

I-064

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS
Marketing and Development
1719 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 341-3207

DWR WAREHOUSE

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Ms. Kate Hansel
CALFED Bay Delta Program, Suite 1155
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: John Coleman
Deputy Director *JOL AL*

DATE: July 28, 1997

SUBJECT: Inquiry Submittal

The California Conservation Corps is pleased to submit an Inquiry Submittal for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program Category III funding. The project can be categorized as a Group 3: Services project, which is titled, "Exotic Species SWAT Team."

We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in this important effort. Please address any questions regarding this submittal to Walt Auburn, Associate Director of Development at (916) 341-3173.

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Enclosures

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CALFED Bay-Delta Category III RFP Inquiry Submittal

A. Project Title and Applicant Name: "Exotic Species SWAT Team"
California Conservation Corps (CCC)
1719 24th St.
Sacramento, CA 95816
Contact: Walt Auburn, (916) 341-3173
RFP Project Group: 3 Services

B. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives: The California Conservation Corps will develop 2 specialized crews to accomplish exotic species removal and native plant restoration for public partners. This project will specifically address the CALFED priority species and habitats and will result in improvement in water quality and ecological health. The "Exotic Species SWAT Team" will be composed of 2 crews of 8 corpsmembers each, 1 team leader and 1 supervisor per crew. Each crew will be based in a location to reach identified projects most easily: 1 crew in Stockton that would serve the central Delta and San Joaquin River (and tributaries) and 1 crew in Napa that would serve the western Delta and North Bay watersheds. The crews will work on a specific group of projects with state, federal, and local community partners on a year round basis for the 3 year project duration.

C. Approach/Tasks/Schedule: The projects for the "Exotic Species SWAT Team" will be developed over the next 3 months prior to the next Request for Proposals in November, 1997. The approach will include:

- 1) Outreach and canvas potential partners to identify possible project sites. Potential partners will include RCD's, watershed groups, county environmental agencies, state and federal resource agencies (Boating & Waterways, Department of Fish & Game, etc), and CALFED technical teams members for content and further partner information.
- 2) Identify, map, and prioritize potential project sites based on stressors, critical need, community base, and breadth/strength of partnerships. Assess projects in relation to regulatory laws, permits, coordination with other projects, land use conditions, local support and participation.
- 3) Identify monitoring and evaluation plan and approach. CCC will work with partners to develop appropriate monitoring and evaluation plan that may include contracts with environmental consultants for the implementation of the project monitoring and evaluation.
- 4) Plan time line and scheduling of project crew work for year round work on 3 year time line. Develop schedule of project reporting, project maintenance and monitoring follow-up of sites throughout project duration.
- 5) Develop budget for specific labor, equipment, training costs, utilizing the resources, expertise, and in-kind services of partners as much as possible.
- 6) Develop a community exotic species education program that will actively enlist community support to help eliminate future infestations of exotic species. As a component of the project, corpsmembers would make presentations to local schools and community groups.

D. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED: The "Exotic Species SWAT Team" project addresses the Category III objectives of: 1) beginning to reduce conflicts in the Bay-Delta Ecosystem by developing an organized, systematic removal of exotic species which are out-competing native species, 2) focusing on high risk species and habitats, and 3) providing broad ecosystem benefits (for example, a concerted effort to remove water hyacinth will also allow the water conveyance system to operate more effectively).

E. Budget Costs and Third Party Impact: This project is defined as a 3 year project with a total cost of \$1,780,000. The total project costs for the first year equals \$626,000. Annual costs per year for the 2nd and 3rd year equal \$578,000 per year. On an annual basis, major cost areas for the project primarily include labor costs for corpsmember work: CCC crew costs for 18 corpsmembers equals \$343,000 and personnel supervision for 2 supervisors equaling \$88,666 annually. Transportation, equipment, training and administration costs equal \$194,000 the first year which includes one time costs, and \$149,000 per year, thereafter.

