

Request for Proposals
for
Study of
BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH SEDIMENT
MANAGEMENT
AND CALIFORNIA COASTAL BIOTA

Proposals Due August 13, 2004

Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Beaches
BEACON

City of Ventura
PO Box 99
501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001
(805) 654-7870

July 16, 2004

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota

July 2004

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION ONE – INTRODUCTION 1

SECTION TWO – INVOLVED AGENCIES..... 1

SECTION THREE – ORGANIZATION..... 3

SECTION FOUR – SCOPE OF WORK..... 4

Background..... 4

Study Objectives 4

Study Scope..... 5

Deliverables..... 7

Schedule..... 8

Peer Review..... 8

SECTION FIVE – PROPOSAL CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION 9

Executive Summary..... 9

Technical 9

Schedules 9

Management 9

Qualifications 9

Similar Project Experience..... 10

Resource Requirements 10

SECTION SIX – CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS..... 11

General..... 11

Evaluation Criteria..... 11

SECTION SEVEN – GENERAL INFORMATION 12

Contract..... 12

Proposal Submittal 12

Attachment 1 – Standard Technical Agreement

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota*July 2004*

SECTION ONE – INTRODUCTION

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is for a biological impacts study associated with sediment management along the Central Coast of California, **herein after referred to as “STUDY”**. The agency releasing the RFP is the Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON), a California joint powers agency representing the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura as well as the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme. The study will be funded by BEACON through a grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBAW). The need for this study was determined by the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW). The CSMW was formed by the California Resources Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate regional approaches to protecting, enhancing and restoring California's coastal beaches and watersheds through federal, state and local cooperative efforts. The CSMW Project Manager will oversee the STUDY and will coordinate the flow of technical information to the CSMW, BEACON and the project's Technical Review Committee.

SECTION TWO – INVOLVED AGENCIES**BEACON**

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) is a California joint powers agency representing the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura as well as the Cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme. The agency is dedicated to the protection and nourishment of beaches within the jurisdictions it represents. The BEACON Board is made up Supervisors from the two Counties and a Council Person from each of the coastal cities represented.

BEACON was established in 1982, and since that time has served as the lead agency for a number of coastal protection related studies as well as coastal protection projects through out the Central Coast of California. BEACON has developed a close working relationships with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the California Department of Boating and Waterways, the California Coastal Conservancy, and the California Coastal Commission. BEACON has been successful in securing funding though an array of grants a well as local funds.

In order to implement programs supporting the goals of BEACON, BEACON has an Executive Director, a Legal Counsel, a support staff from the various municipalities represented and a team of technical, and management consultants.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBAW)

The Department of Boating and Waterways is designated as the state agency for coordinating the State of California beach erosion control and public beach restoration programs. The responsibilities and functions are delineated in Sections 65.0 through 67.3 and 69.5 though 69.9 of the California Harbors and Navigation Code. It is the mission of the programs to assist local and regional governments, through studies and projects, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the California coastal shoreline, restoring and maintaining urgently needed recreational beaches and to minimize the economic losses caused by natural or man-induced beach and shoreline instability.

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota**July 2004****The California Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW)**

The CSMW was formed by the California Resources Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate regional approaches to protecting, enhancing and restoring California's coastal beaches and watersheds through federal, state and local cooperative efforts. The workgroup's coastal sediment management goals are to:

- Coordinate activities with local, state and federal stakeholders and programs;
- Better coordinate activities with other related ongoing planning efforts;
- Identify collaborative approaches to projects; and
- Increase awareness of state and federal policies, programs and activities among local and regional governments.

Participants of the CSMW include:

Resources Agency	Brian Baird	916-657-0198	brian@resources.ca.gov
	Melissa Miller-Henson	916-654-2506	melissa@resources.ca.gov
Dept. of Boating and Waterways	Kim Sterrett	916-263-8157	sterrett@dbw.ca.gov
Dept. of Parks and Recreation	Syd Brown	916-653-9930	sbrow@parks.ca.gov
Coastal Commission	Lesley Ewing	415-904-5291	lewing@coastal.ca.gov
	Mark Johnsson	415-904-5200	mjohnsson@coastal.ca.gov
State Lands Commission	Jane Smith	916-574-1892	smithj@slc.ca.gov
Coastal Conservancy	Neal Fishman	510-286-4175	nfishman@scc.ca.gov

