

**2005 Request for Proposals  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Lake Tahoe Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act Program, Round 5  
Monitoring and Modeling Projects for Air and Water**

**Overview**

US EPA Region 9 is soliciting proposals for projects to be funded under the Lake Tahoe Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, Public Law 105-263, as amended by Public Law 108-108. The purpose of this program is to provide funding for projects which implement the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) under the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Public Law 106-506. Funding is available for the following three projects through grants and/or cooperative agreements: 1) evaluation of nutrient and sediment loading into Lake Tahoe from direct runoff sources; 2) monitoring and modeling of fine sediment sources, transport and fate in the Lake Tahoe pelagic zone; and 3) mobile emissions measurements and modeling in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

These cooperative agreements/grants support the conduct and promote the coordination and acceleration of investigations, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of pollution. This assistance will be awarded through Section 104 (b)(3) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1254 or Section 103 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. §7403 as appropriate.

Projects funded as a result of this announcement support the following goals and objectives of the strategy that EPA is using to meet the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act: Water Program Goal 2 (Clean and Safe Water), Objective 2 (Protect Water Quality), Sub-objective 1 (Improve water quality on a watershed basis); and, Air Program Goal 1 (Clean Air and Global Climate Change), Objective 1.1 (Healthier Outdoor Air), Sub-objective 1.1.1 (More People Breathing Clean Air). This is an initial solicitation.

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers:** 66.436 for Section 104 (b) (3) of Clean Water Act Projects, and 66.034 for Section 103 of Clean Air Act Project.

**Important Dates:**

- Mar 31, 2005 Proposals must be received by EPA.
- May 15, 2005 Applicants identified for funding will be requested to submit a formal application package.
- June 8, 2005 Complete grant application and workplan must be submitted to EPA.
- Sept 30, 2005 Awards made.

Please note the schedule may be modified by EPA at any time.

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# **U.S. EPA Lake Tahoe Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act Program Request for Proposals: Round 5 Monitoring and Modeling Projects for Air and Water**

## **Full Text Announcement**

### **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

US EPA Region 9 is soliciting proposals for projects to be funded under the Lake Tahoe Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, Public Law 105-263, as amended by Public Law 108-108. The purpose of this program is to provide funding for projects which implement the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) under the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act, Public Law 106-506. Funding is available for the following three projects through grants or cooperative agreements: 1) evaluation of nutrient and sediment loading into Lake Tahoe from direct runoff sources; 2) monitoring and modeling of fine sediment sources, transport and fate in the Lake Tahoe pelagic zone; and 3) mobile emissions measurements and modeling in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

This RFP is for three separate and distinct projects, all funded through Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act funding for Lake Tahoe. Each proposal should address only one of the three project areas identified. Further information on proposals content is addressed in this notice.

**1. Direct Runoff Evaluation project:** The proposal should describe a monitoring program to evaluate the trends and patterns of urban water quality in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Specifically, the proposal should define a long-term monitoring plan, including identification of permanent sites for continuous trend monitoring, to monitor and evaluate urban and non-urban direct runoff in order to assess loading characteristics based on land use. The proposal should describe how this program will be implemented over one year and how the data will be evaluated to develop relationships between the collected data and upland restoration activities.

The proposal should consider how this project will contribute to answering the related Key Management Questions (KMQs) as defined in the EIP. These KMQs include: What is the relationship between land-use type and pollutant load? How is the effectiveness of individual projects and cumulative, basin-wide efforts best monitored in both the short-term and long term? What methods are available for reducing sediment and nutrient inputs into the lake, and how can the greatest reduction be accomplished in the shortest time period?

The proposal should describe how the results of this project will help guide restoration activities and locations, demonstrate the benefits of EIP and TMDL implementation, track cumulative loading reductions, identify practical baseline conditions and TMDL targets, detect terrestrial activities and processes that affect pollutant loading rates, improve source assessments, contribute to successful modeling of urban runoff loads, and improve hydrologic alternatives analysis in project designs.

