

Building a Public-Private Partnership for Water Quality Monitoring in the San Joaquin River Region: 2006 Request for Proposals

Agency Name: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

Funding Opportunity Name: San Joaquin River Region Water Quality Monitoring

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R9-WTR3-06-007

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers: 66.436

Overview

US EPA Region 9 is soliciting proposals for a project to improve water quality monitoring and assessment in the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region¹. Funding is available through a cooperative agreement for a project to develop a system for improved monitoring and assessment of water quality in the San Joaquin River Basin with the goal of building a public-private partnership to produce information needed for more effective environmental management. The final product of this effort will be a San Joaquin Water Quality Regional Monitoring Strategy. Funds will be awarded pursuant to Section 104 (b) (3) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1254 (b) (3).

Important Dates:

April 1, 2006..... Proposals must be postmarked by or received through Grants.gov
April 14, 2006..... Initial approval identified and sponsor of project selected for funding
will be requested to submit a formal application package.
May 14, 2006..... Application and work plan must be postmarked by or received through
Grants.gov
August 31, 2006..... Awards made

The above dates (other than the April 1, 2006 proposal submission date) are anticipated dates and may be subject to change.

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¹ The San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region is bordered on the east by the crest of the Sierra Nevada and on the west by the coastal mountains of the Diablo Range. It extends from the Delta and the Consumnes River watershed to the San Joaquin River watershed near Fresno. All or portions of counties within the study area include Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne (*The California Water Plan Update* Bulletin 160-98).

**Building a Public-Private Partnership for Water Quality Monitoring
in the San Joaquin River Region: 2006 Request for Proposals**

Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R9-WTR3-06-007

Full Text Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

US EPA Region 9 is soliciting proposals for a project to improve water quality monitoring and assessment in the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region. Funding is available through a cooperative agreement for a project to develop a system for improved monitoring and assessment of water quality in the San Joaquin River Region with the goal of building a public-private partnership to produce information needed for more effective environmental management.

The project to improve water quality monitoring and assessment in the San Joaquin River Region is part of a larger effort to implement a comprehensive monitoring program covering the Central Valley and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. In the Central Valley, there are more than 600 monitoring and research programs conducted by various federal, state, local and non-governmental entities at an annual cost approaching \$30 million. Data are collected using different methods, at varying locations, and on different time scales, with data maintained at a number of locations and in different formats. As a result, data integration and interpretation is limited. Improved coordination and integration of Central Valley water quality monitoring would increase the efficiency and usefulness of data.

EPA in conjunction with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board and other CALFED agencies² is initiating an effort for the San Joaquin River Region to improve current water quality monitoring and assessment; establish a framework of shared objectives and activities; and identify ways to provide for improved coordination, management, and funding. Although this project will feed into a larger related effort for the entire Central Valley region, it will have independent value for monitoring and assessment in the San Joaquin River Region, consistent with the Surface Water Ambient and Monitoring Program (SWAMP) and other related efforts. The CALFED agencies, with the assistance of the Bay Delta authority Science Program, are moving ahead with the larger effort to implement a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program for the Central Valley (CMARP³).

The following key principles and assumptions should be integral parts of the proposal:

- The framework for San Joaquin water quality monitoring will be established through a participatory public process of stakeholders including the regulated community, technical experts, managers and decision-makers;

² The mission of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. The CALFED agencies include Department of Water Resources, Department of Fish and Game, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Health Services, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Geological Survey, US Environmental Protection Agency and others.

³ The Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment and Research Program (CMARP) was initiated in 1997 as a means to assess the success of CALFED Program efforts for the Bay-Delta/Central Valley hydrological system, and meet information needs of other agencies.