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Division and Districts

South Pacific Division	George Domurat	415-977-8050	George.W.Domurat@usace.army.mil
	Robin Mooney	415-977-8167	Robert.R.Mooney@spd.usace.army.mil
Los Angeles District	Claudia Avendano	213-452-3832	CAvendano@usace.army.mil
	Susie Ming	213-452-3825	Susan.M.Ming@usace.army.mil
	Heather Sumerell	213 452-3810	Hsumerell@usace.army.mil
	Dan Young	213-452-3784	Ira.D.Young@usace.army.mil
San Francisco District	Tom Kendall	415-977-8532	Thomas.R.Kendall@usace.army.mil
	Yvonne LeTellier	415-977-8541	Yvonne.C.Letellier@usace.army.mil

U. S. Geological Survey

Western Region Coastal and Marine	Sam Johnson	831 427-4746	SJohnson@usgs.gov
	Peter Ruggiero	650-329-5433	PRuggiero@usgs.gov
	John Warrick	650 329-5376	JWarrick@usgs.gov

Minerals Management Service

MMS	John Smith	805 389-7833	John.Smith@MMS.gov
-----	------------	--------------	--

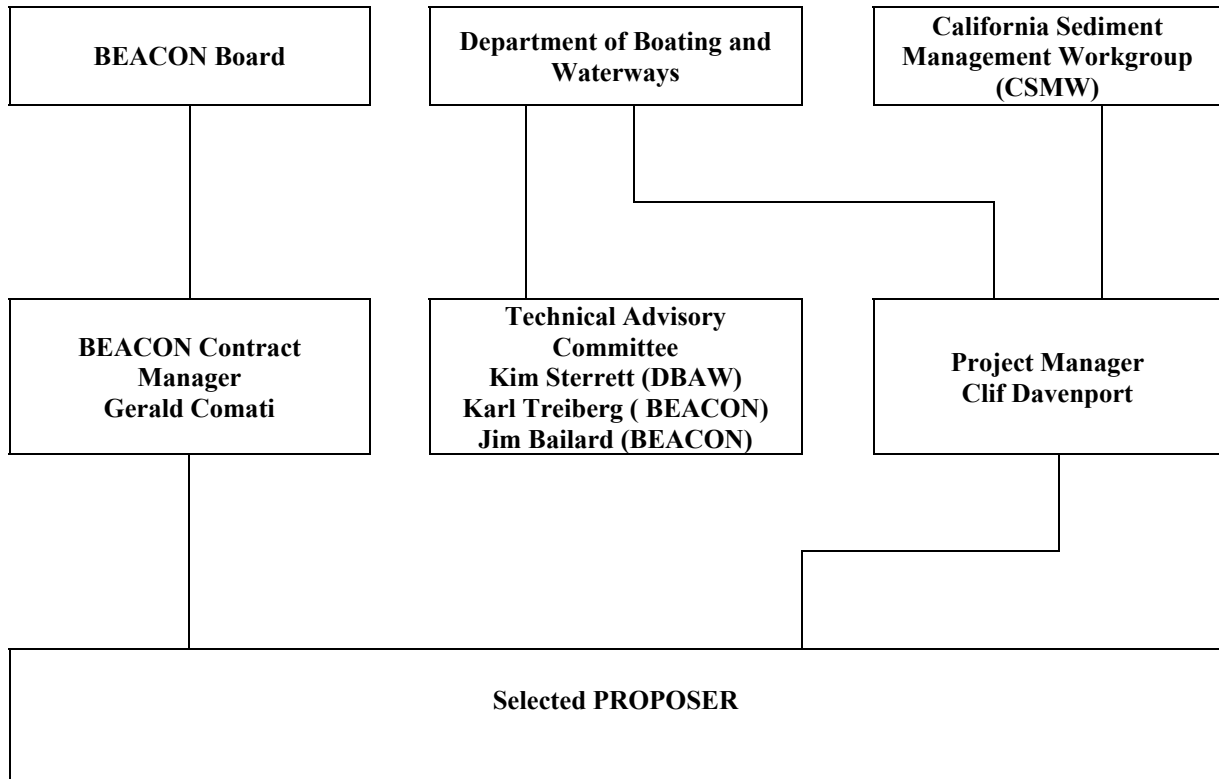
CalCoast	Steve Aceti	760-944-3564	steveaceti@calcoast.org
----------	-------------	--------------	--