F. Applicant Qualifications: The CCC is a permanent Resources Agency department with over 20 years of experience in implementing a wide range of ecological restoration and environmental mitigation projects with skill levels ranging from basic hand labor, to technical stream restoration projects. On an annual basis, the CCC successfully completes over 200 interagency agreements and contracts in excess of \$20 million per year. Examples of Ecological Restoration project services include erosion control (native species planting), fisheries work (removal of in-stream barriers, native planting for shade), and specialty services (monitoring activities, habitat surveys, data collection, geographical information system data collection and entry, native plant seed collection, propagation of native species and transfer of representative plant species for wetland habitat creation or restoration). We have both public and private project sponsors ranging in size from the California Department of Transportation, to local city governments, and small businesses. (See Attachments A and B: CCC Project Services and Ecological Restoration Services)

G. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

In developing a proposal, CCC will develop an evaluation component to provide mapping and pre-assessment, test sites for pre and post evaluation and identification of impacts of exotic species removal and possible native establishment. The CCC will subcontract with an environmental consulting organization to provide a formal project evaluation report.

H. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with

CALFED Objectives: The CCC will meet with local resource agencies and individuals, such as Resource Conservation Districts (RCD's), watershed groups, and county environmental planners, as well as with state and federal agencies, such as the Department of Water Resources, to discuss geographic location, types of exotic species, methods of removal of exotic species and/or replacement/propagation of native species, and parameters of specific projects. Initial discussions with a number of state and local agencies indicate a strong need and support for this concept. Other agencies support the cost effective approach of removing multiple exotic species while working in one geographic area.



WHAT KINDS OF PROJECTS ARE PROVIDED BY THE CCC?

The CCC is well known for its emergency services. The CCC also provides a wide range of conservation and public services, where corpsmembers gain meaningful work and team-building skills while producing a quality work project. These non-emergency services include:

- Energy Auditing/Retrofitting
- Trail Building
- Energy Conservation
- Recycling
- Erosion Control Structures
- Irrigation System Installations
- Environmental Presentations
- Public Works Projects
- Tree Planting
- Park Maintenance and Restoration

WHO CAN PARTNER WITH THE CCC?

- Federal Agencies
- County Agencies
- School Districts
- State Agencies
- City Agencies
- Nonprofit Organizations
- Private Industry

PROJECT GUIDELINES

Projects will be reviewed by the following criteria:

- Projects must provide a natural resource or other public benefit.
- Projects must provide corpsmembers with education and training in employable skills.
- The sponsor provides the technical plans/specifications, materials and on-site technical supervision.

HOW ARE CCC WORK CREWS ORGANIZED?

The CCC is organized to provide corpsmembers and services depending upon the project requirements.

CCC CREW

- Consists of 10 to 15 young men and women corpsmembers trained in the safe use of hand and power tools
- A staff supervisor who directs the crew
- Crew comes complete with vehicle and basic tools

CCC MINI-CREW

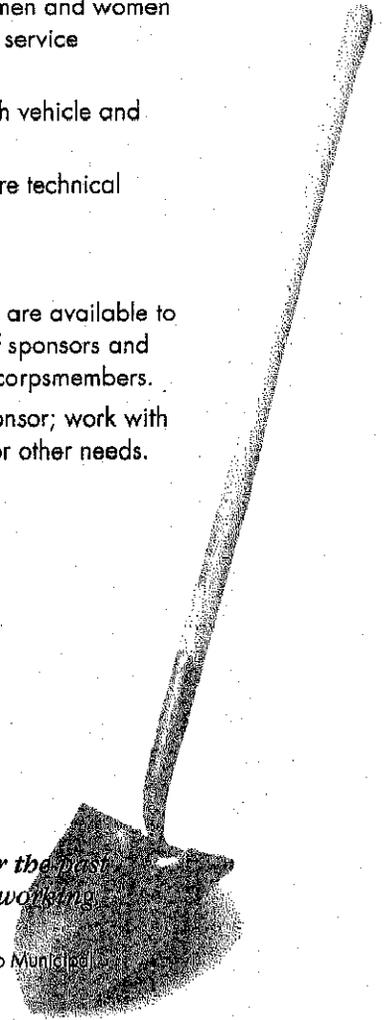
- Consists of 4 to 8 young men and women corpsmembers and a civil service supervisor
- Crews come complete with vehicle and basic tools
- Mini-crew is typical of more technical projects