**2. Lake Tahoe Pelagic Zone Monitoring and Modeling project:** The proposal should describe a monitoring program to: 1) evaluate the trends in lake particle composition; 2) further identify specific sources of fine sediments entering the lake and 3) evaluate the fate of the fine particles once in the lake, including evaluation of the effects of other physical, chemical and biological processes on particle fate and transport. The proposal should describe how this program will be implemented over one year and how the data will be used to refine clarity model predictions of TMDL loadings and lake response.

Projects should address the following questions: 1. What is the linkage between pollutant loading and lake response? 2. How much of a reduction in nutrients and fine sediment is needed, and in what time frame, to stop the decline in clarity of Lake Tahoe? 3. What is the relationship between land-use type and pollutant load? 4. What is the role of stream channel erosion on sediment and nutrient delivery to Lake Tahoe? What are the specific design criteria associated with BMPs and restoration projects?

Projects should achieve a better understanding of the sources of fine sediment to Lake Tahoe; data to refine the Lake Clarity model; in-lake monitoring to serve as an indicator of change; and, data to inform design and implementation of BMPs to meet the TMDL allocations in the basin.

**3. Mobile Emissions Measurement and Modeling project:** The proposal should describe a program for measuring emission factors over the course of one year and relate the measured emission factors to road conditions, meteorology and emission reduction strategies. This work is being done to better understand the impacts of wintertime events such as snow storms (and the associated traction control) and summertime droughts have on particulate emissions.

In addition, it would be useful, for determining the most effective control strategies, the impact of those strategies on particulate emissions. Examples of control strategies under consideration include: street sweeping, storm water diversion systems, paved shoulders, trackout prevention. Specifically, the proposal should describe: 1) the geographic scope; 2) number of instruments available to measure emissions at any one time; and 3) different scenarios which will be measured including variation of meteorological events, types of roadways, conditions of roadways, and identification of areas with highest VMTs. The proposal must demonstrate an understanding of the typical meteorological patterns in the Tahoe Basin so that they can adequately develop a proposal to measure emissions during a variety of meteorological events.

The proposal should also demonstrate an understanding of the use of the potential controls in the Tahoe basin so that the appropriate geographic extent of monitoring can be applied. The proposal should describe the deliverables which should include software for estimating road dust emissions which are correlated with meteorological conditions and recommendations of controls which may be more effective in addressing road dust emissions.

## **II. Award Information**

EPA Region 9 intends to award up to \$250,000 for the direct runoff project; \$200,000 for the pelagic zone project; and \$175,000 for the mobile emissions project. From the proposals received, EPA will select one proposal for each of the three projects to submit full applications.

These awards will be either cooperative agreements or grants. For cooperative agreements, substantial involvement by EPA is required and EPA will work closely with the recipient(s) in monitoring the project workplans and budgets.

Funding for these projects is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds. EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals or applications and make no awards.

### **III. Eligibility Information**

EPA is soliciting proposals from States, territories, Indian Tribes, possessions of the U.S., local governments, universities, and non-profit organizations. International organizations are eligible to apply for the air mobile emissions project. However, international organizations are not eligible to apply for the direct runoff or pelagic zone projects. For-profit organizations are not eligible for this funding. Nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible to apply. No matching funds are required.

**Confidentiality:** Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

### **IV. Application and Submission Information**

Proposals must be limited to 6 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 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. Project area for consideration: a. Direct Runoff; b. Pelagic Zone or c. Mobile Emissions
3. Applicant contact information (Individual and Organization Name, Address, Phone Number, Fax Number, E-mail Address)
4. Requested funding
5. Proposed Budget:
  - a) Identify all federal and other sources of funding for the project including the recipient cost-share (if any).
  - b) Clearly identify categories for funding distribution (personnel, benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual, etc).
6. Project description: specifically a detailed description of how applicant proposes to conduct project, including basic project design/approach. This section should address the details outlined in Section I: Funding Opportunity Description, including deliverables and outcomes. The qualifications of the applicant to conduct this project should also be

discussed.