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota

July 2004

SECTION THREE – ORGANIZATION

The organization with which the PROPOSER's will have to interface is as follows:



Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota*July 2004*

SECTION FOUR – SCOPE OF WORK**BACKGROUND**

The **California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW)** is engaged in several related studies associated with their regional **Sediment Management Master Plan (SMMP)**. As a result of their initial assessment of issues and concerns with parties involved in sediment management activities, one of the emergent themes was a need to better understand the actual effects that management activities have on coastal biota. Many participants felt that burdensome regulatory restrictions placed on sediment management activities are the result of incomplete knowledge of the resultant impacts from a project, (whether positive or negative), and from a lack of understanding about the coastal environment and ecosystems in general. It was generally agreed by all participants that a more complete understanding and better scientific data is needed for policy-makers, the regulatory community and project proponents to make informed decisions and recommendations.

It is therefore the intent of this biological impacts study (“STUDY”) to identify and assess all literature sources relating to potential impacts of coastal sediment management activities on biota, habitats and ecosystems. The selected Biological Impacts Analyst (BIA) will assemble known and relevant information for ease of reference, report on and explain the basis for concern, and present a non-biased and balanced critical evaluation of such concerns. The BIA will then develop science-based recommendations to address those relevant concerns, consider and recommend ways to facilitate sediment management activities without negatively impacting coastal biota, and provide a balanced and informative discussion on ecosystems versus species approach to resource protection. The Study’s emphasis should be on those areas where beach nourishment and related sediment management activities are likely to occur, but also provide a comprehensive overview of other biological impact issues along the entire California coast.

This project is being contract-administered by BEACON for the CSMW. The BIA will work directly with the CSMW Project Manager, who will coordinate the flow of technical information to the CSMW and BEACON technical advisors.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the study are to provide an exhaustive literature search and an informative analysis of suspected and known biological impacts, negative and positive, on the marine ecosystem resulting from the natural influx of terrestrial sediment as well as from man-introduced sediment management activities. Where data exists the analyst should make qualitative and quantitative determinations as to the relative amount of impact sediment has to the ecosystem ranging from negligible to small, moderate or long-term.

The Study findings should be presented using a combination of a straightforward, well thought-out and coherent summary report, technical appendices, and a concise Executive Summary highlighting important findings. The Report should be organized in a systematic manner related to potentially affected species, include an informative analysis of species vs. ecosystems approaches to resource protection, and present recommendations for streamlining sediment management activities without causing adverse affects on coastal biota, habitat or ecosystems. The report should also be peer-reviewed prior to submittal of the draft. The final Report will be posted on CSMW’s website and its objectives will be:

- Serve as a reference document for future beach nourishment and related sediment management projects
- Provide an educational tool for regulators, project proponents and interested public

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota**July 2004**

- Identify additional research needs
- Provide a mechanism for dialog on potential impacts of sediment management activities on our natural resources.

The BIA will also need to coordinate with:

1. The SMMP's Policy, Procedures and Regulations (PPR) Analyst to ensure that that the PPR team's recommendations for legislative and/or permitting changes are technically feasible from a biological perspective.
2. The SMMP's GIS Analyst in order to link the study and references to the SMMP GIS database.
3. The Fate, Transport & Modeling Analyst to respond to questions they may have regarding biological effects of sediment transport.
4. The PPR Analyst and/or GIS Analyst may also be consulted to obtain a comprehensive list of geo-referenced permits issued for beach nourishment and related sediment management projects.

Meetings to discuss project kickoff, the draft report and any others deemed necessary during the course of the project (assume two) would be held at the BIA's offices.

STUDY SCOPE

Many reoccurring issues were raised during CSMW's assessment of biological concerns related to sediment management activities; those concerns are listed below. The Study will utilize all available resources, including permits, reports, professional papers, web-based information, gray literature and other resources as appropriate in order to investigate, critically assess and make recommendations regarding potential biological and ecosystem impacts along the California coast to the degree feasible. While the Study is meant to focus primarily on California biota, the BIA should consider and discuss national/international data where relevant and appropriate.