INTERNS

- Corpsmember placements are available to meet specialized needs of sponsors and provide opportunities for corpsmembers.
- On-site supervision by sponsor; work with CCC intern coordinator for other needs.

“SMUD has worked with the CCC on many, many lighting retrofit projects over the past five years. The corpsmembers are extremely disciplined, enthusiastic and hard-working. It's been a win/win partnership for us!”

David Mark, Sacramento Municipal
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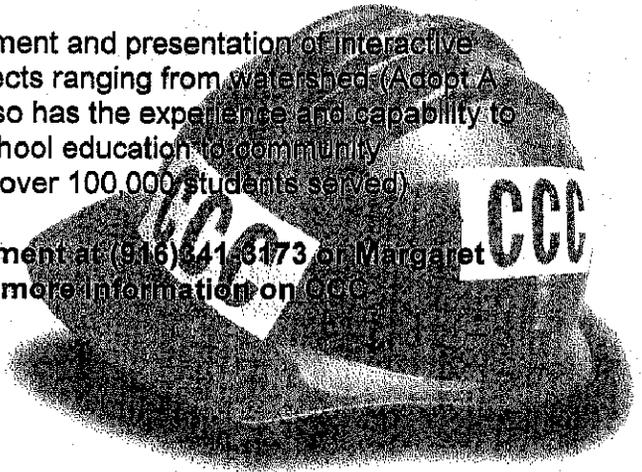
CCC Ecological Restoration Project Services

The CCC has over 20 years of experience in implementing a wide range of ecological restoration and environmental mitigation projects in areas ranging from stream restoration to soil erosion control. The CCC works with local, state and federal resource management agencies to lay out the best implementation plans and enlists a work force of over 200 experienced field supervisors to direct over 1800 young men and women on restoration projects. CCC resources are normally organized in crews of 10 to 15 corpsmembers directed by an experienced staff supervisor. The CCC can provide resources in smaller sized operational units including mini-crews of 5 to 8 corpsmembers or individual interns. The CCC charges for a portion of its operational costs for the project services we provide to your agency. Cost estimates (hourly rates or fixed price) are available upon request.

Restoration Services

- **Erosion Control** including straw mat placement, tree planting, native species planting, check dam installation, gabion basket placement, and levee brush removal.
- **Fisheries work** including fish tagging, fish screen maintenance, fish salvaging, in-stream structure design and placement, removal of in-stream barriers, native planting for shade, installation of spawning structures and substrates in streams and lakes,
- **Water Conservation work** including leak detection using electronic listening devices, water auditing of small and large scale properties, repair of irrigation systems, installation of low flow water management devices and distribution/presentation of water education materials. CCC is a signatory to the California Urban Water Council Best Management Practices.
- **Specialty Services** including **monitoring activities**, fish or habitat surveys, data collection on endangered species, **geographical information system data collection** and entry, native plant seed collection, **propagation of native species at two CCC native plant nurseries** (Napa Valley and Sierra foothills), and transfer of representative plant species for wetland habitat creation as mitigation for transportation or construction projects.
- **School Education Programs** including development and presentation of interactive K-12 environmental education programs on subjects ranging from watershed (Adopt A Watershed) issues to used oil recycling. CCC also has the experience and capability to involve students and teachers in translating in-school education to community environmental stewardship and service projects (over 100,000 students served).

Contact Walt Auburn, Associate Director of Development at (916) 341-3173 or Margaret Behan, Development Specialist at (916) 341-3155 for more information on CCC Ecological Restoration Services.





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