

Request for Bid Toro Creek Restoration Project

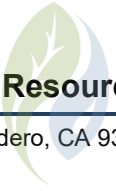
Response Due: August 25th, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Contact:

Hailey Morello, Project Manager

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Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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Introduction

This request for bid (RFB) pertains to a restoration project in Morro Bay, California, on Toro Creek Rd., being undertaken by the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (hereafter referred to as “USLTRCD”). This Project work to be contracted includes roughly 3 acres of habitat restoration and associated activities. The project consists of the preparation of a Water Pollution Control Plan, preparation of a Hazardous Material Management and Spill Response Plan, installation of a mulch driving surface, installation of a mulch staging area, installation of a gravel base, installation of an irrigation mainline, installation of topsoil, installation of native seed, and installation of native plantings. The work under this contract is funded by Caltrans as part of mitigation work for impacts at Piedras Blancas Highway 1 Realignment in San Luis Obispo County, California.

Work will be limited to daytime hours, Monday through Friday, to ensure USLTRCD staff and project partners are available for project oversight and management. The project is likely to begin in the Fall of 2026, or as soon as possible thereafter. Work will be performed at Prevailing Wage rates.

Fencing, grazing, and weed mitigation work described in the Project Plans will be performed under separate contracts and are not included in the scope of this bid.

USLTRCD, contracted qualified biologists, contracted cultural monitors, and contracted tribal representatives will provide project oversight and management on-site. Caltrans staff may also provide oversight and management. Absolutely no ground disturbance is permitted within the project area, including driving off the mulched driving surface.

Interested contractors are invited to submit qualifications in accordance with the requirements of this Request for Bid by **Tuesday, August 25th, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Please submit bids by email to Hailey Morello, Project Manager, Hailey@us-ltrcd.org.**

Site Walks

Due to the sensitivity of the project site, and the unique implementation of work, site walks are recommended by USLTRCD in order for bidders to have a true understanding of project scope.

To schedule a site walk, please contact Hailey Morello at Hailey@us-ltrcd.org.

Background

Project Purpose

The Project is located within and adjacent to Toro Creek between Toro Creek Road and State Route 1 (SR-1), approximately 0.5 mile north of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo County, California. The total Project is being implemented on approximately 9.3 acres to mitigate impacts to aquatic and biological resources associated with the Piedras Blancas Highway 1 Realignment Project, performed by Caltrans.

The proposed project has been developed in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements and incorporates environmental protection measures to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive biological, cultural, and water resources during implementation.

Baseline Conditions

Coastal prairie is a native, perennial bunchgrass community with diverse annual and perennial forbs. Typically, this community is limited to areas with a maritime climate and includes species such as purple needle grass (*Stipa pulchra*) and blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*). However, within the project site, the area scoped for coastal prairie and mixed riparian/coastal prairie habitat has been highly modified and degraded, largely by cattle grazing and introduction of non-native plant species and is currently considered ruderal.

The area is dominated with introduced annual grasses and other non-natives such as soft chess, wild oat, bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), purple star thistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), and woolly distaff thistle (*Carthamus lanatus*). Native coyote brush is present towards the southwest, and when the area is not actively grazed, proliferates through portions of the proposed restoration area; however, both native and nonnative species are regularly grazed in such a way that native plant growth is not supported.

Project Goals

The project will enhance the existing habitat within Toro Creek and adjacent area and establish native habitat adjacent to the creek through removal and management of nonnative and invasive plant species, and planting and seeding of native coastal prairie and riparian plant species. **For the purpose of this RFP, only work pertaining to and associated with the planting and seeding of native coastal prairie is included within the scope, as well as installation of staging areas and driveways to safely implement scope of work.**

Scope of Services

Preparation of Water Pollution Control Plan

The contractor shall prepare a Water Pollution Control Plan, approved by USLTRCD.

Preparation of Hazardous Material Management and Spill Response Plan

The contractor shall prepare a Hazardous Material Management and Spill Response Plan, approved by USLTRCD.

Mulched Driving Surface and Staging Area

USLTRCD will purchase mulch and have it delivered to the Project site.

The Contractor will install a temporary 4-inch-thick mulched roadway to allow safe and low-impact access to the restoration site. The roadway will intersect with a previously paved roadway that exists on site. The roadway will measure approximately 20 feet wide and form a loop at the end to accommodate large trucks. Mulch will be dumped and spread in sections so that trucks are not driving on the topsoil. The total area covered will be approximately 0.5 acre. This access route will facilitate the delivery of materials, plants, topsoil, and additional mulch without causing ground disturbance. It will also provide a path for the RCD water truck to deliver irrigation to plants and subcontractors to safely access the site. Mulch will be kept at the site for the life of the project and overtime will decompose into the soil.