The following are questions, issues and concerns that were raised by interested parties and should be considered by the BIA in addition to any other issues and concerns generated through the research.

- a. What are the types of species, threatened and/or endangered species, and sensitive habitats/ecosystems that are potentially impacted by sediment management activities, especially beach nourishment, along the entire California coast?
- b. What are the direct and indirect ways these species and habitats may be impacted? Is there a natural or bio-resilience that can be quantified? Are the impacts generally considered transient or long-term?
- c. Are documented concerns based on scientific data, uncertainty-based conservatism, or other information?
- d. Are sediment management impacts in general short-term and transient or are they long-term?
- e. What are the biological thresholds of significance established by various cities and counties as guidelines to identify when mitigation under CEQA and NEPA may be required? Can an appropriate level of impact/mitigative measure be recommended for the species/habitat/ecosystem of concern?
- f. What are the relative eco-system, recreational and commercial values of rocky vs. sandy vs. muddy bottom habitats? Are there different ways to evaluate the relative value of these different habitats?

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota**July 2004**

- g. What are the pros and cons associated with an ecosystem versus a single-species approach for regulating the environment and sediment management activities in general? What recommendations can be made concerning the most appropriate approach and what steps and information is needed to pursue and implement such an approach, if appropriate?
- h. What are the general or specific concerns for placing beach nourishment materials in the nearshore? Offshore? On land? What types of methods have been used to minimize impacts associated with these different placement methods?
- i. What types of prohibition zones have been permit-required surrounding various sensitive bird nesting and nearshore foraging areas? What are the reported bases for these zones? Have the dimensions been based on scientific data, do they relate to potential foraging ranges or nesting territories, do they reflect measured impact ranges, are they based on professional judgment or uncertainty-based conservatism?
- j. Do typical bird breeding season limitations reflect the actual time that the area is used for breeding and nesting? Can historic lengths of time or areas under limitation be safely revised? What types of information and process are needed to objectively review and establish appropriate sediment management permit conditions associated with breeding season restrictions.
- k. Can the effects of turbidity on the foraging capabilities of fish and birds be scientifically quantified? Are anecdotal observations indicating increased and concentrated fish (and subsequent bird) feeding along the edge of and within turbidity plumes scientifically supportable?
- l. How are kelp beds, eelgrass and other critical habitats affected by turbidity plumes and/or sedimentation? Is there a critical level of turbidity or thickness of sedimentation that causes an adverse impact to the kelp/eelgrass or biota living in that habitat?
- m. Can kelp or other species sensitivity to turbidity plumes be used as indicator species defining limitations on sediment management activities?
- n. How do turbidity plumes and/or sedimentation affect herring eggs, salmon runs, and other similar critical species? Is there a critical volume, rate of sedimentation or seasonality that causes an adverse impact?
- o. Are there habitats that lie dormant during particular times of year, yet activities conducted during the dormant periods have the potential to affect marine resources? Do activities conducted during the dormant periods lessen the potential to affect marine resources?
- p. What evidence documents that burial, sediment scour or any other adverse impacts associated with movement of sediment occurred as a result of nourishment activities?
- q. What types of species are vulnerable to burial, and what depth of sediment can the species of concern burrow through to avoid "smothering"?
- r. What are the positive or beneficial (i.e., nutritive, beach profile structure, habitat value) and known negative effects of fine-grained sediments?
- s. What are the positive or beneficial (i.e., nutritive value, habitat) effects of beach nourishment on species and/or ecosystems? What types of species benefit from beach restoration?

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota**July 2004**

- t. What are the known negative effects of beach replenishment on species and/or ecosystems?
- u. What mitigation measures have been implemented to avoid adverse impacts to biota during beach nourishment and related sediment management activities? Has the effectiveness of any of these mitigation measures ever been demonstrated?
- v. What level and type of turbidity monitoring before, during and after sediment management activities is appropriate in order to more directly relate turbidity levels to biological effects?
- w. What is the appropriate level and type of pre- and post-project sampling needed to evaluate the project for significant changes?
- x. What are the areas where information needed to make science-based decisions is sparse or unknown?
- y. How can potential impacts from sediment management activities to coastal biota and ecosystems be minimized in order to reduce the concerns of the regulatory community and streamline permitting of sediment management activities?
- z. The Portuguese Bend Landslide on the Palos Verde Peninsula in southern California has been delivering a nearly constant source of sediment to the nearshore for the past 50 years. This slide has generated many studies, some relating to the impacts on the nearshore ecosystem. Please review this data in relationship to the transport and fate of fine-grained sediment (<62 microns) and report on any transient or long-term impacts that such sediment might have had on the nearshore biota and ecosystem, especially the diversity and populations of rocky bottom habitats.
- aa. What have studies investigating the flocculation of clays within turbidity plumes determined with respect to how this phenomenon may have affected biota, ecosystems and/or habitats?

