



REQUEST FOR BIDS

Tuluwat Island Spartina (*Spartina densiflora*) Removal Project

The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation & Conservation District (Harbor District) is requesting bids for contractors to assist in the removal of invasive Spartina (*Spartina densiflora*) from Tuluwat Island within Humboldt Bay. Bids from individual firms or teams will be considered.

1. Information

Proposal Title	Tuluwat Island Spartina Removal Project
Proposal Type	Bid
Solicitation Issuance	May 21, 2021
Bids and Qualifications Due	July 2, 2021 at 4:00 pm

2. Instructions for Submitting Bids and Qualifications

Submittal Address	Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District Mindy Hiley, Director of Administrative Services mhiley@humboldtbay.org
Submittal Requirements	Bids must be submitted electronically (.pdf) to the email address above. Submitted bids must include the bid title in the email subject line. The submitter is responsible to ensure that they receive email confirmation that their bid is received.
Late Submittals	Bids received after the time and date stated above shall not be considered.

3. How to Obtain Bid Documents

Copies of the solicitation and attachments may be obtained at:

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District
601 Startare Drive
Eureka, CA 95521

Or

www.humboldtbay.org

4. Planholder’s List

Entities considering bidding on the project are advised to notify the Harbor District of their interest. The Harbor District will provide interested entities email notifications of any solicitation addendums. To receive notifications, provide your firm’s name, primary contact and email address to Mindy Hiley at mhiley@humboldtbay.org.

5. Questions about the Solicitation

Questions must be submitted in writing by email as follows:

Contact	Mindy Hiley, Director of Administrative Services mhiley@humboldtbay.org
Questions Due Date	June 23, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Please submit questions as soon as possible. No questions regarding this solicitation will be responded to if received after the above date.
Harbor District Responses to Questions	June 25, 2021 All pertinent questions will be responded to via addendum(s). The addendum(s), including questions and responses, will be made available on the Harbor District’s website (www.humboldtbay.org). The District will respond to questions as soon as possible after they are received.

Once the solicitation is issued, and until a recommendation for award is made to the Harbor District Board, each Proposer and its representatives, agents, and affiliates, shall not contact members of the evaluation committee, Harbor District staff or the Harbor District Board to discuss or ask questions about the contents of this solicitation or the selection process. All questions shall be submitted in writing as described above. Inappropriate contacts may result in the bidder’s disqualification.

6. Full Opportunity

The Harbor District’s policy prohibits discrimination or preferential treatment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental disability, cancer-related medical condition, a known genetic pre-disposition to a disease or disorder, veteran status, marital status, or sexual orientation. The successful Respondent shall comply with the Harbor District’s non-discrimination policy.

The Harbor District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive any irregularities or informalities not affected by law, to evaluate the proposals submitted and to award the contract according to the proposal which best serves the interests of the Harbor District.

7. Overview

The Harbor District is managing the removal of invasive Spartina from the saltmarsh on Tuluwat Island through a cooperative agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Spartina removal is being funded by Caltrans as mitigation for coastal wetland impacts associated with the Eureka-Arcata Corridor Project on U.S. Route 101 and trail projects adjacent to U.S. Route 101. Spartina removal was identified as being a suitable mitigation for coastal wetland impacts because of the threat that Spartina poses to salt marsh diversity and the high level of infestation present within Humboldt Bay saltmarshes. It is estimated that approximately 90-percent of the remnant saltmarsh around Humboldt

Bay has been invaded by Spartina to some degree. In areas with moderate or high levels of Spartina cover a severe decline in native species diversity and cover occurs, highlighting the importance of Spartina removal to ensure the health and persistence of native salt marsh vegetation communities.

The general mitigation area on Tuluwat Island is approximately 242 acres of vegetated, vacant land bisected by Highway 255. Several private residential properties along the southeast shore of the island are not included in the mitigation area. The entire island is designated a National Historical Landmark and is the center of the Wiyot Tribe Universe. Because of its significance and extensive undeveloped saltmarsh habitat with substantial Spartina invasion, it was determined to be a suitable location for Spartina removal for mitigation purposes. Of the 242 acres within the mitigation area, approximately 178 acres have some level of Spartina cover. Using varied mitigation ratios described within the Tuluwat Island Wetland Mitigation Plan for the Eureka-Arcata Safety Corridor and Humboldt Trails Projects (September 2020, available at: www.humboltdbay.org) it was determined that the full 178 acres of Spartina removal mitigation will occur. Table 1 below shows the acres of Spartina requiring treatment by Spartina cover class.

Table 1. Acres of Spartina to be treated by Spartina cover class.

Percent Cover of Spartina	Acres
1-25	81.06
26-60	17.62
>60	79.03
Total	177.71

Under the awarded contract, prior to conducting the physical removal of Spartina, a Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan must be written and submitted to the Humboldt Bay Harbor District and Caltrans. The plan will be forwarded to the California Coastal Commission Executive Director for approval. The Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan will address impacts to sensitive resources occurring within the removal area including avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures. Further information is included under Task 1 below. Included within the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan will be a description of surveys and assessments required to minimize impacts to sensitive resources. Topics to address will include special status fish, special status and nesting birds, special status plants, contaminated soils, archeological resources, and water quality among others. A full description of the surveys and assessments is included under Task 2 below.

Spartina removal will be conducted using a wide range of methods to accommodate the varied conditions within the island and to make Spartina removal more successful. The methods to be used as well as a description of the methods and tools required are detailed in Table 2 under Task 3.

Differing methods will be used depending on site conditions, level of infestation and other site constraints that will be identified in the required Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan. It will not be known with certainty what methods can be used where and over what area until the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan is completed. Estimates for the purpose of bidding are provided below.

Treatment will be conducted in stages to maximize the effectiveness of the Spartina removal effort.

- **Initial treatment** will be the first action taken onsite and will be the most intensive aimed at killing Spartina

- **Resprout treatment** will occur for 1-2 years following initial treatment to ensure mortality of Spartina and will be less intensive than the initial treatment
- **Seedling treatment** will be required the first and second spring-summer season following the initial treatment to help prevent reinvasion by Spartina
- **Maintenance treatment** will be conducted in the third year after the initial treatment and will require two (2) treatments/year to address Spartina that reinvades the site
- **Revegetation treatment** will not likely be necessary except in extreme cases, native salt marsh vegetation has been known to recover readily following Spartina removal
- **Seed Suppression treatment** can be used as an interim measure to halt seed development and reduce the threat of spread from targeted populations into vulnerable areas.

