boat launch and associated parking during construction. Limited interruption to other park facilities may be acceptable to Parks staff. Conceptual designs for access across and/or around the outlet channel will be developed for all alternatives. Reconfiguration of the boat launch to allow greater sediment transport will be considered in this assessment.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The following is a list of the key items of work. Consultants are encouraged to demonstrate their specific knowledge of the project site and to include any additional issues/ideas that may be appropriate to successful completion of this project.

- Geotechnical Investigation including field explorations and engineering analysis.
- Engineering analysis of tidal channel sustainability.
- Preliminary design drawings in AutoCAD format and preliminary design report.

Time is of the essence. The following schedule is desired:

Element	**Due Date**
RFP Announced	APRIL 4th
Proposals Due	APRIL 25th
Contract Award Notice	MAY 15th
Notice to Proceed	ASAP
Feasibility Assessment	SEPT 15th
Development of Preliminary Design Concepts	SEPT 30th
Selection of Preferred Design	OCT 31st

The consultant may propose alternative timing that reflects their anticipated effort and internal scheduling constraints.

PROVIDED INFORMATION

The following information will be provided by SRSC:

- A report on preliminary analysis of restoration potential conducted by SRSC in 2010.
- WA State Park land-use planning documents relevant to the site.
- WA State Parks archaeological reports relevant to the site.
- Aerial imagery and lidar data for the project area.
- Modeling data by Battelle, completed in 2010, detailing flow characteristics into and out of the historic lagoon footprint.

Additionally, SRSC staff have considerable experience performing topographic surveys and other field-based data collection, as well as with working with CAD and GIS data, and may be available to assist with certain survey, drafting, or GIS tasks.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All documents submitted become the property of SRSC and will not be returned. The document should not exceed 15 single-sided pages excluding cover sheet, resumes, and cost information, and must be signed by an agent authorized to represent the agency. Conformance to these requirements will be considered part of the consultant's capabilities.

Late submittals will not be accepted. Fax or e-mail submittals will not be considered. SRSC accepts no responsibility for misdirected or lost documents. SRSC reserves the right to reject any or all submittals and to waive any irregularities and/or informalities.

A respondent may withdraw a submittal at any time prior to the final submission time and date by sending written notification of its withdrawal, signed by an agent authorized to represent the agency. The respondent may thereafter submit a new submittal prior to the final submission date, or submit written modifications or additions to a submittal prior to the final submission date. Modifications offered in any other manner, oral or written, will not be considered. A final submittal cannot be changed or withdrawn after the final submission time and date.

Three (3) complete hard copies and one digital copy in PDF format of the proposal must be submitted to the following address:

Skagit River System Cooperative
PO Box 368
11426 Moorage Way
LaConner WA, 98257
ATTN: ERIC MICKELSON
emickelson@skagitcoop.org

Submittals and their envelopes should be clearly marked with the name and address of the Proponent and should be marked: "Camano Island State Park Tidal Marsh Reconnection".

Proposers should indicate their intent to bid, and may submit questions via email to SRSC's designated contract manager, Eric Mickelson at emickelson@skagitcoop.org. All questions and responses will be distributed to all bidders who have notified SRSC of their intent to bid. Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon. Bidders who have indicated their intent to bid will be notified of Addenda by SRSC, however, it is the bidder's responsibility to verify whether any Addenda were issued.

MANDATORY SUBMITTAL COMPONENTS

The following mandatory components are to be submitted as part of this RFP. Submittals not containing these elements will receive no further consideration.

1. Cover letter signed by proponent(s): Include whether the submittal is being made on behalf of an individual or a business/organization. The letter should be signed by the designated individual who has signing authority for the firm. Include information regarding the business experience of the principals involved by enclosing a resume or the like for your firm. Note acceptance to all terms and conditions of the RFP and agreement to be bound by statements and representations made in the submittal and to any agreement resulting from the same.

2 Pages Maximum

2. Approach to the project: Describe your approach towards assessing feasibility and design for this project along with any special ideas, techniques or suggestions that you believe will streamline the process. Include a proposed schedule if different from the RFP timetable. Describe how the analysis and design will integrate geotechnical results and environmental or land-use constraints related to constructing a channel in an intertidal setting. Identify data and other needs from SRSC project staff, and describe your general approach as it pertains to collaborating with other project team members who may include SRSC and State Parks staff, other consultants, or public stakeholders. Identify CAD drawing sheets that will be provided.

4 Pages Maximum

3. Firm Experience, Organization: Describe the experience of the firm and any proposed subcontractor(s) with related projects of a similar nature. Identify the Project Manager, including his/her specific qualifications and experience. Show the organization of the proposed design team and why they were chosen for this project. Provide a minimum of three project references for comparable scale work, with client contact and contract cost information.

6 Pages Maximum

4. Staff Qualifications & Availability: Describe your staff's qualifications and training for this type of work, or the tasks identified. To extent possible, include information demonstrating:

- Project manager has Washington State Professional Engineer's (PE) License
- Experience with similar projects in Washington counties
- Knowledge of Federal, state and local permitting requirements
- Sustainable construction practices
- Hydraulic design requirements per current DOE Stormwater Manual for Western WA
- AutoCAD software capabilities

3 Pages Maximum (resumes not included in page count)

5. Proposed Effort: Project will be contracted under a "Time and Materials, Not to Exceed" basis. Provide proposed hours by staff discipline and level, expected equipment/overhead costs, and expected geotechnical subcontractor cost if applicable.

CLOSING DATE

All submittals must be received by **5:00 p.m., PST, on April 25th, 2017,** at the Skagit River System Cooperative Office either delivered in person to 11426

Moorage Way or mailed to PO Box 368, La Conner, WA 98257. Late submittals will not be accepted and will not be returned to the proponent.

PREPARATION COSTS

SRSC shall not be responsible for submittal preparation costs, including oral interviews (if held), nor costs including attorney fees associated with any challenge to the determination of the highest ranked consultant and/or award of contract and/or rejection of any submittal. By submitting a proposal, each consultant agrees to be bound in this respect and waives all claims to such costs and fees.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Evaluation Committee

The selection of a consultant for this project will be made from the list of qualified consultants responding to this Request for Proposal (RFP), and will be selected by SRSC employees in consultation with Washington State Parks staff. The submittals will be evaluated on the basis of experience, qualifications, schedule, approach to the project and any innovative ideas for making the project proceed quickly and smoothly.

Firms that are interested should be willing to enter into a service agreement with SRSC and comply with SRSC's insurance and any federal contract and EEO requirements (these requirements will not be negotiable).

Evaluation Criteria

SRSC will use the following criteria against which submittals will be evaluated:

1. Project approach and cost effectiveness

2. Design team organization and qualifications, availability of staff

3. References/past performance of firm on similar projects

All submittals become the property of the Skagit River System Cooperative and will not be returned.

Selection Process

A selection committee of individuals representing SRSC and Washington State Parks will evaluate the submittals. SRSC reserves the right to award a contract solely on the written qualification submittal. SRSC also reserves the right to request oral interviews with the highest ranked firms (short list). The purpose of these interviews is to allow expansion upon the written responses. The highest

ranked consultant may be invited to enter into contract negotiation with SRSC. If an agreement cannot be reached, the second highest ranked consultant may be contacted for negotiations. This process may continue until successful negotiations have been achieved. SRSC reserves the right to terminate negotiations with any consultant should it be in the SRSC's best interest.