DELIVERABLES:

1. Annotated bibliography of pertinent data and literature which is not pertinent (contains inadequate or undocumented data, based on supposition rather than actual data, subjective in nature, inappropriate study design and/or analyses, etc.) The bibliography should indicate what studies have actually monitored the biological impacts of beach nourishment, or provide indirect data that may be relevant to addressing the biological impacts of beach nourishment and related sediment management activities.
2. Geo-referenced digital copies of references when available, and hard copies when not.
3. A list of geo-referenced permits used or referenced during the Study. If such permits have GIS component available, please provide ownership information or electronic copy of relevant shapefiles (ArcView 3.2 or ArcGIS 8.x) if readily available.
4. Draft summary report presenting the analyses of potential biological impacts from sediment management activities. The Draft Report will include a section that specifically addresses each question asked in the Study Scope described above.

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota

July 2004

5. Final Report incorporating comments and concerns presented to the BIA by the CSMW Project Manager, who will combine all comments on the Draft Report from the review team for presentation to the BIA.

SCHEDULE

The Biological Impacts Analyst team will begin work on the project shortly after the project team has been approved by BEACON. The draft report should be submitted to the CSMW Project Manager no later than 6 months following such approval. The annotated bibliography can be presented separately or as part of the report as a technical appendix. The geo-referenced digital and/or hard copies of references can be provided at the same time as the final report.

PEER PREVIEW

BEACON will fund up to two independent peer reviews of the Draft Report. Comments from the peer reviews will be presented to the BIA by the CSMW Project Manager.

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota**July 2004**

SECTION FIVE – PROPOSAL CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION**Executive Summary**

Provide a brief summary of the **PROPOSER'S** qualifications, the proposed technical and management approach to the services contemplated and the PROPOSER's understanding of the project. In addition, identify all participating firms and proposed subconsultants if applicable.

Technical

1. Describe the technical approach and methodology proposed to provide the requested services. The technical approach must include, at a minimum, a brief discussion of all tasks required to complete STUDY.
2. A detailed Scope of Work is required for tasks described above. The scope shall be developed into a format that can be used as Exhibit A, Scope of Work, which will be attached to and made a part of the agreement between BEACON and PROPOSER.

Schedules

1. CONSULTANT is required to include in their proposal a schedule reflecting delivery of the proposed STUDY Tasks as defined under the Technical Section.
2. CONSULTANT should provide a list of deliverables associated with each schedule activity.
3. The schedule activities must align with the defined STUDY Tasks.

Management

1. Present a management plan, showing how the PROPOSER team will be organized and managed to ensure that the required work is of the highest quality and completed within schedule and budget.
2. Submit an organization chart showing the proposed key staff and their relationship to all other key personnel including all subconsultants and support staff assigned to the STUDY, if applicable.
3. Describe the proposed responsibilities of each person on the organization chart.
4. Indicate where the work will be performed. If the work will be shared among firms and offices at different locations, indicate where each office is located and what work will be performed in each office. Indicate the percentage and type of work to be completed by all involved firms.

Qualifications

Provide a summary of qualifications and experience for all key personnel. Include detailed resumes that highlight experience and qualifications most relevant to the STUDY scope of work.

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota**July 2004**

Similar Project Experience

1. Provide a brief description of similar studies completed by members of the PROPOSER's team (including subconsultants). Include the following information with each study description:
 - a. Name of the members of PROPOSER team involved in study
 - b. Description of study
 - d. Study start date
 - e. Study completion date
 - f. Description of services provided
 - g. Total value of services provided
 - h. Budget and schedule performance
 - i. Subconsultants involved
 - j. Name, telephone number, and address of the client's Study Coordinator
2. List all contracts terminated (partially or completely) by clients for convenience or default within the past three years. Include contract value, description of work, sponsoring agency, contract number, name of contracting entity, and reason for termination.

