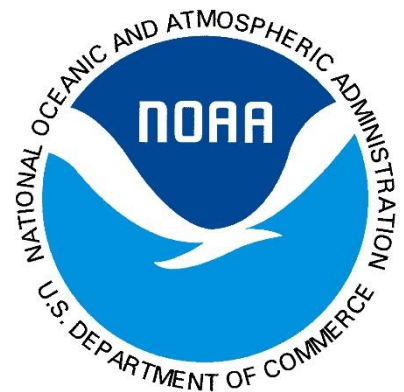




Request for Qualifications

BIRD ISLAND CREATION IN CARANCAHUA BAY
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY



Organization Background and Mission:

For more than a century, the National Audubon Society (Audubon) has built a legacy of conservation success by mobilizing the strength of its network of members, Chapters, Audubon Centers, state offices and dedicated professional staff to connect people with nature and the power to protect it. A powerful combination of science, education and policy expertise combine in efforts ranging from protection and restoration of local habitats to the implementation of policies that safeguard birds, other wildlife and the resources that sustain us all--in the U.S. and across the Americas.

Audubon's Mission: The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.

Project Description:

As part of our efforts to add new bird islands to the Matagorda Bay area Audubon is seeking a qualified firm to provide design, engineering, and permitting for creation of a coastal bird island near the mouth of Carancahua Bay. This project was awarded to Audubon through the Texas Coastal Management Program Cycle 26 grant funds. These funds are available to the State of Texas by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq., Financial Assistance Award No. NA21NOS4190136. The GLO will participate in the project as the managing state agency and will approve final designs.

Professional Services Scope of Work:

Audubon is seeking a professional services firm to provide design, engineering, permitting and other related services. The selected firm will perform support services to assist Audubon. Audubon anticipates entering into a contract with the successful firm (s) for a 12 month period with an option to renew as needed. Anticipated support services include, but are not limited to:

- Engineering, design and modeling to prepare 30%, 60%, 90% conceptual island designs;
- Bid documents (100% design with technical specifications);
- Section 404 permit application preparation, submission, and correspondence;
- GLO submerged land lease application preparation, submission, and correspondence.

Submission Requirements:

- Submissions shall consist of a cover letter and a statement of qualifications.
- The cover letter shall be no more than one standard letter size page, text size no smaller than size 12 font, and clearly indicate the name, title, email address and telephone number of the submitting firm's primary contact.
- The statement of qualifications shall be no more than 15 double-sided standard letter size pages, text size no smaller than size 12 font, include firm and/or team organization, background, examples of relevant previous project experience, resumes of key personnel and all other supporting documentation.
- If more than one entity is responding to this RFQ under a single proposal, the statement of qualifications shall list all entities that are a part of the proposal and detail the services to be provided.
- Submissions shall consist of one electronic copy in PDF format.
- Submissions shall be submitted through email with the subject line "Bird Island Creation in Carancahua Bay RFQ"

Minimum Experience and Qualifications:

The successful firm must meet all of the following minimum qualifications and must describe these qualifications in the statement of qualifications:

1. At least 5 years' experience designing and implementing restoration projects in the Carancahua Bay region;
2. Documented history of preparing Section 404 permits and GLO Submerged Land Lease applications;
3. Documented experience developing conceptual designs for bird islands;
4. Demonstrate knowledge of coastal bird islands and coastal habitats;
5. Demonstrate experience conducting modeling to support conceptual island designs.

Submittal and Deadline: It is the sole responsibility of the entity submitting a statement of qualification in response to this RFQ to ensure actual delivery of submittal prior to the deadline. Submissions must be received prior to the deadline by email. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.

Responses to this RFQ must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. on May 23, 2022. Responses shall be submitted to: Alexis Baldera, Coastal Program Manager, alexis.baldera@audubon.org. Proposals may be modified or withdrawn in writing prior to the proposal deadline. Proposals may not be modified or withdrawn after that time and will not be returned. If a proposer no longer wishes to have its proposal considered after the proposal deadline, notice must be submitted in writing

Award of Contract: Audubon intends to award the contract the week of *May 30, 2022*. Audubon reserves the right to accept or dismiss the proposal received as a result of this RFQ, to negotiate with your firm, or to cancel this request, if it is in the best interest of Audubon and involved parties to do so. This request does not commit Audubon to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in preparation of a response to this request, or to procure or contract for further services or supplies. Audubon also reserves the right to waive any irregularity, informality, or technicality in the proposal in its best interest, and is not obligated to award a contract.

Commitment to Diversity: Audubon values diversity in its staff, in the communities we serve, and in our business partners. Therefore, among the factors Audubon will take into account as it looks to hire the most qualified business for the job is whether the vendor itself has diversity goals in hiring, retention and promotion. We also welcome the opportunity to diversify our vendor base to include minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned, LGBTQ-owned, and disability-owned businesses wherever possible. We welcome any information you can provide about your diversity practices.

Compensation: If Audubon enters into a professional services contract with your firm, compensation for the services rendered will be based upon percentage of completion with an agreed maximum not to exceed value. Work should begin on July 1, 2022 and adhere to the strict project timeline.

Use of Subcontractors: If the work to be performed by your company requires the hiring of subcontractors, you must clearly state this in your proposal and identify the subcontractors and define the work to be executed. Audubon will not refuse a proposal based on the use of subcontractors; however, we retain the right to refuse the subcontractors you propose to engage.

Conflict of Interest Form must be completed: