



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 17300  
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

January 17, 2024

**REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF INTEREST  
W9126G-24-2-SOI-0335**

*Applicants must be a member in one of the following Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units  
Regions:*

Colorado Plateau and Gulf Coast Regions

**Project Title:** FIELD SUPPORT FOR WATERS OF THE US AND OTHER SURFACE WATER  
PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT REVIEW PURSUANT TO THE SIKES ACT  
ON AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS

A cooperative agreement is being offered ONLY to members of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Program Region(s) identified above. Award will be made upon mutual agreement and acceptance of the terms and conditions contained in the request for proposal and the of the recipient's CESU Master Agreement. Note the established CESU Program indirect rate is 17.5%.

The primary objective of this project is providing technical expertise, strategic evaluation, and assistance to ensure that Air Force (AF), federal, and state environmental regulations are met while minimizing the impact of AF activities on natural resources including Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and overseas natural resources under control of the AF or governed by DoD developed Final Governing Standards (FGS). See the attached Scope of Objectives (SOO) for further details.

Responses to this Request for Statements of Interest will be used to identify potential organizations for this project. Approximately **\$450,593** is currently available to fund this project. Additional funding may also be available to the successful recipient for optional tasks and/or follow on work in subsequent years.

**NOTE:** In accordance with the *Sikes Act* (Sec. 103A [16 USC 670c-1]) "the Secretary of a military department may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, Indian Tribes, non-governmental organizations, and individuals" This project is in support of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, as directed in the *Sikes Act*, and as a result, it is anticipated that a cooperative agreement through the CESU program will be awarded.

**Period of Performance.** The base year of agreement will extend 12 months from date of award. Six additional Follow-On Periods of 12 months each are possible subject to availability of funds.

**Description of Anticipated Work:** See attached Statement of Objectives

**NOTE:** At this time we are only requesting that you demonstrate available qualifications and capability for performing similar or same type of work by submitting a Statement of Interest. A full proposal and budget are NOT requested at this time.

**Preparation of your Statement of Interest:** Provide the following (Maximum length: 2 pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font):

1. Name, Organization, Cage Code, Unique Entity ID, CESU Region, and Contact Information (Email)
2. Brief Statement of Qualifications (including):
  - a. Biographical sketch of the Principal Investigator, to include specific experience and capabilities in areas related to this project's requirements
  - b. Relevant past projects and clients with brief descriptions of these projects
  - c. Staff, faculty or students available to work on this project and their areas of expertise
  - d. Brief description of other capabilities to successfully complete the project: (e.g., equipment, laboratory facilities, greenhouse facilities, field facilities, etc.)

#### **Submission of Your Statement of Interest**

1. Statements of Interest are due by 5:00 P.M., Central Time, on **16 February 2024**.
2. Submit your Statement of Interest via e-mail attachments or direct questions to:

Sheri Vendemia  
Grants Specialist  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [cheryl.r.vendemia@usace.army.mil](mailto:cheryl.r.vendemia@usace.army.mil)  
Office: (817) 253-3341

Brian Hesford  
Project Manager  
USACE, Fort Worth District  
Email: [brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil)  
Office: 402-200-8268

**Review of Statements Received:** All statements of interest received from a member of the CESU Region(s) identified above will be evaluated by a board comprised of one or more people at the receiving installation or activity, who will determine which statement(s) best meet the program objectives: offer the most highly qualified Principal Investigator, have the most relevant experience and the highest capability to successfully meet the program objectives. Submitters whose statements are determined to best meet the program objectives will be invited to submit a full proposal.

**Timeline for Review of Statements of Interest:** RSOL's are required to be posted on [grants.gov](https://grants.gov) for 30 days prior to the Government making a decision and requesting full proposals.

Thank you for your interest in our Cooperative Agreements Program.