- Improved comprehensive water quality monitoring will help to effectively protect beneficial uses throughout the Central Valley;
- The Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) will be a focal point of efforts to enhance San Joaquin water quality monitoring, requiring close coordination with State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board;
- CMARP documents are an important source of abundant information that will be used as a reference guide for this effort;
- Enhancing existing monitoring programs and activities through increased cooperation and collaboration (e.g., shared monitoring objectives, protocols, methodologies, and data, etc.) is essential, in part because of the challenge to secure sufficient additional resources to implement a comprehensive program; and
- An entity for the San Joaquin River Region and/or the Central Valley may be necessary to coordinate monitoring, assessment, and research activities.

Projects conducted under this program must support EPA’s Strategic Plan (Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water, Objective 2.2: Protect Water Quality, Sub-Objective 2.2.1: Improve Water Quality on a Watershed Basis⁴).

Environmental Results: Outputs and Outcomes: Pursuant to EPA Order 5700.7, “*Environmental Results under EPA Assistance Agreements*,” EPA requires that all grant and cooperative agreement recipients adequately address environmental outputs and outcomes. Outputs and outcomes differ both in their nature, and in how they are measured.

- **Outputs:** The term “output” means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work products related to an environmental goal and objective, that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during an assistance agreement funding period.
- **Outcomes:** The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out an environmental program or activity that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, but must be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within an assistance agreement funding period.

Anticipated outputs from this project include:

- A San Joaquin Water Quality Regional Monitoring Strategy that includes recommendations that will be congruent with, but not necessarily limited to, the SWAMP monitoring framework currently under development by the State and Regional Water Boards. Monitoring and assessment objectives should be linked to the important beneficial uses of the San Joaquin River Region. Information developed through this will be accessible, understandable, useful to local groups such as watershed groups and monitoring coalitions, as well as to the scientific and regulatory community. The

⁴ EPA’s Strategic Plan can be found on the following web page: <http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/plan/2003sp.pdf>

Strategy will include:

- Proposed shared monitoring objectives which reflect the key management priorities for the region. For example, one general objective might be to ensure adequate water quality for the extensive wetlands of the region; at a more specific level, the constituents of greatest concern for monitoring and assessment might (hypothetically) be selenium and salinity. Associated with these key target topics are a number of issues involving data collection and reporting, assessment, quality and availability of information, and so forth.
- Recommendations on ways to leverage current monitoring and assessment efforts. Emphasis will be placed on improving coordination, use of existing programs and resources, and building an effective public-private partnership.
- Key monitoring gaps, research needs and options for addressing these gaps.

Expected outcomes from this project include, but may not be limited to, the following:

- A system for improved monitoring and assessment of water quality in the San Joaquin River Region.
- Initiation of a public-private partnership to produce comprehensive water quality information needed for more effective environmental management.

Tasks to accomplish these outputs and outcomes may include but will not be limited to interviews, research, workshops, conferences, inventories, steering committee organization and report preparation.

The geographic scope for this RFP is for the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region (*The California Water Plan Update* Bulletin 160-98) which is bordered on the east by the crest of the Sierra Nevada and on the west by the coastal mountains of the Diablo Range. It extends from the Delta and the Consumnes River watershed to the San Joaquin River watershed near Fresno. All or portions of counties within the study area include Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Sacramento, San Benito, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne.

II. Award Information

EPA Region 9 intends to award up to \$115,000 for a project to build a public-private partnership for water quality monitoring in the San Joaquin River Region. From the proposals received, EPA anticipates selecting one proposal to submit a full application.

Under a cooperative agreement, EPA provides financial assistance and is substantially involved in the project. EPA expects to have substantial technical interaction with the recipient throughout the performance of the project. For example, EPA may review and approve project phases, review and approve provisions within proposed sub-grants and contracts, collaborate with the recipient on the scope of work and mode of operation of the project, closely monitor the recipient's performance, approve any proposed changes to the work plan and/or budget, approve qualifications of key personnel, and review and comment on reports prepared under the assistance agreement.

The project should have an anticipated start date of September 1, 2006. The proposed project period may be up to two (2) years.