Spartina removal treatment methods, treatment stages, and treatment requirements are described in more detail under Task 3 below.

Following completion of the treatment, monitoring will be conducted to document success and will be continued annually to document whether or not Spartina removal success criteria are being met. Monitoring efforts will begin with an “As built” report documenting the success of the initial effort after the second year of treatment. Pre-removal monitoring has already been conducted and the mapping and reporting will be made available for use as the pre-project conditions with which to compare the post treatment results. Annual monitoring will be conducted to assess Spartina regrowth, maintenance needs and conformance to the success criteria. Annual monitoring reports will be developed for five years following successful primary removal (see Table 5). Annual Reports will be submitted in coordination with Caltrans who will submit the reports to the California Coastal Commission. Should the success criteria be met after five years, a final removal report would be written in coordination with Caltrans documenting the success of the Spartina removal treatment. A full description of the monitoring and reporting requirements and timeline is included under Task 4 below.

8. Scope

The scope of work for Spartina removal on Tuluwat Island is divided into four tasks to better allocate the work and to facilitate the completion and conformance with all the components required by the PEIR (*Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Humboldt Bay Regional Spartina Eradication Plan*), Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 1-14-0249, the eradication plan (*Humboldt Bay Regional Spartina Eradication Plan*), CDP 1-18-1078, and the Caltrans Wetland Mitigation Plan (*Wetland Mitigation Plan for the Humboldt Bay Area Mitigation Project, Tuluwat Island*). These supporting documents are available at www.humboltdbay.org. The four required tasks include a Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan, mitigation measure implementation, Spartina removal on Tuluwat Island and post treatment monitoring. The Harbor District is seeking firms or teams with experience in all aspects of the four tasks. The four required tasks are described at length below. Mitigation measures and conditions from the project’s regulatory approvals are summarized, but the actual permits and PEIR should be consulted regarding specific requirements.

Task 1: Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan

The selected team shall draft a Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan and submit it to the Harbor District and Caltrans for approval. Caltrans will thereafter submit it to the California Coastal Commission for approval. The Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan will address the Spartina removal work to occur in the area and shall be consistent with (1) all terms and conditions of Coastal Development Permit 1- 14-0249, and (2) the mitigation measures in the adopted Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (FPEIR) prepared for the project (dated March 21,

2013). While herbicide use is recorded as being suitable for treatment within these documents, the Wiyot Tribe has stated that they do not want herbicides used on Tuluwat Island. As such, herbicide application will not be an allowable method of Spartina control for the work covered under this solicitation and resulting contract award. The Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan shall include, at a minimum, the following components:

- I. A description of the treatment area location, size, access routes, and proposed primary and anticipated secondary methods for Spartina removal (this information is available in the supporting documents attached and at www.humboldtby.org);
- II. A site evaluation that describes the size and density of the Spartina infestation in the treatment area, vegetation composition, substrate characteristics, topography, tidal circulation and elevations, the presence of tidal channels on or adjacent to the site, site accessibility, the presence of sensitive resources, distances to the nearest aquaculture operations and residential areas, public access use in and around the area, and other factors relevant to the proposed initial treatment method;
- III. Analyses and, as applicable, survey results, completed by a qualified biologist using agency-approved protocols, for sensitive fish, birds, plants, and other sensitive species consistent with the relevant mitigation measures proposed in the FPEIR (described in Task 2);
- IV. In cases where ground disturbance methods are proposed, a preliminary assessment of sediment contamination in and around treatment areas and access routes consistent with the relevant mitigation measures proposed in the FPEIR;
- V. Any necessary approvals from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, and other agencies as applicable for the proposed site-specific treatment activities;
- VI. Plans consistent with the mitigation measures in the FPEIR for all of the following, as applicable: (a) noise monitoring, (b) nesting bird habitat protection, (c) rare plant protection, (d) eelgrass avoidance, (e) erosion and sediment control, (f) hazardous materials spill prevention and containment, (g) worker health and safety, and (h) public access protection (described in Task 2);
- VII. A protocol for the inadvertent discovery of artifacts or archaeological deposits developed consistent with the requirements of Special Condition 8 which requires that the protocol be submitted to the Coastal Commission Executive Director for review and approval. Caltrans has developed a detailed site-specific Cultural Resource Protection Plan in consultation with the Wiyot Tribe which should be referenced;
- VIII. A description of the specific mitigation measures proposed to avoid or minimize impacts to visual, biological, and cultural resources, water quality, surrounding mudflats, environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA), park and recreation areas, and public access from the proposed Spartina removal activities, including demonstrating consistency with all relevant mitigation measures from the FPEIR and the special conditions of the coastal development permit;
- IX. A site plan depicting the initial treatment area, designated ingress/egress routes, staging/stockpiling areas, buffer areas (from channels, nesting bird habitat, sensitive plants, etc., as applicable), and locations of relevant mitigation measures (e.g., educational signage, locations to be staked for rare plant protection, locations for erosion and sediment control devices, etc.)
- X. A schedule for timing of work, including timing of mitigation measure implementation, and an analysis of how the proposed timing of work minimizes impacts on public access

- (e.g., avoiding peak use periods) and coastal resources;
- XI. Applicable acreage calculations according to the treatment acreage limits for Spartina removal described under Task 3 below;
 - XII. A description of the specific implementation of performance standards that will assure achievement of the restoration goals and objectives set forth in the Humboldt Bay Regional Spartina Eradication Plan (H.T. Harvey & Assoc. 2012, available at www.humboldt-bay.org) including, but not limited to:
 - a. the restoration of native tidal marsh plant species in the treatment area to a level of coverage and diversity similar to surrounding natural marshlands, and
 - b. achievement of fully restored (to “maintenance” stage) marsh habitats within the treatment area within five years of implementation of initial treatment;
 - XIII. A monitoring plan (described in Task 4 below) that includes provisions for
 - a. monitoring the treatment area for a minimum of five years post implementation of initial treatment;
 - b. photos documenting the restoration/recovery of the treatment area; and
 - c. performing quantitative sampling in the treatment area to track native plant recovery and Spartina presence/cover in the area throughout the monitoring period.