*Paige E. Poorman*  
PAIGE E. POORMAN  
Grants Officer

Attachment: Statement of Objectives

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

### **FIELD SUPPORT FOR WATERS OF THE US AND OTHER SURFACE WATER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT REVIEW PURSUANT TO THE SIKES ACT ON AIR FORCE INSTALLATIONS**

Article III, (D) of the Applicable Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CESU)

#### **1. Purpose**

1.0 General. This request seeks to provide natural resources management, specifically water quality support to the United States Air Force (AF) for the implementation of installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) prepared in support of the Sikes Act (Title 16 United States Code, Section 670). The Cooperator will provide expertise for Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act to support the Air Force installations identified in this Statement of Objectives (SOO) and as directed by the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Environmental Directorate, Technical Division (AFCEC/CZTQ). The Government will not exercise any supervision or control over the Cooperator or Cooperator personnel providing services under the agreement. Cooperator personnel shall be accountable solely to the Cooperator.

1.1. This work involves: providing technical expertise, strategic evaluation, and assistance to ensure that AF, federal, and state environmental regulations are met while minimizing the impact of AF activities on natural resources including Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and overseas natural resources under control of the AF or governed by DoD developed Final Governing Standards (FGS). This support includes installation, regional, and enterprise-wide wastewater, stormwater and drinking water programs and initiatives focusing on the Clean Water Act (CWA), Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and Final Governing Standards (if applicable).

1.2. Policy and Guidance. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670 *et seq.*) provides the direction for the management of natural resources on military installations.

Article I B of the master agreement states the objectives of the CESU are to: provide research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their potential partners; develop a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social sciences needed to address resource issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level; and place special emphasis on the working collaboration among federal agencies and universities and their related partner institutions.

#### **2. Authority**

Authority to enter into a Cooperative Agreements (CA) for the work: Section 670c-1, Title 16 United States Code, Sikes Act.

2.1. In agreement with the above stated goals, the Cooperator agrees to provide the necessary personnel, equipment, and materials required to implement, in part, AFCEC's responsibilities

pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.), the Sikes Act Improvement Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.), the Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq. (1972), the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), and applicable implementing regulations, such as Air Force Instruction 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*, and the *Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), all CESU projects must carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation, instead of acquiring goods or services for the exclusive direct benefit of the United States Government. Examples of carrying out a public purpose may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Project results are made available to a wide audience (including nonfederal entities).
- Project results/outputs add to the scientific literature/knowledge base, with applicability and utility beyond the scope of the project footprint/study area.
- Academic and other nonfederal partner institutions (and their personnel) gain professional experience, increase knowledge, and develop skills and abilities.

2.2. In accordance with section 6305 – *Using cooperative agreements* of the *Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977* (31 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), substantial involvement is expected between the Department of Defense and the recipient when carrying out the activity contemplated by the cooperative agreement. The DoD agrees to participate at a national level in support of the CESU program as accepted in the Master MOU for the establishment and continuation of the CESU program Article II 1-4 and Article VI 1-7.

The installation further (hence DoD) agrees to provide substantial involvement as directed under the appropriate master agreement to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Air Force POC's are involved in development of study methodology, data gathering, analysis, and/or report writing.
- Air Force POC's are active participates and collaborates in carrying out the project plan of work, reviews and approves activities, helps train or select project staff or trainees.
- Air Force POC's incurs in-kind or direct expenditures in carrying out the activities specified in the project agreement. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Providing staff time to work on the project.

### **3.0 Description of Objectives**

The consultation and review shall support AF compliance with environmental requirements to protect water resources of the U.S and HN water resources under control of US Forces. The following can be expected for the installations subject to review:

- Stormwater: Installations may have multi-sector general permits, MS4 permits, individual NPDES permits, discharge consents, or FGS standards with compliance requirements. Outfalls may include direct discharges, sheet runoff, diversion structures, and oil-water separators. Stormwater related documents will be provided for review such as permits, management and pollution prevention plans, monitoring records, maps, system drawings, etc. Renewed stormwater permits and new regulations may place additional requirements on AF installations discharging to WOTUS, requiring expert analysis and assistance.