Funding for this project is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds. The selected applicant may be offered funds in an amount less than the proposal requests. EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applications and make no awards under this announcement. In addition, EPA reserves the right to partially-fund a proposal by funding discrete activities, projects, or phases of proposed proposal. If EPA decides to partially fund a proposal, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal, or portion thereof, was evaluated and selected for award, and that maintains the integrity of the competition and evaluation/selection process.

III. Eligibility Information

Assistance under this program is generally available to States, territories, Indian Tribes, and possessions of the U.S. (including the District of Columbia); public and private universities and colleges; hospitals; laboratories; and other public (including local agencies) institutions or private nonprofit institutions. Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply.

While matching funds are not required, the ability to leverage other funding sources will be considered in the review process.

Any proposals that do not meet the above requirements will not be considered for funding.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Proposals must be limited to 12 pages, 11-12 point times new roman font, single line spaced. Letters documenting successful performance on past awards do not count toward page limit and do have to be submitted electronically. Full application packages (see below) should not be submitted at this time. It is recommended that confidential information not be included in the proposal.

The following format should be used for all proposals:

1. **Name of Project**
2. **Applicant Contact Information** (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address)
3. **Proposed Federal Funds** (requested amount)
4. **Proposed Leveraged Funds** (matching funds not required, although ability to leverage other funding sources will be considered in the review process)
5. **Description of General Budget Proposed to Support Project:**
 - a) Identify all federal and other sources of funding for the project including the leveraged funds.
 - b) Clearly identify categories for funding distribution (personnel, benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, etc).

6. **Project Description:** Provide a detailed description of how applicant proposes to conduct the project, including basic project design/approach. This section should address the details outlined in Section I: Funding Opportunity Description, including outputs and outcomes. Include description of the participatory public process that will involve and inform stakeholders including the regulated community, technical experts, managers and decision-makers.
7. **Milestones:** Identify expected accomplishments and/or products, with dates, and interim milestones.
8. **Past Performance:** Submit a list of all EPA and other Federal agency assistance agreements that your organization performed within the last three years, and describe how you documented and/or reported on whether you were making progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outputs and outcomes) under those agreements. If you were not making progress, please indicate whether, and how, you documented why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider other relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant).
9. **Programmatic Capability:** Submit a list of all federally funded projects similar in size, scope and relevance to the proposed project that your organization performed within the last three years and describe how you were (i) technically able to successfully carry out those projects and (ii) your history of meeting the reporting requirements under these agreements including submitting acceptable final technical reports. In addition, provide information on your organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and your staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.
10. **Review Criteria:** Briefly describe how the proposal addresses the review criteria identified in Section V: Application Review Information.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Please note you may choose to submit a proposal and/or application under this announcement in *one of two ways*. If you wish to use hard copy submission, please follow the instructions under “Hard Copy Submission” below. If you wish to submit electronically via Grants.gov, please follow the appropriate instructions under “Electronic Application” below. EPA encourages applicants to submit their application materials electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>.

Hard Copy Submission: All proposals submitted via mail/commercial delivery service must be postmarked by April 1, 2006. Proposals postmarked **after** this due date will **not** be considered for funding. The proposal must be prepared as described above in Section IV.

Send three copies of the proposal to:

**Sam Ziegler
U.S. EPA Region 9 (WTR-3)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105**

If your proposal is selected by EPA, a full application package including a final work plan will be due by May 14, 2006. Hardcopy application materials (Region 9 Application Kit), including Standard Form (SF) 424 and SF 424A, may be obtained online at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/funding/applying.html>; requested by calling Region 9's Grants Assistant at (415) 972-3670 or (415) 972-3702; or by sending an email to claros.eleonor@epa.gov. The original and one copy of your application and final work plan must be submitted to the address below:

Grants Management Office (PMD-7)
Policy and Management Division
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Electronic Submission: All proposals and applications must be electronically stamped via Grants.gov on or before April 1, 2006 and May 14, 2006, respectively. Proposals and applications postmarked or submitted via Grants.gov **after** these due dates will **not** be considered for funding.