The monitoring plan should include a schedule of proposed monitoring activities.
 - XIV. A reporting plan (described in Task 4 below) that includes provisions for submittal to the Executive Director of
 - a. an “as built” report demonstrating that the initial restoration work has been completed in accordance with the approved Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan within 30 days of completion of the initial treatment;
 - b. annual reports of monitoring results each year for the duration of the required monitoring period, beginning the first year after submittal of the “as-built” assessment
 - c. a final monitoring report at the end of the five-year reporting period.

Much of the information needed to write the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan is included within the supporting documents available at www.humboldt-bay.org, specifically the Coastal Development Permit, the Tuluwat Island Wetland Mitigation Plan March 2021, the mitigation measures in the adopted Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report, and the Humboldt Bay Regional Spartina Eradication Plan. Some of the information needed to complete the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan will require completion of Task 2 surveys, which will need to be conducted in conjunction with the writing of the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan.

Task 2: Mitigation Measure Implementation

The adopted Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report identified mitigation measures needed to reduce impacts associated with Spartina removal to less than significant levels. These mitigation measures were recorded as conditions of approval within the CDP and are required as part of the Spartina removal project. The results of required surveys and assessments will be used to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive resources within the project area and will be used to complete the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan (Task 1).

- I. To minimize impacts to special-status fish the selected team shall:
 - a. Complete a habitat analysis to determine if special-status fish species have the potential to occur and, if applicable, conduct surveys to determine if special status fish species may be present. If there is appropriate habitat for special

status fish species, then presence may be assumed rather than conducting surveys.

- b. Use only cordgrass control methods that minimize potential erosion impacts near habitat for special status fish species. This includes top-mowing, crushing, and covering within 15 feet of any aquatic habitat that may contain special-status fish species, so that a vegetative buffer will remain along the edge of the channel, thereby minimizing soil loss and water turbidity. Acreage estimates for these buffer areas are provided under Task 3 and Table 3. Additionally, amphibious vehicles will not contact the channel substrate where special status fish are present, and the vehicles will be operated in such a manner that they will avoid causing erosion into the channels
 1. Ground disturbing treatment methods (e.g., grind, till, excavate, disk) within the buffer zones may only be used if approved amendments to the Project's environmental documents, including the PEIR, CDP 1-14-0249 and Humboldt Bay Harbor District Permit, are obtained. Amendments will not likely be obtained in time for the initial treatment and it is assumed that the selected team will abide by the restrictions currently required within buffer areas for fish habitat.
 - c. Incorporate the fish protection measures described above into the site-specific Spartina removal plan (Task 1).
- II. To minimize impacts to special-status birds and nesting birds the selected team shall:
- a. Complete a habitat analysis to determine if special-status birds have the potential to occur.
 - b. Conduct surveys for nesting pairs, nests, and eggs if the habitat targeted for Spartina removal treatment has the potential to support sensitive birds and work is slated to occur when these birds may be breeding.
 - c. Conduct nesting bird surveys for nesting pairs, nests, and eggs of migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) within seven (7) days prior to the commencement of Spartina removal work, if work is to be conducted between March 1 and August 15.
 - d. Delineate a minimum 300 ft buffer zone for harrier and short-eared owl nests, a 200 foot buffer for all other raptors and a 100 foot buffer for all other bird species protected under the MBTA if sensitive bird species and birds protected under the MBTA are found to be nesting within the treatment area. The buffer zone will be avoided by Spartina control workers and equipment. Additionally, if nesting birds are observed within close proximity to Spartina control activities then actions will be taken to ensure that ≤ 60 dB reaches the breeding area. Actions may include the use of sound measuring devices to determine the range of noise production and limit Spartina control methods accordingly (i.e., use quieter methods near breeding special status birds).
 - e. Incorporate the special status and nesting bird protection measures described above into the site-specific Spartina removal plan (Task 1).
- III. To minimize impacts to special-status plant species the selected team shall:
- a. Coordinate with Caltrans who will complete a habitat analysis to determine if special-status plant species have the potential to occur and shall use the results to conduct the botanical surveys described below.

- b. Coordinate with Caltrans who will conduct species specific botanical surveys if special-status plant habitat is present to map populations of the species of concern. Results shall be given to the selected team for inclusion in the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan.
 - c. Write a rare plant protection plan using the results from the Caltrans botanical analyses and surveys if special status plants are present which shall be prepared and submitted for the Coastal Commission Executive Director's review and approval
 - d. Use the sub-meter GPS data from Caltrans to flag and stake out special-status plant populations observed and mapped by Caltrans during the plant survey so that they are easily avoided during Spartina removal work and instruct workers to avoid and protect special-status plants.
 - e. Utilize Spartina removal methods that avoid or minimize potential impacts to special-status plant species if they are determined to be present. This will include:
 - 1. For two of the rare annual plants that occur in habitat that overlaps with Spartina habitat, Humboldt Bay owl's clover and Point Reyes bird's beak, impacts will be minimized to the maximum extent feasible and restored sites will be monitored for the recovery of native plants (covered in Task 4).
 - 2. For other annual special status plants such as western sand spurry, only treatment methods that are highly selective will be used so that the rare plants are avoided.
 - 3. For perennial plants such as Lyngbye's sedge, a qualified botanist will stake out locations of special-status plants and provide training to control crews to ensure that they minimize impacts to these plants.
 - f. Wrack and large deposits of mown Spartina will be removed during the growing season if special-status plant populations or habitat occur near the high tide line.
 - g. Mark and use paths that avoid special-status plant species to the maximum extent possible to avoid trampling of special status plant species, in areas where frequent access will occur.
 - h. Incorporate the special-status plant protection measures described above into the site-specific Spartina removal plan (Task 1).
- IV. To minimize impacts to eelgrass the selected team shall:
- a. Train workers to recognize eelgrass and mudflats that contain potential habitat for eelgrass when Spartina removal occurs in areas that have potential habitat for eelgrass. Training must be given by a qualified biologist with experience in eelgrass related work.
 - b. Use Spartina removal methods that avoid physical disturbance to eelgrass, such as top-mowing, and excavation, when in close proximity to eelgrass.
 - c. Incorporate the eelgrass protection measures described above into the site-specific Spartina removal plan (Task 1).
- V. To minimize impacts to marine mammals the selected team shall:
- a. Avoid using Spartina removal methods that cause relatively high noise levels (brushcutters, the Marsh Master, and airboats) within 200 feet of marine mammals and instead use other methods that do not generate relatively high noise levels.
 - b. Incorporate the marine mammal protection measures described above into the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan (Task 1).
- VI. To minimize impacts to visual resources the selected team shall:

