

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

Date: **August 4, 2022**

To: **Governing Board Members**

From: **Sally Gee, Project Manager**

Through: **Mark Stanley, Executive Officer**

Subject: **Item 13: Consideration of a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to negotiate and award one or more contracts solicited from a Request for Proposals-Secondary for expanded coastal wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming at the Los Cerritos Wetlands**

RECOMMENDATION: That the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) authorize the Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and award one or more contracts solicited from a Request for Proposals-Secondary for expanded coastal wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming at the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The LCWA is seeking one or more qualified individuals, firms, or entities to provide consultant services for coastal wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming to implement the grant funds received from AES Redondo Beach, LLC. This funding shall be used to support planning, engineering, restoration, and rehabilitation of the Los Cerritos Wetlands. The services above are to be procured through a Request for Proposals-Secondary (RFP) process and are to be provided within LCWA owned/operated properties. Desired qualifications include expertise in coastal wetlands restoration (tidal and upland) and experience in leading stewardship programming.

The consultant will design a habitat restoration program to supplement current restoration efforts and will utilize community members and volunteer groups to assist with implementation of the restoration program whenever feasible. Alternatively, the consultant may propose and implement a community stewardship program to expand on current opportunities from the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program. Proposers may recommend new restoration programs, elect to recommend programs for implementation from the [Stewardship Program Vision Plan 2018](#), and/or recommend education only programs/activities to increase access to and promote knowledge about the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Proposer recommendations will be referred to as "Program(s)" below.

Some potential Program efforts may include:

- Targeted restoration in areas that have been difficult to restore, for example due to past land use and harsh soils
- Planting native coastal wetlands species not currently existing at Zedler Marsh, including special status plants
- Expanding mulefat scrub habitat for Least Bell's Vireo and other species
- Propagation of plants from locally sourced seeds for restoration at the on-site nursery
- Regular trash clean up, maintenance of plants, and/or weeding
- Educational programming with schools, colleges, or universities

Potential Contractors shall be responsible for Program Development, Implementation of Approved Program(s), Partnership Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement, and Reporting and Contract Administration. All Program activities must be completed by March 30, 2024, and each Program shall not exceed a budget of \$100,000 for the duration of the activities (including all materials, supplies, and related project administration costs). The Contractor may be requested to submit a round 2 Program plan for implementation of AES Year 2 Funding under the discretion of the LCWA Executive Officer.

At the timing of this board meeting, the RFP solicitation is ongoing and active. Thus this action would authorize the Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and award one or more contracts from proposals submitted as part the RFP when the solicitation closes. The LCWA has 21-months from July 19, 2022, to expend the grant funds, and this action would allow implementation to occur without delay. Contract(s) is/are anticipated to be awarded beginning September 2022.

BACKGROUND: On May 5, 2022, the LCWA Board authorized the Executive Officer to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with AES Redondo Beach, LLC to accept funds from their Voluntary Environmental Benefits Grants Program in the amount of \$1,000,000 (Resolution 2022-04). The MOA stated that:

1. Language of substantial significance from the draft MOA:
 - 1.1. AES will grant to the LCWA \$1,000,000 as part of their voluntary environmental benefits program. The funds will be transferred to the LCWA over two years in two lump sum transactions, Year 1 in 2022 and Year 2 in 2023 with timing of transfer to be further negotiated.
 - 1.2. LCWA will submit a work plan for review and approval by AES within 30 days after execution of the MOA for Year One (1) that will include a task list, timeline, and budget for expenditure; the Year Two (2) workplan shall be submitted for review to AES in late 2022. The expenditure period for each year's budget is to be further negotiated to be satisfactory to the AES grant program timeline but allow adequate time for LCWA to achieve the proposed workplan.
 - 1.3. LCWA will be responsible for carrying out the workplan and securing the necessary contracts and permits. LCWA shall maintain adequate insurance as outlined in the MOA for the duration of the workplan.
 - 1.4. LCWA shall provide AES with annual reporting and accounting on the use of the grant funds, and records shall be made available for a period of three years after expenditure of all grant funds.
2. Elements of the workplan may support the following, subject to review and approval by AES:
 - 2.1 Existing and new stewardship programs to restore LCW at Zedler Marsh and the Southern LCW Site, including staff time, planning, permitting, materials, and supply costs
 - 2.2. Ecological monitoring for the LCW
 - 2.3 Planning, permitting, and final design for the Southern LCW Restoration Project.

2.4 Continued maintenance and operation of LCWA owned properties, including materials and supply costs

2.5 Administrative costs for the LCWA not exceeding 5%

FISCAL: On October 19, 2021, the State Water Resource Control Board extended the compliance date to end AES Once Through Cooling (OTC) operations at the Redondo Beach Generating Station (RBGS) from December 31, 2021, to December 31, 2023. As a result, AES committed to investing in additional voluntary environmental benefits for regional watershed improvements and community benefits for receiving that extension. That investment is in addition to, and separate from, existing OTC Policy mitigation mandates. AES will grant \$1,000,000 to the LCWA over two years. Funding for the contract(s) solicited through the RFP will be funded by Year 1 AES funds. Roughly 40% of the Year 1 AES funds have been budgeted for habitat restoration and stewardship.

August 4, 2022 – Item 13

RESOLUTION 2022-11

RESOLUTION OF THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY (LCWA)
AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO NEGOTIATE AND AWARD
ONE OR MORE CONTRACTS SOLICITED FROM A REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS-SECONDARY FOR EXPANDED COASTAL WETLANDS
HABITAT RESTORATION AND COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAMMING AT THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS

WHEREAS, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (Authority) has been established between the Coastal Conservancy, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the City of Seal Beach and the City of Long Beach to facilitate the acquisition, protection, conservation, restoration, maintenance and operation an environmental enhancement of the Los Cerritos Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the LCWA has further been established to focus on projects which will provide open space, habitat restoration, and watershed improvement projects within the Los Cerritos Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the LCWA has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with AES Redondo Beach, LLC to accept funds (Grant Funds) from their Voluntary Environmental Benefits Grants Program in the amount of \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Funds are to be utilized to support planning, engineering, restoration, and rehabilitation of the Los Cerritos Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the LCWA has received the Year 1 Grant Funds totaling \$400,000 to be expended within 21-months from July 19, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the LCWA will issue a Request for Proposals-Secondary (RFP) seeking one or more individuals, entities, or firms to provide coastal wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming at the Los Cerritos Wetlands; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved, that the LCWA hereby:

1. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. FINDS that this action is consistent with the purposes and objectives of the LCWA.
3. FINDS that this action is consistent with the Grant Funds.
4. ADOPTS the staff report dated August 4, 2022.

5. AUTHORIZES the Executive Officer, or designee, to negotiate and award one or more contracts solicited from a Request for Proposals-Secondary for expanded coastal wetlands habitat restoration and community stewardship programming at the Los Cerritos Wetlands.

~ End of Resolution ~

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY
on August 4, 2022.

Joe Kalmick, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Elizabeth St. John
Deputy Attorney General