

Request For Proposals

**Carpinteria Salt Marsh Invasive Sea Lavender Eradication  
Project**

Response Due: June 1, 2018 at 5:00pm

Contact:

**Devin Best, Executive Director**

65 South Main Street, Suite 107 Templeton, CA 93465

[devin@us-ltrcd.org](mailto:devin@us-ltrcd.org) (805) 434-0396 ext. 3186



## Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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### 1. Introduction

This request for proposals (RFP) pertains to the treatment of an invasive sea lavender present in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh estuary. The European Sea Lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*) grows in salt marshes just above the tideline. It can be identified by small short rounded leaves that are 1-4 cm long and pale pink clusters of 1-3 flowers evenly distributed around the plant. It grows lower to the ground and the flowers are not as tightly clustered as on its relative Algerian Sea Lavender (*Limonium ramosissium*). Plants grow stems up to 20-30 cm high when flowering.

Treatment work may include manual removal, solarization, and in extreme circumstances, the application of chemical herbicides. Chemical treatment will be a last resort, utilize only those herbicides allowed by permit and would be undertaken with the oversight of, and prior approval from, the University of California Natural Reserve System (UCNRS). Most of the existing populations of *Limonium duriusculum* are located on UCNRS property. However, the project will entail surveying the entire 230-acre estuary to assess whether any new individuals/populations have spread to new locations. The US-LT RCD and UCNRS will assist with landowner access agreements where necessary.

As part of the project, the Contractor will be required to submit a research proposal to the Director of the UC NRS Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve, Dr. Andrew Brooks, for approval prior to the initiation of work.

The work under this contract is being funded by a grant to the Upper Salinas- Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD) from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB). All known sites and any new occurrences will be treated each year until 95% control is achieved by the end of 2021, meaning that 95% of the plants for the target species identified in the initial survey will be eliminated through thorough repeat treatments. Some may remain because they were overlooked, they were not treated thoroughly, or they are new plants. Subsequent vigilant monitoring of project sites is essential for long-term conservation success, to ensure that no new plants emerge from the soil seed bank.

Interested consultants are invited to submit qualifications in accordance with the requirements of this Request for Proposal by Friday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 5:00 pm.

### 1.1 Background

The purpose of this project is to eradicate European Sea Lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*) from the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. *Limonium duriusculum* was discovered in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh in the early 1990s. The UC Natural Reserve System successfully treated the largest population known to occur within the marsh in 1996, however, due to large recruitment and re-colonization from sources either within or outside of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh and budgetary restrictions, the population returned. Efforts toward eradication have been ongoing since the discovery of the *Limonium duriusculum* on the site.



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### 1.2 Project Goal

The ultimate goal for the project is eradication of *Limonium duriusculum*. The criteria established to evaluate the success of the restoration goals are as follows:

1. Success of treatment after each treatment season. To be determined through empirical and observable evidence collected in annual post treatment surveys.
2. Post-treatment surveys shall be repeatable to allow for direct comparison of results from one treatment year to the next.
3. Reduce population of *Limonium duriusculum* by 95% as relates to the initial survey findings from 2017.

### 2. Scope of Services

Under the WCB grant agreement, approximately \$107,525.00 is reserved for the Contractor to perform the following services over a period of five years:

*Conduct Monitoring Surveys.* The selected contractor will conduct annual surveys to monitor and quantify the population of invasive sea lavender in the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve and surrounding areas. The selected contractor(s) will be responsible for landowner contact and interaction in order to schedule survey and treatment. The selected contractor(s) will undertake and complete monitoring survey each season at a time of year conducive with species identification. The selected contractor(s) will maintain detailed records of monitoring surveys that will be included in a monitoring report due to the US-LT RCD upon completion of the monitoring season no later than 1 week in advance of treatment. The selected contractor(s) will produce monitoring reports including at the least: date, time, weather conditions, lat/long of survey start point, direction of travel, lat/long of all points of directional alteration, the new direction travelled, location of invasive *Limonium* recorded, stem count of invasive *Limonium* at each recorded site, life cycle stage (pre/post flowering stage). The selected contractor is responsible for producing quality maps of the survey area, depicting the survey locations and results. The selected contractor shall provide GIS shapefiles of the survey information collected.

*Treatment.* The selected contractor(s) will actively treat all known populations of invasive sea lavender. Methods will be chosen based on previous research and consultation with state and federal wildlife agencies where sensitive species are present. Manual treatment (hand pulling) will be used in sensitive areas. Solarization<sup>1</sup> may be used in areas where the species exist as a

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<sup>1</sup> Solarization is the process of using the heat from the sun's rays to denature and kill plant species.