- a. Restrict the use of plastic or other marsh cover as a Spartina eradication technique to a 0.5 acre area maximum in areas that are visible from a public vantage point including public roads.
 - b. Marsh covering shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) acres per year within the Tuluwat Spartina removal area.
 - c. Post educational signs describing the project and ecological impacts of Spartina where public use is high.
 - d. Incorporate the visual resource protection measures described above into the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan (Task 1).
- VII. To minimize impacts to water quality resulting from fuel use the selected team shall:
- a. Refuel, maintain, and store petroleum products off-site. Transport vehicles and other equipment shall not be serviced or fueled in the field except under emergency conditions and hand-held gas-powered equipment shall be fueled in the field using precautions to minimize or avoid fuel spills within the marsh.
 - 1. Write and submit a hazardous Materials Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control board if fuel containers are utilized exceeding a single tank capacity of 660 gallons or cumulative storage greater than 1,320 gallons.
 - b. Develop and implement a spill prevention and management plan to contain and clean-up spills.
 - c. Use vegetable oil based hydraulic fluid in heavy equipment and vehicles during the Spartina removal effort and when feasible, use biodiesel instead of petroleum diesel in heavy equipment and vehicles.
 - d. Have emergency spill cleanup kits immediately accessible to contractors and equipment operators when on site during treatment.
 - e. Incorporate the fuel water quality protection measures described above into the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan (Task 1).
- VIII. To minimize impacts to water quality resulting from ground disturbance of historically contaminated soils the selected team shall:
- a. Perform a preliminary site assessment to determine the potential for contamination in sediments. This will include a review of existing site data and evaluation of historical site use and/or proximity to possible contaminant sources. Much of this work has been completed (ICF 2018) and is summarized in the Caltrans Wetland Mitigation Plan available on the Harbor Districts website at www.humboldt-bay.org.
 - b. Within areas determined to have historic sediment contamination, soil sampling was conducted (ICF 2018) and is summarized in the Caltrans Wetland Mitigation Plan (Available at www.humboldt-bay.org).
 - c. Results from the sediment contamination assessment will be incorporated into the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan (Task 1) and Spartina treatment methods that do not disturb sediments will be used within the areas identified.
- IX. To minimize impacts to water quality resulting from soil erosion resulting from wave action, ingress/egress, and temporary storage/stockpiling the selected team shall:
- a. Use non-soil disturbing methods within 15 feet of marsh edge that may be directly exposed to wave action. This prohibits the use of grinding, tilling, disking, digging, and excavation in these areas. It does not apply to tributary sloughs/channels on Tuluwat

island that are not subject to wave action. However, other sensitive resources may limit use of ground disturbing methods in other areas.

- b. Describe and record areas subject to wave action that are to be avoided, and alternative removal methods to be used in these setback areas within the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan.
 - c. Designate ingress/egress routes to minimize temporary disturbance areas. Where areas adjacent to staging and stockpiling are erosion prone, the extent of staging and stockpiling areas shall be minimized by flagging the boundary. An erosion/sediment control plan shall be developed by a qualified professional for erosion prone areas outside of the treatment area that are greater than ¼ acre.
 - d. Describe and incorporate ingress/egress routes, staging, stockpiling, and equipment storage areas into the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan (Task 1) including the erosion/sediment control plan details and requirements if an area greater than ¼ acre will be disturbed for staging, stockpiling and equipment storage.
 - e. Obtain any necessary approvals from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for the site-specific Spartina removal plan implementation (Note. There is not any existing regulatory approval from the RWQCB for the proposed project. Obtaining the approval is part of what needs to be bid for this project).
- X. To minimize impacts to Archaeological resources on Tuluwat Island the selected team shall:
- a. Establish a monitoring agreement with the Wiyot Tribe prior to each Spartina removal treatment.
 - b. Utilize an archaeologist and osteologist as follows:
 - 1. Archaeologist is required to meet the Secretary of Interior Standards for Principle Investigator in Archaeology. As needed, archaeologist will be required to identify historic material culture and pre-contact material culture. Archaeologist required to conduct archaeological excavations and specialized data analyses (including, but not limited to, identification of macro and micro-botanical material, and analysis of lithic artifacts).
 - 2. Archaeologist, in consultation with Wiyot tribal monitors, will use the results and guidance within the Caltrans Cultural Resources Protection Plan for Tuluwat Island to establish low visibility exclusion barriers (such as rope and stakes), stakes and flagging, and pin flags within the Resource Monitoring Area (RMA). Within the RMA, there are three (3) Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) including Complete Exclusion ESAs, Non-ground Disturbing ESAs, and Limited Ground Disturbance ESAs.
 - i. For Complete Exclusion ESAs, access is prohibited, including, but not limited to, vehicle, machines, and persons. Installation of wooden stakes with ropes (in plain colors) shall be used to delineate the ESA boundaries.
 - ii. For Non-ground disturbance ESAs, vehicles and machinery are prohibited. Installation of stakes with flagging tape shall be used to delineate the ESA boundaries.
 - iii. For limited-ground disturbance ESAs, machinery that is not hand-held is prohibited. Installation of pin flags shall be used to delineate the ESA boundaries.
 - 3. Consulting archaeologist (and tribal monitors) shall be present for the duration of work activity.

4. Consulting archaeologist shall record all prehistoric and historic artifacts found during the Spartina removal effort and all artifacts shall be returned to the location that they were found.
 5. Remove ESA markers following the completion of the Spartina removal and monitoring efforts, repairing markers as necessary throughout the Project timeline. As described in Article 18 of the Right of Entry and Access Agreement between Caltrans and the Wiyot Tribe, markers shall be removed within a reasonable time following Project activities. At the Tribe's discretion, ESA markers shall be temporarily removed as related to other uses of and activities/events occurring on the site by the Tribe.
 6. Consulting archaeologist shall produce an archaeological monitoring report following completion of the Project.
 7. An osteologist is required to meet the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Osteologist is required to identify human remains, marine and terrestrial mammal bone, fish bone, and invertebrate remains. Should any bone material be uncovered during the Spartina removal effort then all activity will cease and the on-call osteologist will be called who will consult with the County Coroner.
- c. Develop a protocol for the inadvertent discovery of artifacts or archaeological deposits consistent with the Cultural Resource Protection Plan for Tuluwat Island developed by Caltrans. Incorporate the Inadvertent Discovery Protocol into the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan (Task 1).
- XI. To minimize impacts to Air Quality the selected team shall:
- a. Include dust control BMPs while conducting Spartina removal and incorporate these measures into the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan.
 - b. Obtain any necessary approvals from the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District, and other agencies as applicable for any burning proposed to remove Spartina wrack.