- **Wastewater:** Installations may have state permits, federal permits, pretreatment permits, discharge consents/agreements, or FGS standards with compliance requirements. Wastewater related documents will be provided for review - permits, management and pollution prevention plans, monitoring records, maps, system drawings, etc. Renewed wastewater permits and new regulations may place additional requirements on AF installations discharging to WOTUS, requiring expert analysis and assistance.
- **Drinking Water:** Installations may be regulated public water systems subject to federal or state regulation, or subject to the FGS of the Host Nation. Documents and plans which may require review may include O&M manuals, drinking water system sampling data for distributed water as well as drinking water sources, Water and Wellhead Protection Plans, and system drawing and maps. New drinking water regulations may place additional requirements on installations, requiring expert analysis and assistance.

**3.1. Task 1: Environmental Compliance Program Review:** The cooperator shall provide support, document review, site visits to identified installations, and data analysis, in coordination with the AF Water Quality Subject Matter Expert (SME), Installation Support Section (ISS) and/or Air Force Installation Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) detachment (Det) and the installation. The review shall include the following:

**3.1.1. Technical Expertise, Evaluation and Assistance:** As described in section 1.1 above, provide technical expertise, strategic evaluation, and assistance for AF Water Quality programs. Installations requiring specific support are to be determined and will likely require evaluation and assistance based on changes in permit conditions or emerging regulations as mentioned in the opening paragraphs of Section 3.0. This may require preparation of reports, strategic plans and/or recommendations. Support may be provided remotely but travel to multiple installations is expected.

The NFE will be required to travel to 5 installations or equivalent travel and one Civil Engineering (CE) Governance in-person meeting such as an in-person AF Water Panel (1 or 2 person(s) per round trip) during each period of performance. For the base period of performance, installations to support will likely include the following installations in the first year (other installations to be determined for subsequent follow-on periods) and areas of focus are subject to change:

- **JBA – Andrews, MD:** Technical review related to wastewater and stormwater noncompliance and provide findings and recommendations for corrective action. Includes investigation of on-going issues with pH in wastewater discharge per base pretreatment permit. Additional challenges include implementation of stormwater permit under the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.
- **611<sup>th</sup> CES, Alaska:** The 611<sup>th</sup> is responsible for multiple remote sites in Alaska and the Pacific. The base operating contractor performance has resulted in multiple violations for stormwater and wastewater permits. Review includes investigation of possible mitigation and corrective actions. The 611<sup>th</sup> is based at JBER-Elmendorf in Anchorage, AK, but a visit to a remote site may be required.
- **Scott AFB, IL:** Investigate on-going issues with the wastewater treatment plant

- (WWTP) performance and make recommendations for mitigation.
- Travis AFB, CA: Support technical review and analysis for on-going cleanup/containment of release from bulk fuel release impacting surface water and provide recommendations.
- Moody AFB, GA: Review draft NPDES permit including revised effluent limits and evaluate current capacity of WWTP to meet limits and provide recommendations for possible alternatives to meet limits.

In addition to site-specific reviews above, provide engineering analysis and review of emerging issues affecting the AF enterprise. Examples of emerging water quality requirements include but is not limited to:

- New requirements due to PFAS requirements in legislation, regulations and permits. This may include drinking water regulation, NPDES permits, pretreatment permits, and biosolids disposal. This may include review for installation or enterprise level strategic evaluation and assistance.
- Source studies for emerging contaminants and recommendations for reduction.
- Technical review of new permit requirements and recommendations for mitigating issues such as pollutant reduction, operational modifications and/or additional treatment. Recommendations may include a report with design recommendations and rough order of magnitude costs.
- Consultation for how to meet new drinking water regulatory requirements.
- Presentation of findings to AF and DoD governance bodies such as (but not limited to) the AF Water Panel and associated working groups, the AF Holistic Utilities Systems Working Group, AF environmental symposiums and the DoD Clean Water Act Services Steering Committee.