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monoculture. Chemical treatment may be used as an alternative method in non-sensitive areas only and may only be undertaken by a contractor holding a current Qualified Applicator's License. Joel Trumbo, Pesticide Advisor at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, has proposed the following methodology for sites with larger populations of *Limonium*:

- Hand-pull around populations of salt-marsh bird's-beak
- All herbicide applications are to be made using hand-held equipment (*i.e.* backpacks). No broadcast applications.
- All herbicide applications must be made when wind speeds are <3 mph
- No herbicide applications can be made when rainfall is forecast within the next 24 hrs
- Glyphosate hand-spray at distances of 3 - 50 ft (preference to applications made after salt-marsh bird's-beak seed dispersal, shield/tarp to protect salt-marsh bird's-beak if application made prior to seed dispersal)
- Chlorsulfuron use at distances >50 ft from salt-marsh bird's-beak (preference to applications made after SMBB seed dispersal, shield/tarp to protect SMBB if application made prior to seed dispersal)

### *Timing*

*Project Coordination.* The selected contractor will work with the District and the UC NRS to produce progress reports and relevant data to fulfill obligations under the WCB grant agreement.

### **3. Project Schedule**

<u>Initial Monitoring Survey</u>	July 2018
<u>Year 1 Treatment</u>	September 2018-March 2019
<u>Year 1 Monitoring and Efficacy Surveys</u>	September 2018-March 2019
<u>Year 2 Treatment</u>	September 2019-March 2020
<u>Year 2 Monitoring and Efficacy Surveys</u>	September 2019-March 2020
<u>Year 3 Treatment</u>	September 2020-March 2021
<u>Year 3 Monitoring and Efficacy Surveys</u>	September 2020-March 2021
<u>Year 4 Treatment</u>	September 2021-March 2022
<u>Year 4 Monitoring and Efficacy Surveys</u>	September 2021-March 2022

#### **4. Proposal Content and Format**

Consultants will clearly indicate in their proposals the services, as described above, and their ability to perform those services to the District.

The following information will be included in the proposal:

##### **4.1 Executive Summary**

Include a concise synopsis of the proposal focused on how the Consultant will address the District's key issues with the Consultant's approach to the services described above.

##### **4.2 Qualifications**

Because of the time sensitivity and critical nature of the work described within this RFP, the District seeks services from highly experienced and qualified firms/team. The firm/team must be able to staff this project with qualified individuals, experienced in the key technical disciplines needed, who will remain committed to this work from inception through completion. A clear and comprehensive organization chart must be presented to illustrate the organization of the team and key team members, including any subconsultants.

###### **4.2.1 Firm/Team Qualifications**

Provide a statement of the firm's/team's qualifications, including a brief resume(s) of key staff members and/or subconsultants proposed to work on the project. Include the office locations of key staff and subconsultants. The information should be focused on experience on similar and/or complementary projects. The roles proposed for each subconsultant as well as their qualifications in that area will also be identified in the proposal. Your ability to identify and highlight key staff in the proposal will be considered when evaluating your understanding of the project. The consultant's team members should be able to exhibit and understand the appropriate licenses, certifications, and prequalifications for services.

Include a description of three (3) of the most recent projects/programs/efforts that included similar scope of work. The following information will be included for each project:

- Client
- Client contact information
- Project Description
- Start and end dates of the project
- Key staff member's role
- Consultant fees and overall project budget
- Consultant's role in the project – highlight roles of staff

###### **4.2.2 Technical Approach**



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The Consultant(s) technical approach to the project is a very important component of the selection. In the proposal, the Consultant(s) is requested to demonstrate their project understanding, provide a summary of the critical issues, and describe the Consultant's proposed sequence of activities to meet the District's objectives for the services they are proposing.

### **4.3 Statements**

The Consultant(s) will include a statement confirming no personal or organizational conflicts of interest are known to exist.

### **4.4 Licenses, Certifications, Pre-qualifications, and Insurance**

The Consultant(s) will include a table detailing the licenses, certifications, and pre-qualifications currently held by each team member. Copies of said licenses, certifications, and pre-qualifications will be provided upon the request of the District. The Consultant(s) shall hold current and valid professional liability insurance and be able to provide proof upon request of the district.

### **4.5 Detailed Resumes**

Detailed resumes for key team members may be included as an appendix. No more than two pages per resume.

## **5. Evaluation & Selection Process**

The District will not accept proposals delivered after the closing date and time. Proposals will be mailed or hand delivered prior to the closing date with one original and five (5) copies.

The written proposals will be evaluated and scored by the District utilizing the following criteria:

Written Qualifications (40% of Total Score)

Firm/Team Qualifications – 25%

Performance on previous jobs – 15%

Technical Approach (60% of Total Score)

Project understanding – 40%

Critical issues – 20%

After evaluation, the District will enter into negotiations with the highest ranked firm. Upon reaching agreement on the scope of work and total not-to-exceed prices for the project, the District will award a contract to the selected Consultant(s). The selected Consultant(s) cannot commence work on any aspect of the project prior to execution of the District's standard Agreement.