



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Science Editor to Support California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment

Deadline for Submittal is 3 p.m. PDT, Monday, October 30, 2017

Background

The State of California has generated three scientific climate change assessments since 2006. These efforts have been instrumental in guiding state policy and supporting informed responses to climate change. California's ongoing Fourth Climate Change Assessment will advance the science that supports sound policy while responding directly to state, regional, and local decision-makers who need information to guide planning.

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is leading the preparation of the Fourth Assessment that will be released to the Governor, the Legislature, and the general public beginning with events in late August/September 2018.

The Fourth Assessment comprises a broader state-funded portfolio of technical research projects than prior assessments.¹ Additionally, unlike prior assessments it will also include "external" technical research (projects that are not funded by the state but align with the state's effort) as well as nine regional, one statewide, and three topical reports that synthesize new findings from the core technical reports in the broader context of regionally relevant climate science and practice. These regional, statewide, and topical reports will be instrumental in translating science to practice, and must be written in an accessible, engaging style for a well-educated, but non-technical audience.

Opportunity

In collaboration with California's Natural Resources Agency, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and the California Energy Commission, the Berkeley Energy and Climate Institute (BECI) is looking for an outstanding science editor who is familiar with climate change issues.

The selected science editor will assist the State with the following activities:

- *Assist with the preparation of a statewide climate change report, nine regional reports, and three topical reports.* Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs), who are scientists and practitioners, are

¹ For a list of technical research projects, which include research funded by CNRA (sectors other than energy) and CEC (energy-related research) as well as external collaborations, please see:

<http://resources.ca.gov/climate/safeguarding/research/>

preparing these documents. The selected science editor will work with the CLAs to ensure the documents are accessible and engaging to a non-technical, well-educated audience, while retaining technical rigor and substance. The CLAs and their teams retain full authorship of the reports.

- *Organize meetings and/or conference calls with the Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) for each one of the reports to provide guidance on how materials are presented.* For example, the science editor will offer guidance on appropriate use of graphs, maps, and charts for this audience. However, the CLAs retain the final authority for their documents.
- *Become familiar with the style used for the technical journal California Agriculture (<http://calag.ucanr.edu/>).* California Agriculture, with one of the largest circulations of its type of journal, exemplifies the writing style, accessibility, technical rigor, and impact that is sought for the statewide, regional, and topical reports.
- *Assist with the final instructions to the CLAs about the guidelines for the preparation of the reports.* Each report would be 20 to 50 pages long.
- *Keep BECI and the California Natural Resources Agency informed about progress.* The statewide, regional, and topical reports are a key element of California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment, which is on a tight schedule and must be delivered on time.
- *Prepare a text for a compelling, non-technical summary of the statewide report similar to the Our Changing Climate publication released in tandem with prior assessments (i.e., [2006](#) and [2012](#)).* A graphic artist and desktop publisher will be available to perform functions related to layout, graphic design, and publishing.

The successful expert must have the following qualifications: (Only individuals will be considered for selection. Qualifications from teams will not be evaluated)

- Experience writing and/or editing science articles for magazines, newspapers, scientific journals, or other news outlets.
- Experience writing/and or editing science articles or technical documents that are accessible to non-technical audiences.
- A proven track record of delivering complex projects on time.
- Basic familiarity with climate change science or issues related to climate change.
- Ability to travel for a total of about four trips within California to meet with the CLAs.
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Tasks and schedule:

- Task 1: Project Management for minimal interactions with CNRA and BECI – continuous through until August 15, 2018.
- Task 2: Finalize guidelines for preparation of the reports (no more than 10 pages long). This document will address writing style, organization of the reports, and formatting style. The document should be delivered to CLAs no later than January 9, 2018. The document will leverage initial guidance on writing style, outline/organization, and formatting prepared by CNRA.
- Task 3: Organize meetings and/or conference calls with the CLAs to provide suggestions on how to improve the delivery of information in the reports. For clarity, the science editor may need to provide examples of writing that successfully implements his/her suggestions.

Required information for consideration:

- Curriculum Vitae (maximum of three pages).
- Short (1 - 4 pages) statement of interest and relevant experience.
- Examples of related prior work such as stories in news outlets or journal notes.
- Proposed rate for services in dollars per hour including direct and indirect costs.

Instructions for Submission of RFQ Response:

RFQ Response must be submitted via email as a single PDF file. The deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) on Monday, October 30, 2017. The email address for submissions is cca@beci.berkeley.edu. Earlier submission is encouraged to avoid potential last minute issues with transmittal.