Task 3: Spartina Removal from Tuluwat Island

Task 3 *Spartina Removal* includes the physical removal of Spartina from Tuluwat Island. Spartina removal will be conducted following completion and approval of the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan and the associated studies and obtainment of any required approvals including from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Tuluwat Island Spartina Removal Area

Tuluwat Island is accessed directly by CA route 255 and is approximately 1.27 miles long at its longest point and 0.5 miles wide at its widest point. The island has a total area of 280 acres of which 41 acres are wooded and 9.4 acres are privately owned. Nine acres are occupied by the elevated roadbed for CA route 255, and approximately 12.8 acres have an archeological ESA designation.

Approximately 178 acres of Spartina occur on the island and are slated for removal. Based on monitoring on October 3-4, 2019, this is comprised of 81.1 acres with 1-25 percent Spartina cover, 17.6 acres with 26-60 percent Spartina cover and 79 acres with greater than 60-percent Spartina cover.

Based on spartina density mapping and the Cultural Resource Protection Plan developed by Caltrans, it is estimated that 5 acres of the 12.8 acres designated Archaeological ESA have some level of Spartina growth and will need to be treated using non-soil disturbing methods. Tuluwat island has a shoreline of approximately 3.75 miles subject to direct wave action of which 0.22 miles is privately owned, leaving 3.53 miles of shoreline to be treated that is subject to direct wave action. A 15 foot no soil disturbance treatment setback is required in these areas which would leave, at a minimum, 6.4 acres to be treated with non soil disturbing methods to reduce impacts to water quality.

Tuluwat island is crisscrossed by a network of sloughs and channels that will require a 15 foot buffer setback to protect special status fish species and water quality by preventing erosion. It is estimated that approximately 75 acres will be subject to the 15 foot no soil disturbance treatment setback from these sloughs and channels in addition to the 6.4 acres mentioned above. Not all of these areas have extensive spartina cover, however based on Spartina cover mapping conducted in 2019 (available in the Wetland Mitigation Plan at: www.humboldt-bay.org) much of the area within this 15 foot buffer has the highest level of Spartina cover with up to 61-100 percent Spartina cover. These estimates are not sufficient for the purposes of the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan and all areas subject to no-soil-disturbance restrictions will need to be confirmed by the selected team during development of the Site Specific Spartina Removal Plan.

Tuluwat Island Spartina Removal Methods

Ground disturbing methods such as grinding, tilling, excavating, and disking may be suitable over portions of the island, however they are not suitable within certain sensitive areas that will be documented within the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan. A combination of non-ground disturbing methods (e.g., mowing, crushing, flame and cover) would be appropriate in sensitive locations. However, restrictions may also exist for these removal methods depending on the sensitive resources present, as described in the project’s Environmental Impact Report and permits (available at www.humboldt-bay.org).

The precise areas subject to removal restrictions (e.g., no ground disturbing methods) will not be accurately known until surveys and mapping described for Tasks 1 and 2 have been completed. Table 3 presents preliminary estimates of areas that will be subject to restriction of ground disturbing methods. Bidders are to use the estimates in Table 3 as a basis for developing bids. Because the actual acreage by method may deviate from these estimates, the bids for Spartina removal will be based on acres treated by method as detailed in the bid sheet. As such, payment for the Spartina removal component (Task 3) of the project will be based on the actual acreage of Spartina removed using each method.

Table 2. Proposed methods for the Humboldt Bay Regional Invasive Spartina Eradication Project.

Method	Description	Tools and Equipment
Mow	Cut above-ground stems, leaves, and stalks	Corded weed-eaters, handheld gas powered brush-cutters, and amphibious equipment (for dense infestations)
Grind	Grind rhizomes below soil surface 3-6 inches	Handheld metal-blade brush-cutters

Method	Description	Tools and Equipment
Till	Macerate rhizomes below soil surface	Handheld rototillers
Excavate	Complete removal of plant, including rhizomes	Shovels, digging bars, pulaskis, bags, wheelbarrows, hand carts, sleds, backhoes (limited to areas with dikes or roads near marsh), or amphibious excavating equipment
Disk	Cutting/shredding the plant, including the root system	Amphibious equipment fitted with disk attachment
Crush	Crush above-ground plant material, leaving a thatch that may smother plants and inhibit resprouts and seedlings	Tracked amphibious vehicles outfitted with various crushing devices, including rollers
Flame	Heat/flame passed over the plant until it wilts (may be used to kill seedlings in areas undergoing secondary treatment)	Handheld propane torch or tractor mounted flaming devices
Cover	Cover above-ground plant material to smother plants, restrict photosynthesis, and exhaust energy reserves. Covering also is used for onsite stockpiles to kill plants following excavation	Clear polyethylene plastic in areas of dry ground; black plastic, geotextile fabric, landscaping fabric, spikes, or stakes used as anchors

Table 3: Approximate acreage to be treated using ground disturbing versus non-ground disturbing methods. These estimates will be refined in the Site Specific Spartina Removal Plan to be developed by the contractor. However, the estimates will be used as the basis for the bid, as shown in the Bid Sheet.

Treatment Method	Estimated Treatment Area (Acres)
Ground Disturbing Methods	81
Non Ground Disturbing Methods.	97
Total	178

Spartina Removal Schedule

Spartina removal covered under this solicitation will occur over a period of seven years (Table 4). Spartina removal will consist of five (5) distinct treatment efforts that will be timed to ensure successful and effective removal of Spartina from Tuluwat Island. The approximate schedule of these efforts is shown in Table 4 and described below.