a) Organization Must Register on Grants.gov: The electronic submission of your proposal must be made by an official representative of your institution who is registered with Grants.gov and authorized to sign applications for Federal assistance. For more information, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on "Get Started," and then click on "For AORs" (Authorized Organization Representative) on the left side of the page. *Note that the registration process may take a week or longer to complete.* If your organization is not currently registered with Grants.gov, please encourage your office to designate an AOR and ask that individual to begin the registration process as soon as possible.

b) To Begin Application Process: To begin the application process for this grant program, go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the "Apply for Grants" tab at the top of the page. Then click on "Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions" to download the PureEdge viewer and obtain the application package and instructions for applying under this announcement using grants.gov (https://apply.grants.gov/forms_apps_idx.html). You may retrieve the application package and instructions by entering the Funding Opportunity Number, **EPA-R9-WTR3-06-007**, or the CFDA number **66.436** in the space provided. Then complete and submit the application package as indicated below. You may also be able to access the application package by clicking on the button "How To Apply" at the top right of the synopsis page for this announcement on <http://www.grants.gov> (to find the synopsis page go to <http://www.grants.gov> and click on the "Find Grant Opportunities" button on the top of the page and then to go EPA opportunities).

c) Required Proposal Materials: If filing electronically, you must include the following forms and documents.

I. Standard Form (SF) 424 and 424A, Application for Federal Assistance: Complete the form. There are no attachments. Please be sure to include organization fax number and email address in Block 5 of the Standard Form SF 424.

II. Proposal: The proposal must be prepared in accordance with the instructions in Section IV of this announcement. The document should be readable in PDF, MS Word or Word Perfect WP6/7/8 for Windows and consolidated into a single file.

d) Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions: Documents I through II listed under *Required Proposal Materials* above should appear in the “Mandatory Documents” box on the Grants.gov Grant Application Package page.

For Document I, click on the appropriate form and then click “Open Form” below the box. The fields that must be completed will be highlighted in yellow. Optional fields and completed fields will be displayed in white. If you enter an invalid response or incomplete information in a field, you will receive an error message. When you have finished filling out each form, click “Save.” When you return to the electronic Grant Application Package page, click on the form you just completed, and then click on the box that says, “Move Form to Submission List.” This action will move the document over to the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

For Document II, you will need to attach electronic files. Prepare your proposal as described above in Section IV of the announcement and save the document to your computer as an MS Word, PDF or WordPerfect file. When you are ready to attach your proposal to the application package, click on “Project Narrative Attachment Form,” and open the form. Click “Add Mandatory Project Narrative File,” and then attach your proposal (previously saved to your computer) using the browse window that appears. You may then click “View Mandatory Project Narrative File” to view it. Enter a brief descriptive title of your project in the space beside “Mandatory Project Narrative File Filename;” the filename should be no more than 40 characters long. If there other attachments that you would like to submit to accompany your proposal, you may click “Add Optional Project Narrative File” and proceed as before. When you have finished attaching the necessary documents, click “Close Form.” When you return to the “Grant Application Package” page, select the “Project Narrative Attachment Form” and click “Move Form to Submission List.” The form should now appear in the box that says, “Mandatory Completed Documents for Submission.”

Once you have finished filling out all of the forms/attachments and they appear in one of the “Completed Documents for Submission” boxes, click the “Save” button that appears at the top of the Web page. It is suggested that you save the document a second time, using a different name, since this will make it easier to submit an amended package later if necessary. Please use the following format when saving your file: “Applicant Name – FY06 – Water Quality – 1st Submission” or “Applicant Name – FY 06 Water Quality – Back-up Submission.” If it becomes necessary to submit an amended package at a later date, then the name of the 2nd submission should be changed to “Applicant Name – FY06 Water Quality – 2nd Submission.”

Once your application package has been completed and saved, send it to your AOR for submission to U.S. EPA through Grants.gov. Please advise your AOR to close all other software programs before attempting to submit the application package through Grants.gov.