Resource Requirements

1. Prepare a spreadsheet that lists the name and/or classification of proposed staff and approximate person hours required to complete each **STUDY Task** described in the proposal. Summarize the total number of person hours, by name and/or classification, required to complete the entire project. The spreadsheet shall also include an estimate of the number of CADD hours required to complete the project, if applicable.
2. CONSULTANT shall provide a Standard Fee Schedule, identifying all labor classifications.
3. Describe current commitments of PROPOSER and it's personnel to other projects/studies in sufficient detail to confirm PROPOSER'S ability to commit to the proposed STUDY in a timely manner.

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota*July 2004*

SECTION SIX – SELECTION PROCESS**General**

The Selection Process provides that a selection panel, drawn from qualified professionals, will be formed to evaluate STUDY proposals. After review of the proposals the Selection Panel will meet to determine PROPOSER ranking. At this time, the panel may elect to invite PROPOSERS to interview if it is determined necessary. The top ranked PROPOSER will be invited to participate in contract negotiations with BEACON for services necessary to complete STUDY. If these negotiations should fail, the second ranked PROPOSER will be invited to participate in contract negotiations.

Evaluation Criteria

1. Technical. Responsiveness to RFP; comprehension of scope; technical approach; and, identification of deliverables.
2. Management. Presentation of organization; responsibilities and management approach.
3. Experience/Expertise of Key Personnel. Demonstrated competence in the services requested; education; performance on prior projects/studies.
4. Experience/Expertise of Firm (if applicable). Demonstrated competence in completion of similar studies; firm performance on other work; relevant expertise.
5. Dedication of Resources. Staffing capabilities; present workload; local presence; accessibility of project team; person-hours.

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota

July 2004

SECTION SEVEN – GENERAL INFORMATION

Contract

Attachment 1 contains the Standard Agreement used by BEACON for Technical Services. PROPOSERS are requested to review this Standard Technical Agreement. BEACON will consider requests for modifications to contract language.

Proposal Submittal

1. **Eight (8) hard copies** of the proposal and **one (1) electronic copy on CD** shall be submitted to BEACON. Proposals must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday August 13, 2004 at the following address:

**City of Ventura
 PO Box 99
 501 Poli Street
 Ventura, CA 93001
 (805) 654-7870
 Attention: Rick Raives**

2. *Late Submittal.* A proposal is late if received at any time after 5:00 p.m. (according to date stamp) Friday August 13, 2004. Proposals received after 5:00 p.m. Friday August 13, 2004 will not be considered and will be returned to the PROPOSER unopened and marked "LATE PROPOSAL".
3. *Schedule.* The anticipated schedule of activities related to this RFP is as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>
RFP Issued	July 16, 2004
Proposal Submittal Deadline.....	August 13, 2004
Select Top Firm.....	August 27, 2004
Negotiations Begin.....	August 31, 2004
Negotiations Complete.....	September 10, 2004
Notice to Proceed	September 14, 2004

Interviews may be requested at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

5. *Proposal Property.* All proposals become the property of BEACON upon submission. Although BEACON intends to keep all proposals confidential (with the exception of the successful proposals which becomes public information upon acceptance by BEACON), BEACON will not be responsible for materials obtained by other parties without the consent of the PROPOSER.
6. *Amendments to RFP.* BEACON reserves the right to amend the RFP by addendum. If necessary the proposal submittal deadline will be extended to allow PROPOSERS additional time to respond to an RFP addendum.
7. *Non-Commitment of BEACON.* This RFP does not commit BEACON to award an Agreement, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal for this request, or to procure or contract for services. BEACON reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals received as a result of this request, or

Study of Biological Impacts Associated With Sediment Management And California Coastal Biota

July 2004

to modify or cancel in part or in its entirety the RFP if BEACON determines it is in the best interests of the BEACON to do so.

8. *Inquiries.* Inquiries concerning this RFP should be directed to:

BEACON
Gerald Comati, Program Manager
t: (805) 962-0488
e: gerald@com3consulting.com

End RFP