Table 4: Approximate Schedule of Proposed Spartina Removal at Tuluwat Island

Removal Treatment	Year						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Initial Treatment	Aug/Sept 2021 (following approval of Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan)	May (prior to seed set)					
Resprout Maintenance (as needed)			Sept.-March (when natives are dormant)				
Seedling Maintenance (as needed)			March-August (when seedlings flush and grow)				
Seed suppression			July-Aug. (in high threat stands if necessary)				
Revegetation (if needed)						Rainy season, if needed	

Initial Treatment:

The initial treatment is the first treatment action taken to kill Spartina plants. This effort will require the greatest investment of resources and has the highest potential for non-target species impacts. The initial removal treatment will take two years of focused treatment with the highest treatment effort in Year 1 (primary treatment) and a second intensive treatment in year 2 (secondary treatment). The site-specific Spartina removal plan will detail the effort needed to complete this task including consideration of sensitive resources on site, buffers and varied treatment methods needed to accomplish Spartina removal. As such, the initial treatment will not commence until the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan is approved. The optimal timing of the initial treatment varies depending on the control technique(s) used, equipment and/or labor availability, and site-specific characteristics. April through September has fewer tidal and weather constraints and has more hours of daylight however biological constraints such as nesting birds may complicate removal during this time.

Resprout Maintenance:

Intensive resprout treatments will be needed over a 1-2 year period following the initial treatment with ongoing resprout treatment in subsequent years to ensure the mortality of all existing plants (Table 4). During the first resprout treatment, small plants missed during the initial treatment can also be treated. During the second resprout treatment juveniles (i.e., plants that were missed as seedlings or in areas not treated for seedlings) can also be treated. Resprout treatments typically require less effort and expense than the initial treatment. Resprout treatments are best scheduled for late fall through early spring when native marsh plants undergo winter dormancy and Spartina resprouts are more visible. Removal at this time also allows easier detection and removal of smaller plants that may have been missed during the initial treatment.

Seedling Maintenance:

Intensive seedling treatments will be required in the first and second year following the initial treatment with ongoing seedling treatments in subsequent years to prevent reinvasion of the treated areas (Table 4). Open areas created as a result of the initial treatment can be readily re-colonized by Spartina seedlings from seed banks, seed introduction from adjacent locations or seeds produced the year of the

initial treatment if seed set occurs. Seedlings typically begin emerging in March-April and can continue to emerge through August. Seedlings are best treated early before they become established. Flaming and brush cutter treatments have been found to be the most effective against seedlings with hand-pulling or digging effective in small areas.

Both resprout maintenance and seedling maintenance will occur beyond the seven years covered under this bid.

Seed Suppression:

Seed suppression treatments are designed to prevent or severely reduce seed production rather than kill the plant. Seed suppression is typically a stop-gap measure when reproductive plants are deemed a high threat to vulnerable sites and there is no way that other methods can be used prior to seed set. Reasons for seed suppression treatment include impending seed set, limited time, or limitations to performing ground disturbing activities at a particular site (seed suppression can be achieved with a quick top mow). Seed suppression will be used in the years following the initial treatment as a way to prevent re-establishment of seedlings and a seedbank.

Revegetation:

It is expected that the native salt marsh plant community will regenerate naturally; however active revegetation may be warranted in locations topographically or hydrologically isolated marshes, or locations with little native plant propagule sources. Revegetation efforts would occur in year five, or three years after the completion of the initial treatment. Spartina removal efforts in other locations around Humboldt Bay indicate that this effort will be minimal, and plant material from adjacent native marshes in Tuluwat Island will be used. Revegetation can also be used in areas with low native plant diversity if deemed necessary.

Task 4: Post Treatment Monitoring

Annual monitoring is required to determine the performance and success of the Spartina removal effort and the need for additional treatment. Performance criteria and success criteria have been developed to assess the initial treatment and success of removal, these are described in more detail below:

Performance Criterion for the Initial Treatment

Used to guide site maintenance activities

Year 1: No success criteria for year 1 because the initial treatment is expected to take 2 years

Year 2: Demonstrate percent cover of Spartina decreased to <5 percent in all treatment areas.

Success Criteria for the 5-year Maintenance and Monitoring Period

Used to determine if restoration goals have been achieved at the end of the monitoring period. The goal of the Spartina Removal effort on Tuluwat Island is to meet the Success Criteria by the end of year 7.

Years 3-6: Demonstrate Spartina Cover remains <5 percent in all treatment areas

Year 7: Demonstrate that the cover of Spartina is <5 percent in treatment areas, that the absolute cover of native salt marsh species is ≥80 percent, and that there are no unvegetated areas >2.5

square meters (26.9 square feet).

Monitoring effort necessary for this project is comprised of multiple yearly efforts.

Initial Treatment Monitoring

Initial Treatment monitoring will inform the Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan, include all sensitive resources on-site, and shall include research plots and data gathering methods as detailed in Task 1.

Initial treatment monitoring will also include a detailed description of the methods that will be used after primary removal and during long-term monitoring to estimate the ground cover of Spartina. Methods must be sufficient to document Spartina ground cover and must be repeatable. After primary removal and during long-term monitoring estimation of Spartina ground cover, the contractor shall include methods for intensively searching for Spartina within delineated polygons of known area, visually estimating Spartina cover within areas of infestation and the size of the areas infested, and documenting the search tracks with a global positioning system (GPS). The entire treatment area must be visually examined along tracks that are sufficiently narrow that small plants can be recognized. It is estimated that this level of effort will cover approximately 5 acres per hour. This monitoring should be done following the initial treatment to document the effectiveness of the treatment. In addition, permanent photo points should be established that will be used in the continued monitoring effort. The permanent photo points should be documented using a sub-meter GPS unit so that they can be relocated and replicated during subsequent annual monitoring. This monitoring effort will be conducted following year 2 of the initial treatment.

The selected team shall write the results from this monitoring effort in an Initial Removal/As Built report documenting the success of the initial treatment, areas needing additional treatment, Spartina coverage, and areas lacking in native marsh vegetation (see Table 5). In addition, the report should include locations of delineated polygons of known area, photos from the permanent photo points with a descriptive caption and a map showing the permanent photo points, and direction of photo and areas of concern or locations needing additional treatment. This report will likely be used as a starting point for maintenance treatments the following year and needs to communicate what is needed for continued Spartina removal.