In addition to the driveway, a mulched staging area will be placed at the northern extent of the property. This should also be roughly 4 inches deep.

USLTRCD will use flagging to depict where mulched roadway should be placed.

Gravel Base

USLTRCD will purchase aggregate rock base material. The Contractor will lay out a staging area for a 5,000-gallon water tank which will be purchased by the USLTRCD. The aggregate rock will be placed on geotextile fabric to limit disturbance of soil, purchased by the Contractor. Equipment can be used to lay the base as long as the equipment is on the mulched driveway or existing driveway – otherwise, hand crews will need to be used to spread the gravel.

Irrigation Mainline Installation

Contractor will install a ~700 linear foot irrigation mainline along the edge of the mulched driving surface that connects to the installed 5,000-gallon water tank. The contractor will connect the mainline irrigation to drip flex tube that will deliver water to each planting pod mentioned below. USLTRCD will hire separate contractor to continually supply water to 5,000-gallon tank on-site.

Planting Pod and Burlap Sack Cutting Installation

Due to the cultural significance of this site, no ground disturbance or soil disturbance can occur within the Project Site, including digging. Therefore, soil fill is to be brought in for 'planting pods'. Contractor will purchase 100 CY of soil fill to install planting pods as well as fiber roll, wood stakes, and additional items listed in Project Plans. 4" native plants and cuttings will be installed within soil fill as depicted in Project Plans. Equipment can be used to bring in soil fill and additional items as long as equipment stays on mulched driving surfaces. Contractor is responsible for plant cuttings depicted in Project Plans. 4" native plants will be provided by the USLTRCD.



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Contractor will install burlap sack cuttings between planting pods as depicted in Project Plans as well as within the Riparian Scrub Establishment area, as depicted in the Project Plans.

Native Seed Installation

A native seed mix will be hand broadcast as depicted in Project Plans. USLTRCD will purchase native seed mix. Contractor will be responsible for hand broadcasting. If feasible, a straw layer will be hand broadcast over seed mix to protect seed.

180 Day Plant Establishment Period

The contractor will maintain plantings and project materials for 180 days following plant installation. After the 180-day period, USLTRCD will become responsible for performing any remaining or future work.

Erosion Control

Best Management Practices (BMP) and erosion control methods will be used as indicated in the prepared Water Pollution Control Plan and in accordance with the Project Plans.

Bid Content and Format

Contractors will clearly indicate in their bid the services, as described above, and their ability to perform those services to USLTRCD.

The following information will be included in the bid:

Executive Summary

Include a concise synopsis of the bid focused on how the contractor will address USLTRCD's key issues with the contractor's approach to the services described above.

Qualifications

Because of the time sensitivity and critical nature of the work described within this RFP, USLTRCD 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 subcontractors. The contractor must be familiar with and adhere closely to regulations put forth in project permits.

Firm/Team Qualifications

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

Include a description of two (2) 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

Contractor fees and overall project budget

Contractor's role in the project – highlight roles of staff



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Technical Approach

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

Cost Estimate

Costs should be broken down by personnel, supplies, materials, equipment, and any subcontractor costs. Contractors will be required to submit monthly invoices and employee timesheets. A Scope of Work Template is provided for reference to develop a cost estimate. Prevailing wage rates should be used to adhere to California State Law.

Timeline

The contractors(s) will provide a detailed timeline for phases of project including contingency plans in the event that ecologically sensitive species are found (such as nesting birds or red-legged frog).

Safety Procedures

Contractor(s) will provide examples of safety measures and protocols from previous construction operations and or potential safety protocols for this project. Examples should demonstrate exemplary safety procedures for employees as well as the public. Contractors(s) will provide examples of avoidance measures to minimize impacts on sensitive plants and animals (i.e. nesting birds, Ca red legged frog etc.)

Statements

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

Licenses, Certifications, and Pre-qualifications

The contractor(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 USLTRCD.

Detailed Resumes

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

Evaluation & Selection Process

The USLTRCD will not accept bids delivered after the closing date and time. Bids will be emailed, or hand delivered, prior to the closing date. The written bids will be evaluated and scored by the USLTRCD 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)



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Project understanding – 40%

Critical Issues – 20%

Review of bids may include staff members of USLTRCD and Caltrans. The bids will be ranked individually, and the highest scores will be recommended for consideration by USLTRCD, in compliance with the USLTRCD Procurement Policy. Upon approval by the USLTRCD Board of Directors, USLTRCD staff will announce to all bidding contractors who the selected bid is awarded to.

After USLTRCD approval, the USLTRCD will enter negotiations with the highest ranked firm.

Upon reaching agreement on the scope of work and total not-to-exceed prices for the project, the USLTRCD will award a contract to the selected contractor(s). The selected contractor(s) cannot commence work on any aspect of the project prior to execution of the USLTRCD's standard Agreement.