

California Deep Ocean DDT+ Research RFP

Frequently Asked Questions

- Regarding scientific reviewers -
 - **Should suggestions for scientific reviewers be outside California?** Suggested reviewers are not required to be outside of California but are of value. What is most important is that the suggested reviewers do not have a conflict of interest with the key personnel on the proposal.
 - **Can we list scientists not to review?** Yes, there is a section in the “Potential Reviewers” form on eSeaGrant to indicate anyone you do NOT want Sea Grant to use as a reviewer and/or who might have a conflict of interest for your proposal. You will be asked to include a brief reason for why you are requesting they do not review your proposal.

- Regarding matching/connecting teams with similar concepts -
 - **What will be your criteria to match teams from different proposals?** At this time we are not planning to coordinate any matching among teams in advance of LOI submission. However, upon email request (sgproposal@ucsd.edu), Sea Grant can share a live spreadsheet of potential applicants and their interest in matching to particular expertise/technologies/etc. for this RFP. This spreadsheet was initially populated by attendees of our “Collaboration Mixer” held on February 1, 2023.
 - **After the letters of intent are submitted, might there be follow up with teams that have potentially duplicative effort or ideas that might be coordinated to better reassess teaming opportunities for the final proposal?** Sea Grant does not conduct matching or teaming up of duplicative or complementary proposals after the letter of intent stage. We encourage applicants to identify potential collaborators prior to letter of intent submission through the live spreadsheet of collaborative projects expertise/technologies/etc. for this RFP, which is available upon email request (sgproposal@ucsd.edu).

- Regarding eligibility/subawards-
 - **If there are collaborators at different institutions, can they be funded separately (money directly to each institute) or only through sub-awards? If the latter, do we have to budget for double overhead?** We do not have a preference for a single lead institution versus multiple, so long as the budget and budget justification clearly outline what aspects of the proposal each institution is responsible for. Each lead institution can charge IDC and the lead PI’s institution

- could charge subaward costs (e.g., charged 30% on the first 25k). These subaward costs would need to be budgeted as part of the lead PI's indirect costs.
- **Are sub-awards to for-profit institutions allowed?** Yes.
 - **Could you explain the reasoning behind not allowing NGOs or CBOs to apply for this money directly? What role do you see NGOs or CBOs playing?** The State Water Board is interested in directing funding to research that supports greater understanding of the human health risk and ecological risk due to deep ocean DDT+ deposits in the Southern California Bight. The existing language of the RFP does not preclude California-based NGOs/CBOs that consider themselves a research institution from directly applying as the proposal lead. All submitting institutions will need to be able to receive state funds and fulfill the award conditions of the [Cal Model Agreement](#) to be eligible to apply. Note that the RFP has explicitly encouraged eligible applicants to partner with community-based organizations, Tribes, and impacted communities in order to inform research design and support management-relevant outcomes.
 - **Are federal entities based in California eligible to submit proposals?** Yes, federal research institutions based in California are eligible to submit proposals either as a lead or a subaward institution.
 - **Is it acceptable for subaward institutions to be outside of California?** Subaward co-PIs and collaborators may be located outside California. If a non-California research institution is a subaward, the lead PI will need to provide a short justification for why contracting work outside the state is necessary. This justification can be included in the scope of work for the sub-awarded institution.
 - **What types of research will be acceptable to propose?** The RFP is the best source of guidance on what research priorities will be highly competitive for this call. Specifically note the "Program Overview," "Funding Priorities," and "Research Objectives for the 2023-2024 California Deep Ocean DDT+ Projects" sections.
 - **What full proposal components do subaward institutions need to submit as part of the full proposal?** All subaward institutions must submit via [eSeaGrant](#): a signed institutional cover page (see [Excel budget workbook for template](#)), subaward budget with justification, and scope of work. Lead PI(s) can provide access to their proposal on eSeaGrant to subaward collaborators using the "Manage Collaborators" feature. Collaborators must have an account on eSeaGrant in order to be added.
 - **What is the (administrative) difference between PIs, co-PIs, Associate PIs?** Lead PI's have ultimate responsibility for the overall project. Co-PI's are key personnel and make significant contributions (e.g. intellectual property, will publish, etc.) but do not have overall responsibility for the project. They would not share in the lead administrative responsibilities for the project, but should ensure the project is conducted appropriately and in compliance with applicable laws and

regulations, and policies. Associate PI's may be involved in the project but wouldn't have the same responsibilities as the lead PI or co-PI.

- Regarding allowable expenses:
 - **Are there any restrictions or requirements around requesting ship time in proposals? Can or can't use UNOLS boats? Maximum allowable amount? Is there a mechanism to share ship time between different proposals if funded?** There are no restrictions on requesting funds for ship time or use of UNOLS boats. Sea Grant/Water Boards do not currently have a mechanism in place to coordinate sharing of ship time during the pre-award stage, but we encourage engagement with the live spreadsheet of potential RFP applicants as a potential vehicle for coordinating ship time. This spreadsheet is available upon email request (sgproposal@ucsd.edu).
 - **How much will novel data collection versus utilizing existing data and samples be prioritized?** The RFP encourages utilizing archived samples due to the availability and time-sensitive nature of existing samples, as well as the limited amount of funding available for this RFP. Note that there is no explicit prioritization of leveraging existing/archived data within the review evaluation criteria. Please refer to the full RFP for a detailed outline of the evaluation criteria.
 - **Can funds be allocated for training and professional development?** Training for the purposes of supporting the proposed work may be allowable and are subject to California State Water Resources Control Board final review and approval.
 - **Can funds be allocated for conducting outreach and/or risk communication?** Outreach/risk communication activities would need to be a component of a research project, not the primary focus of the project.
 - **Can funds be allocated for developing a data management tool?** Data management activities may be a component of a research project or could be considered as a project itself, as long as it meets the terms in the grant agreement and supports the priorities of the RFP.
 - **Is there a match or cost-share requirement?** No, there is not a match or cost-share requirement for the DDT+ RFP.
 - **What is the allowable overhead rate for submitting and sub-awarded institutions?** When completing your budget, please use the state indirect cost rate of 30% Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC).
 - **Is it ok if the budget changes from the LOI to the full proposal stage?** We recognize that budget estimates may change from the LOI to the full proposal stage; costs will just need to be well-justified in the budget narrative.

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- **Is there a limit on allowable faculty summer salary?** There are no explicit requirements or recommendations at this time regarding faculty summer salary. We defer to the applicants to determine the necessary personnel and personnel hours for the 18-month grant period. Like all other costs, personnel time should be well-justified in the budget narrative.