In the “Application Filing Name” box, your AOR should enter your organization’s name (abbreviate where possible), the fiscal year (e.g., FY06), and the grant category (e.g., FY06 Water Quality). The filing name should not exceed 40 characters. From the “Grant Application Package” page, your AOR may submit the application package by clicking the “Submit” button

that appears at the top of the page. The AOR will then be asked to verify the agency and funding opportunity number for which the application package is being submitted. If problems are encountered during the submission process, the AOR should reboot his/her computer before trying to submit the application package again. [It may be necessary to turn off the computer (not just restart it) before attempting to submit the package again.] If the AOR continues to experience submission problems, he/she may contact Grants.gov for assistance by phone at 1-800-518-4726 or email at support@grants.gov.

If you have not received a confirmation of receipt from EPA (*not from support@grant.gov*) within 30 days of the proposal deadline, please contact ziegler.sam@epa.gov . Failure to do so may result in your proposal not being reviewed.

Proposal materials submitted through Grants.gov will be time/date stamped electronically.

Intergovernmental Review: Applicants (except for Indian Tribes and Tribal Consortia) must comply with the Intergovernmental Review Process and/or consultation provisions of Executive Order 12372. EPA's implementing regulations for this Executive Order can be found at 40 CFR §29.1-29.13.

Confidential Business Information: In accordance with 40 CFR §2.203, applicants may claim all or a portion of their application/proposal as confidential business information. EPA will evaluate confidentiality claims in accordance with 40 CFR Part 2. Applicants must clearly mark applications/proposals or portions of applications/proposals they claim as confidential. If no claim of confidentiality is made, EPA is not required to make the inquiry to the applicant otherwise required by 40 CFR 2.204(c)(2) prior to disclosure.

DUNS: All applicants apply for funding must have a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Data Numbering System (DUNS) number. Applicants who do not already have a DUNS number may find instruction for obtaining one at the following website: <http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted> . A DUNS number may also be obtained by calling 1-866-705-5711.

V. Application Review Information

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated by a panel of EPA staff, as well as some representatives from other involved entities (e.g., Water Boards, USGS, CALFED) based on the criteria set forth below. In your proposal, please make sure that you address each criterion. The evaluation criteria and corresponding point values are listed below. The maximum score is 70 points. Final selection will be made by the Director of the US EPA Region 9 Water Division. The selected organization will be notified and requested to submit a full application.

25 points: **The relationship of the proposed project to the priorities identified in this notice and how well the project furthers the goal of the Clean Water Act to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution.** Applicants will be evaluated on the extent to which the proposed project will improve water quality monitoring and assessment in the San Joaquin River Hydrologic Region as described in Section I. EPA will consider how well applicants have described a participatory process that achieves the desired outputs and outcomes. EPA will also consider the process

for described for tracking progress towards achieving the outputs and outcomes, and making appropriate adjustments during the project period.

- 15 points:** **The strength of the partnerships, collaboration and community outreach (e.g. participation/peer review by other stakeholders) as part of the proposed approach.** Applicants will be evaluated based on how well the project will contribute to partnerships that will result in ongoing comprehensive water quality and assessment for the San Joaquin Region. Level of support and contribution of diverse partners that reflect the San Joaquin Region will be evaluated. EPA will also consider the extent of collaboration described with existing monitoring activities to ensure that project efforts enhance current effectiveness and efficiency, particularly for the State and Regional Water Boards.
- 10 points:** **Scientific and technical feasibility of proposal.** Applicants will be evaluated based on the scientific and technical feasibility of the proposed activities.
- 10 points:** **Cost effectiveness of the proposal, including ability to leverage other resources.** Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent that they demonstrate: (i) clarity of the budget, (ii) reasonableness of costs associated described activities, and (iii) how they will coordinate the use of EPA funding with other Federal and/or non Federal sources of funds to leverage additional resources to carry out the proposed project.
- 5 points:** **Past Performance:** Extent and quality to which the applicant adequately documented and/or reported on its progress towards achieving the expected results (e.g., outcomes and outputs) under EPA and other Federal agency assistance agreements performed within the last three years, and if such progress was not being made whether the applicant adequately documented/and or reported why not. In evaluating applicants under this factor, EPA will consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider other relevant information from other sources, including information from EPA files and from current and prior Federal agency grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information provided by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant information for this factor will receive a neutral score for it.
- 5 points:** **Programmatic Capability:** Under this factor, the Agency will evaluate the applicants technical ability to successfully carry out the proposed project taking into account the following factors: (i) past performance in successfully completing federally funded projects similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years , (ii) history of meeting reporting requirements under federally funded agreements similar in size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project performed within the last 3 years and submitting acceptable final technical reports under these agreements, (iii) organizational experience and plan for timely and successfully achieving the objectives of the proposed project, and (iv) staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge, and resources or the ability to obtain them, to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. Note: In evaluating applicants under this factor, the Agency will