### **3.2. Task 2: Strategic Evaluation and Assistance [Recurring]:**

Provide dedicated technical expertise to assist with strategic evaluation of CWA and SDWA program development and implementation on federal lands. Advise on technical requirements and capabilities related to enterprise wide water quality programs. This support will be provided directly to AFCEC/CZTQ in San Antonio but may work remotely if approved by the AFCEC Point of Contact. If working remotely, expect travel for in-person meeting at least quarterly to AFCEC in San Antonio or alternate approved location for AF meetings or site visits. This may include but is not limited to:

- Reviewing AF training and guidance materials to identify opportunities to improve enterprise-wide compliance. This includes training materials for Air Force Institute of Technology courses (Water Quality Management Course, Storm Water Construction Seminar, general TEACH Courses) AF CE Playbooks and AFCEC/CZ outreach programs.
- Provide technical expertise for CE Governance forums such as the AF Water Panel (including work groups and teams), including additional travel at least once per year.
- Review templates for AFCEC standard Environmental Management Plans (EMP) for Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP).

- Provide engineering review for existing and emerging water regulations impacts for AF installations enterprise wide. Provide recommendations for implementation and summary of impacts.
- Review technical documents such as NPDES permits, Notices of Violation, and SWPPP/SWMPs as well as compliance deliverables such as lead service line (LSL) inventories and corrective action studies.
- Provide technical assistance for installations for matters such as SWPPPs and LSL inventories.

### **3.3. Optional Task 3: Strategic Evaluation and Assistance for Overseas Military**

**Installation:** As described in section 1.1 of this SOO, provide technical expertise, strategic evaluation, and assistance for AF Water Quality programs at overseas US Military installations. Installations are to be determined and will likely require evaluation and assistance based on changes in permit conditions or emerging regulations as mentioned in the opening paragraphs of section 3.0. This may require preparation of reports, strategic plans and/or recommendations. Support may be provided remotely however travel to multiple installations is expected.

The NFE will be required to travel to up to 2 installations or equivalent travel (1 or 2 person(s) per round trip) during each period of performance.

Examples of emerging water quality requirements include but is not limited to:

New requirements due to PFAS requirements in DoD and AF policy, final governing standards (FGS) or DoD Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document (OEBGD). This may include review for installation or enterprise level strategic evaluation and assistance.

Source studies for emerging contaminants and recommendations for reduction.

Consultation for how to meet new drinking water regulatory requirements including lead service line inventory and management.

### **3.4. Optional Task 4: Strategic Evaluation, Review and Support for Lead Service Lines (LSL) on Military Installations:**

Provide enterprise-wide support for completion of LSL Inventories for military installations not subject to the requirements of the EPA Lead and Copper Rule (40 CFR 141.80-84). Provide analysis of current state of drinking water service data in the AF authoritative data set, recommendations to complete an inventory of service lines across the AF enterprise including cost and level of effort for inventory and removal of LSLs and galvanized lines requiring replacement per the LCR criteria. Assist in developing strategic plan for LSL inventory and replacement for the AF enterprise. Provide consultation to AF response to the report to Congress required under the 2023 NDAA for Report on Lead Service Lines and Plumbing. The NFE will be required to travel to up to 2 installations or equivalent travel (1 or 2 person(s) per round trip) to conduct a pilot LSL inventory for installations not subject to the LCR and make at least one presentation to AF CE Governance.

### **3.5. Optional Task 5: Strategic Evaluation, Review and Support for PFAS source studies on Military Installations:**

Provide study for sources of PFAS in wastewater and stormwater for up to three installations. Work may include sampling for up to 5 outfalls or sewer nodes to help



identify levels of contamination and review of potential industrial and background sources of PFAS. Travel will be required for up to three installations in the contiguous United States.

### **3.6. Optional Task 6: Strategic Evaluation, Review and Support for PFAS**

**wastewater/stormwater treatment feasibility studies on Military Installations:** Provide review of feasibility and possible technologies for treatment of PFAS in wastewater and stormwater for up to three installations. Work may include rough order magnitude estimates and recommendations for further Engineering studies/design for PFAS treatment to meet new permit effluent limits. Travel will be required for up to three installations in the contiguous United States.

**4.0. Reports, Deliverables, and Schedule.** Deliverables shall be submitted in electronic format to the identified USACE and USAF points of contact.