7. Outreach, Communication and Information Transfer:
  - a) Plan for distributing project results to the public and interested parties. This plan should include a detailed description as to how the applicant proposes to ensure the transfer of knowledge gained by the project.
8. Outcome/ Result Tracking and Reporting:
  - a) Plan for tracking, measuring, and reporting progress toward achieving expected outcomes/outputs. Proposals should address the applicant's past performance in documenting the achievement of expected outcomes/outputs including, if applicable, satisfactory explanations of why outcomes/outputs were not achieved. Provide list of public agencies that have previously awarded grants to applicant and documentation that proves past performance with those awards was successful.
  - b) Describe past performance in filing timely progress reports and final technical reports that document the achievement of expected outcomes/outputs or a satisfactory explanation of why the outcomes/outputs were not achieved.
  - c) Describe ability to specify and measure the expected environmental outputs/outcomes and performance measures to be accomplished as a result of the project.

**Please send 2 paper copies (double-sided preferred), and one electronic copy of the proposals to:**

Tina Yin, Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region 9 (WTR-3)  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
[yin.christina@epa.gov](mailto:yin.christina@epa.gov)

The following formats are acceptable for electronic submission: MS Word, WordPerfect, MS Excel, Lotus 123.

**Proposals must be received by EPA by March 31, 2005. Proposals received after this date will not be reviewed or considered for funding under this announcement.**

Applicants may seek information and advice from EPA during the solicitation process, however pursuant to EPA's Competition Policy of January 11, 2005 (EPA Order 5700.5A1), EPA is not able to review draft proposals or provide specific advice on how to respond to the ranking criteria.

## **V. Application Review Information**

EPA will award these grants/cooperative agreements on a competitive basis. Applicants are encouraged to address the review criteria when writing proposals. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. How well the proposed project responds to the priorities identified in this notice.
2. Cost effectiveness of the proposal.
3. Scientific and technical feasibility of proposal.
4. Qualification of applicant to conduct project.
5. How well the project furthers the goal of the Clean Water Act or the Clean Air Act to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution.
6. Strength of partnerships and community outreach (e.g. participation/peer review by other stakeholders) as part of the proposed approach.
7. Communication plan to transfer results of the project. How well the plan transfers knowledge gained as a result of the project to relevant and interested communities.
8. How well the applicant has defined a plan for outcome result tracking and reporting and past performance in managing grants as outlined in #8 of the Application and Submission Information.

The proposals will be evaluated by US EPA staff. Each question is considered to have equal weight for a total of 80 points. In addition, a scientific peer review panel will review proposals for criterion 2: scientific and technical feasibility, and criterion 3: cost effectiveness. Final selection for the Direct Runoff and Pelagic Zone monitoring projects and the Mobile Emissions project will be made by the Directors of the US EPA Region 9 Water Division and Air Division respectively. Selected organizations will be notified and requested to submit a full application.

## **VI. Award Administration Information**

Applicants selected for continuance in the process will be sent a guidance letter with the URL to access the grant application kit for funding. These recipients will be invited to submit a detailed workplan and the completed grant application for funding. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. Deadlines must be met and the workplan must be approved by the EPA Project Officer for funding to occur.

Regulations governing the award and administration of these cooperative agreements: 40 CFR part 30 (for institutions of higher learning, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations) and 40 CFR part 31 (for States, local governments, and interstate agencies).

Quarterly project status reports and Financial Status Reports will be required. Quarterly project status reports should describe project activities and provide the EPA Project Officer with information about project development, including status of deliverables and milestones. 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.htm>. Copies of these procedures may also be requested by contacting Tina Yin at (415-972-3579).

## **VII. Agency Contacts**

For additional information, please contact:

Tina Yin

Phone: (415) 972-3579

Fax: (415) 947-3537

Email: [yin.christina@epa.gov](mailto:yin.christina@epa.gov)

or

Jane Freeman

Phone: (775) 588-4547

Email: [freeman.jane@epa.gov](mailto:freeman.jane@epa.gov)

## **VII. Other Information**

To provide relevant context for proposals, applicants are encouraged to review additional information about the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA):  
<http://www.nv.blm.gov/snplma/default.asp> .