consider the information provided by the applicant and may also consider relevant information from other sources including agency files and prior/current grantors (e.g., to verify and/or supplement the information supplied by the applicant). Applicants with no relevant or available past performance or reporting history (items i and ii above), will receive a neutral score for those elements of this factor.

VI. Award Administration Information

If your proposal is selected for funding, you will need to complete a formal application, including a detailed work plan, for Federal funding. An application kit containing financial and administrative forms and general information on Federal grants will be mailed to award recipients. Blank forms may also be obtained at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/funding/applying.html>.

Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding, nor is it an authorization to begin performance on the selected project. Deadlines must be met and the application and work plan must be approved by EPA for funding to occur.

Regulations governing the award and administration of Water Quality Cooperative Agreements can be found at 40 CFR Part 30 (for institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and non-profit organizations) and 40 CFR Part 31 (for States, Tribes, and local governments). Regulations may be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/regulations.html>.

All costs incurred under this program must be allowable under the applicable OMB Cost Circulars. Copies of the circulars can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars>.

In certain circumstances costs incurred prior to the grant award may be eligible for reimbursement. However, this does not include any costs associated with responding to this solicitation or in finalizing the application package. If costs are incurred before the award, they are incurred at the applicant's or grantee's own risk.

Nonprofit applicants that are recommended for funding under this announcement may be subject to pre-award administrative capability reviews consistent with Sections 8.b, 8.c, and 9.d of EPA Order 5700.8, 'EPA Policy on Assessing Capabilities of Non-Profit Applicants for Managing Assistance Awards' which can be found at http://www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/award/5700_8.pdf. Nonprofit applicants that qualify for funding may, depending on the size of the award, be required to fill out and submit to the Grants Management Office the Administrative Capability Form, with supporting documents, contained in Appendix A of EPA Order 5700.8.

Quarterly project status reports and Financial Status Reports will be required. Quarterly reports should describe project activities and provide the EPA Project Officer with information about project development. The Financial Status Report must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds.

Disputes: Assistance agreement competition-related disputes will be resolved in accordance with the dispute resolution procedures published in 70 FR (Federal Register) 3629, 3630

(January 26, 2005) which can be found at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-1371.html> .

Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting the Agency Contact listed below.

VII. Agency Contact

For additional information, please contact:

Sam Ziegler
Phone: (415) 972-3399
Fax: (415) 947-3537
Email: ziegler.sam@epa.gov

VII. Other Information

To provide relevant context for proposals, applicants are encouraged to review additional information about (1) CMARP at <http://www.iep.ca.gov/cmarp/> and <http://www.sfei.org/cmarpquery/> (2) CALFED at <http://calwater.ca.gov/> and (3) SWAMP at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/swamp/> and ftp://ftp.sccwrp.org/pub/download/PDFs/473_sparc.pdf

If you have technical difficulties while applying electronically via Grants.gov, please refer to <http://www.grants.gov/CustomersSupport> or the toll-free Contact Center 1-800-518-4726.