Five-Year Maintenance Monitoring

Yearly monitoring will be conducted for five years by the selected team to document maintenance needs and will include the results from the annual resprout survey and treatment efforts (see Table 5). Monitoring will be conducted by trained biologists who will visually estimate spartina resprout cover and native plant cover. The annual monitoring shall include a description of the methods that will be employed if on-the-ground sampling is used to estimate ground cover of the native saltmarsh vegetation in order to assess whether the success criterion has been met. The sampling plan must ensure more or-less uniform spatial coverage of the removal areas, randomized placement of sampling units and shall include replication sufficient to provide an estimate of mean ground cover of native saltmarsh vegetation with a margin of error of 10% ground cover with 90% confidence. These methods must be described in sufficient detail to enable an independent scientist to apply them in the field. Spartina resprout surveying will be conducted prior to maintenance treatment, and the results of the resprout surveying will be used to direct the treatment. Spartina resprout surveying will utilize similar search transects to those used in the

initial treatment monitoring and search transects will be recorded with a sub-meter GPS unit. Lastly, photos will be taken at all the established photo points to document changes. Each annual report shall include a “Performance Evaluation” section where information and results from the monitoring are used to evaluate the status of the restoration project and to recommend follow-up treatment methods as well as any necessary revegetation.

Should Caltrans determine that the monitoring results indicate that the performance criteria have not been met in year three, then the selected team will work with Caltrans to develop adaptive management strategies and thereafter implement the strategies. Potential adaptive management strategies include additional intensive treatment in year three similar to what was needed for the initial treatment effort. This may include altering the removal methods in the locations where performance criteria have not been met.

Four yearly monitoring reports (years 3-6) will be written (see Table 5) and will include the results of the Spartina resprout survey, native salt marsh cover, maintenance conducted on the resprouts, a discussion on whether or not the success criteria are being met and potential remedial actions if success criteria are not being met, and photos from each permanent photo point with a caption describing the photo. Annual monitoring reports will also include a breakdown of the cost of monitoring and maintenance for the year. Annual monitoring reports will be submitted to Caltrans following the schedule in Table 6 who will conduct site visits covering approximately 20 percent of the treatment area to confirm the results within the annual report. The annual report and field verification results will be submitted to the Coastal Commission by Caltrans.

Final Monitoring Report

Following completion of the final year of monitoring covered under this solicitation (year 7), a “Final Monitoring Report” will be written (see table 5). The Final Monitoring Report must be prepared in conjunction with a qualified biologist. The report must evaluate whether the restoration has met the goals and performance and success criteria described within Section 5.B.12 and 5.B.13 of the Safety Corridor CDP (available at www.humboldtby.org). The final monitoring report shall include a summary of the monitoring results and a description of how the final monitoring results meet the success criteria. If success criteria have not been met then remedial actions needed to meet the success criteria will be described and a description of what went wrong will be provided. The final monitoring report shall also contain the actual costs of monitoring and maintenance needed over the five years of monitoring to maintain Spartina at a \leq 5% ground cover on the saltmarshes of Tuluwat Island. This information is central to Caltrans’ determination of the funding needed to establish a non-wasting endowment for Spartina ongoing treatment on Tuluwat Island.

Monitoring Report Details

Each monitoring report shall include the following information:

- A summary of the project location and description of Spartina removal activities in each treatment area.
- Maps of the locations of and treatment areas, annotated to show treatment methods and timing.
- A list of the names, titles, and companies of the people who prepared the content of the annual report or conducted the monitoring activities that year.
- A reference to the resource agency permits and any subsequent letters of modification, as an appendix.

- A summary and analysis of the monitoring results, including an evaluation of site conditions in the context of the performance standards and success criteria.
- A discussion of the monitoring results, any modifications made to monitoring methods, and the cumulative maintenance efforts.

Table 5: Yearly Monitoring Schedule

Removal Treatment	Year						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Monitoring Schedule	Pre-treatment monitoring for site-specific Spartina removal plan	Initial Removal/ "As Built" Report and Performance Criteria Drone Assessment by Caltrans	First Annual Monitoring Report	Second Annual Monitoring Report	Third Annual Monitoring Report	Fourth Annual Monitoring Report	Final Monitoring Report and Success Criteria Drone Assessment by Caltrans

Table 6: Estimated Monitoring Reporting Schedule

Report Progress	Approximate Annual Date
Selected team submits preliminary survey results to Harbor District and Caltrans	September 1st
Selected team, Harbor District and Caltrans visit the island for verification of the survey results	September 15th
Selected team submits draft monitoring report to the Harbor District and Caltrans	October 1st
Caltrans submits comments on draft monitoring report to selected team	October 15th
Selected team to address comments and resubmit to Caltrans	October 31st
Selected team submits Final Draft Monitoring Report to Caltrans	November 15th
Caltrans to add additional monitoring information and methods as applicable (UAV surveys conducted by Caltrans in year 3 and 7)	December 1st
Caltrans submits Final Draft Monitoring Report to Coastal Commission	December 31st

9. Approximate Timeline

Table 7 presents the estimated timeline for contract execution and major project milestones. It is recognized that the schedule may be delayed if the Site Specific Spartina Removal Plan approval or North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board regulatory approval cannot be obtained in time to start treatment in September, 2021. However, the contractor will be expected to work aggressively to start treatment as soon as possible.

Table 7: Estimated project schedule.

Item	Approximate Date
Harbor District Awards Contract at Public Board Meeting	July 8, 2021
Contractor Conducts Special Studies and Analysis Necessary for Development of Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan	July – August, 2021
Contractor Submits Draft Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan to Harbor District and Caltrans for Review	August, 2021
Harbor District and Caltrans Provide Comments Regarding Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan	August, 2021
Final Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan Provided to Coastal Commission for Approval	Late August, 2021
Coastal Commission Approves Site-Specific Spartina Removal Plan Following Further Coordination with Project Team	Early September, 2021
Spartina Removal Begins	September, 2021

10. Submission Requirements

Bidders are to provide (1) a narrative demonstrating qualifications to conduct the proposed work; and (2) a bid for the proposed work by completing the provided bid sheet.

1) **Narrative demonstrating qualifications.** Narratives should not exceed 70 single-sided pages. Provide the following:

- a. Resumes for up to eight key staff that would be working on the project. Demonstrate staff proficiency in all required skills to complete the project including:
 - i. Spartina removal using the same or similar methods as described in this solicitation.
 - ii. Monitoring, data analysis and reporting as described in this solicitation.
- b. Up to five examples of similar projects that were successfully completed by the project team.
- c. Between 3-5 professional references for people that are familiar with the project team's qualifications for the proposed work. Provide phone numbers and email addresses for the references.