4.1. Progress Reports (Quarterly). The Cooperator shall submit quarterly progress reports summarizing activities as follows:

- List of the activities per military installation to be identified for assistance.
- List of decision meetings, briefings and follow on activities.
- List of meetings attended including purpose/objective, decisions, and attendees.
- List of major action item support, policy review, and taskers accomplished.
- Status of project progress, problems identified, solutions implemented, and schedule adjustments if appropriate.
- List of all draft and final technical reports provide for installations.
- Any critical communications not reported in other sections.

A project schedule shall be submitted with the first quarterly progress report. Schedule changes shall be presented as appropriate with subsequent progress reports.

Approximate types and numbers of deliverables to be submitted to the USACE POC (electronic only) and USAF POC (electronic and/or hard copy as requested for each item) will include:

4.2. Training Materials (optional): Three (3) summaries recommending updates.

4.3. Technical Memorandums: Five (5) Technical Reports – Technical Consultation, Review and Recommendations Summary per installations TBD. Three (3) Technical Reports – Enterprise Strategic Evaluation and Assistance.

4.4. Briefing Packages: Three (3) briefing packages

4.5. Trip Reports: Up to Six (6) trip reports – five (5) for installation site visits (Task 3.1), one (1) supporting CE Governance and/or AFCEC/CZ Outreach (Task 3.2).

4.6. Task 3.3, if awarded, two trip reports or other recommendations reports.

4.7. Task 3.4, if awarded, two trip reports or other recommendations reports.

4.8 Task 3.5, if awarded, three trip reports or other recommendations reports.

4.9 Task 3.6, if awarded, three trip reports or other recommendations reports.

## **5.0 Qualifications**

5.1. Cooperator personnel assigned to support the Water Quality Program shall have a demonstrable level of knowledge, skill, and experience in working with the Clean Drinking Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Final Governing Standards and other associated environmental laws and executive orders.

5.2. Cooperator personnel shall meet, at minimum, the professional standards outlined by recognized certifications such as professional engineer or professional geologist licensing or applicable industry certifications, as well as 10 years of prior experience with wastewater, stormwater and drinking water compliance. Specific experience preferable in managing compliance with NPDES permits and/or public water systems meeting Safe Drinking Water Act regulations. The cooperator shall provide technically proficient personnel with skills required to carry out the requirements of SOO.

5.2. Cooperator personnel shall have a functional knowledge of Microsoft Office software applications. Knowledge of computer software is required to write correspondence, update social media, complete forms, and records as to Air Force policies and standards, manage electronic and paper filing systems, and develop and manage databases using Microsoft Excel and Access.

5.3. Cooperator personnel must meet the qualifications and be approved by the government prior to placement by the cooperator. The cooperator personnel performing this work will be required to frequently perform field work and shall be experienced with working in outdoor conditions.

## **6.0 Period of Performance**

6.1. The base period of agreement will extend 12 months from date of award. All base optional tasks will have a 12-month period of performance.

6.2. Six (6) Follow-On Periods extending 12 months each are anticipated subject to availability of funds.

## **7.0 Quality Control**

The Cooperator shall develop and maintain an effective quality control program to ensure services are performed in accordance with this SOO. The Cooperator shall develop and implement procedures to identify and prevent defective services.

## **8.0 Points of Contact**

USACE POC  
Brian Hesford, PM  
402-200-8268  
brian.d.hesford@usace.army.mil

Mr. Kevin Leachman  
AFCEC/CZTQ Water Quality Subject Matter Expert 2261 Hughes Ave., Ste 133  
JBSA Lackland, Texas 78236-9853 Phone: 210-925-3231  
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## **9.0 Administration**

9.1. The resulting cooperative agreement may be administered through a CESU only upon mutual agreement and official authorization by both parties of the acceptance of the application of the CESU Network IDC rate (17.5%).

9.2. Any resulting cooperative agreement will be subject to and recipient/cooperator shall comply with 2 CFR 200.313 “Equipment”, 200.314 “Supplies”, and 200.315 “Intangible Property” which includes use of research data.

[End of SOO]