2) **A completed bid sheet (see below).**

**Bid Sheet
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District
Tuluwat Island Spartina Control**

Bid Task	Bid Item Description with Total Price Written in Words	Total Task Price
1.	Develop Site Specific Spartina Removal Plan Not to exceed _____ Dollars.	\$ _____
2.	Mitigation Measure Implementation Not to exceed _____ Dollars.	\$ _____
3.	Spartina Removal 81 acres treated using ground disturbing methods at a rate of \$ _____ / acre 97 acres treated using non ground disturbing methods at a rate of \$ _____ / acre	\$ _____ ¹
4.	Monitoring Not to exceed _____ Dollars.	\$ _____
TOTAL COST		\$ _____

¹Insert the total estimated cost to treat the 178 acres using ground disturbing and non-ground disturbing methods. The awards will be made based on total cost but payments for Task 3 will be made based on actual acres treated using each method (i.e., ground disturbing versus non-ground disturbing).

Total Bid Written in Words: _____

It is further understood and agreed that:

- A. In case of a discrepancy between words and figures, the words shall prevail, and in case of a discrepancy between unit prices and totals, the unit price shall prevail.
- B. The District reserves the right to eliminate any section of this proposal from the contract without claim of the Contractor for profits lost.
- C. No verbal agreement or conversation with any officer, agent, or employee of the District, either before or after the execution of the Agreement, shall affect or modify any of the terms or obligations of this proposal.
- D. The District will not be responsible for any errors or omissions on the part of the undersigned in making up his bid, nor will the bidder be released on account of errors.

E. The undersigned bidder is properly licensed in accordance with the State of California Contractors' State License Law providing for the registration of Contractors.

Date

Bidder's Name

11. Prevailing Wage Requirements

The work to be completed requires Prevailing Wages as required by the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). Work specifically involving the removal, maintenance, and monitoring of Spartina is subjected to Prevailing Wage requirements. General Prevailing Wage Rate Determinations applicable to this project may be obtained from the DIR website at: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/OPRL/DPreWageDetermination.htm>.

Bidders acknowledge that State General Prevailing Wage Rates will apply for this contract and, if awarded, it is the Bidder's responsibility to ensure the payment of appropriate prevailing wage rates to all employees who participate on the Agreement throughout the Project duration. Bidders agree to comply with all of the applicable provisions of the Labor Code including those provisions requiring the payment of not less than the general prevailing rate of wages. Bidders further agree to the penalties and forfeitures provided in said Code in the event a violation of any of the provisions occurs in the execution of this Agreement.

12. Rejection of Bids

Bids may be rejected if they show any alterations of form, additions not called for, conditional bids, incomplete bids, erasures, or irregularities of any kind. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.

13. Withdrawal of Bids

Any bid may be withdrawn at any time prior to the bid deadline provided that a request in writing, executed by the bidder or his duly authorized representative, for the withdrawal of such bid is filed with the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District. The withdrawal of a bid will not prejudice the right of the bidder to file a new bid.

14. Disqualification of Bidders

More than one bid from an individual, firm, partnership, or corporation, or combination thereof under the same or different names will not be considered. Reasonable grounds for believing that any bidder is interested in more than one bid for the work contemplated will cause the rejection of all bids in which such bidder is interested. If there is reason for believing that collusion exists among bidders, none of the participants in such collusion will be considered in future bids. Bids in which the prices obviously are unbalanced may be rejected.

15. Addenda

If any person contemplating submitting a bid for the proposed contract is in doubt as to the true meaning of any part of the scope of work or other proposed Contract Documents, they may submit to the District a written request for an interpretation or correction thereof. The person submitting the request shall deliver said request as described in Section 5 above. Any interpretation or correction of the proposed documents will be made only by an Addendum duly issued; and a copy of such Addendum will be mailed or delivered to each person receiving a set of such documents. The Board of Commissioners will not be responsible for any other explanations or interpretations of the proposed documents.

16. Waste Reduction and Recycling Program

The California legislation AB 939 (1989 CA Integrated Waste Management Act) requires all cities and counties in California to divert 50% of their waste streams away from landfills through recycling, reuse, and reduction programs. The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District strongly recommends that applicable construction/demolition debris be diverted out of landfills whenever possible.

17. Consultant Selection Schedule

Following is a tentative timeline:

Solicitation Released	May 21, 2021
Optional Virtual Pre-Bid Meeting	June 8, 2021
Optional Virtual Pre-Bid Meeting and In-Person Site Visit	June 22, 2021
Deadline for submitting questions	June 23, 2021
Bids Due	July 2, 2021
Contract Award	July 8, 2021

18. Award

The award will be made to the responsive bidder with the lowest total bid. A review committee will assess the information provided to ensure that it is complete and that the low bidder is qualified for the work. If the information provided is incomplete or the low bidder is not qualified, then the bidder with the next lowest bid will be tentatively selected and assessed by the review committee. The contract will be awarded on a time and materials payment basis. Tasks 1, 2 and 4 have costs not to be exceeded as presented in the bid sheet. Task 3 has payments per unit of treatment by method as also presented in the bid sheet.

The Harbor District reserves the right to modify or terminate this solicitation at any stage if the District determines such action to be in its best interest. The receipt of proposals or other documents at any stage of the bid process will in no way obligate the District to enter any contract of any kind with any party.

The Harbor District and its advisors are not responsible for costs or damages incurred by proposers, shortlisted proposers, teams, team members, subcontractors or other interested persons in connection with this solicitation process, including all costs associated with preparing responses to this solicitation, and of undertaking due diligence and participating in any conferences, meetings, presentations, negotiations or other activities.

The Harbor District will attempt to negotiate a contract with the tentatively selected bidder. If the District is unable to do so, negotiation with that bidder will be terminated and negotiations will then proceed in the same manner with the other bidders in order of lowest bids first. If the Harbor District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected bidders, the District may select additional firms and continue the negotiation process.

19. Attachments

The following documents are pertinent to this solicitation and are available at www.humboldtby.org:

- Tuluwat Island Wetland Mitigation Plan (2019)
- Spartina Eradication Plan (2013)
- Spartina Eradication Final EIR (2013)
- Spartina Control Coastal Development Permit (2015)
- Safety Corridor Project Coastal Development Permit (2019)