

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Availability of Novel Dendrimer Technologies for Exclusive, Partially Exclusive or Non-Exclusive Licenses**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Research Laboratory, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army announces the general availability of exclusive, partially exclusive or non-exclusive licenses relative to novel dendrimer based technologies as described in U.S. Patent applications "One-Pot Synthesis of Functional Dendrigrafts and their Block Copolymers with Simple Initiating Systems" (09/356802 filed 7/19/98) and "Methods of using Nanomanipulation for Enhancing Bio-Assay Performance" (09/448403 filed 11/22/99). Licenses shall comply with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael D. Rausa, U.S. Army Research Laboratory, Office of Research and Technology Applications, ATTN: AMSRL-CS-TT/Bldg. 459, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005-5425, Telephone: (410) 278-5028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Luz D. Ortiz,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers****Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Morro Bay Estuary Feasibility Study, Morro Bay California**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Los Angeles District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will prepare a DEIS to support the Morro Bay Estuary Feasibility Study, Morro Bay, California. The Study Area is the Morro Bay Estuary, which is located on the central coast of California within the City of Morro Bay, California. The Bay is approximately four miles long and one and three quarters miles at its maximum width. The central portion of the bay encompasses the delta of Chorro and Los Osos Creeks.

Morro Bay Estuary and associated wetlands provide valuable habitat for

aquatic wildlife and are an important refuge for migratory birds and marine animals. Morro Bay is one of 28 estuaries in the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program.

The predominant problem that threatens the Morro Bay Estuary ecosystem is excessive sedimentation during periods of stormwater flows from Los Osos and Chorro Creeks. This results in significant increases in the volume of sediment deposited within the Bay. Deposition results in loss of wetlands as large-scale sedimentation promotes swift progression from marine to degraded salt marsh habitat. The Feasibility Study will focus on addressing the problems and needs caused by sediment deposition in the Morro Bay area. The DEIS will analyze the potential impacts (beneficial and adverse) on the environment for a range of alternatives, including the recommended plan.

The Los Angeles District, the Morro Bay national Estuary Program, and the County of San Luis Obispo will cooperate in conducting this Feasibility Study.

ADDRESSES: District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, ATTN: CESPL-PD-RQ (R. Farve), P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California 90053-2325.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Rey Farve, Environmental Coordinator, telephone (213)-452-3864, or Mr. Tony Risko, Chief, Coastal Studies Group, telephone (213)-452-3833.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**1. Authorization**

This Feasibility Study was authorized by U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution dated 7 May 1997 which states, in part: "Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Morro Bay Harbor, San Luis Obispo County, California published as House Document 103-33, 103rd Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of environmental protection and restoration and related purposes within the Morro Bay Estuary in Morro Bay, California."

2. Background

Morro Bay Estuary is located on the central coast of California within the City of Morro Bay, California. The Morro Bay Estuary joined the Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program in July 1995. The Bay contains the most significant wetland system on California's south central coast. It serves a critical environmental function on the Pacific coast and serves national and international interests, in that the Estuary supports several federally listed threatened or endangered species, many species of migratory birds protected by international treaties, and provides a protected harbor of offshore marine fisheries.

There are many known and potential threats to this nationally significant estuary. Sediment threatened to shorten the life of this open water resource by as much as ten-fold. Other water quality concerns include excessive levels of bacteria, nutrients, and heavy metals. Water diversion, urban and agricultural runoff, and increasing impervious surfaces threaten the long-term health of the Bay.

The predominant problem that threatens the Morro Bay Estuary ecosystem is excessive sedimentation during periods of stormwater flows from Lost Osos and Chorro Creeks. This results in significant increases in the volume of sediment deposited within the Bay. Deposition results in loss of wetlands as large-scale sedimentation promotes swift progression from marine to degraded salt marsh habitat.

The non-federal sponsor of the Feasibility Study is the County of San Luis Obispo.

3. Alternatives

The Feasibility Study will focus on addressing the problems and needs caused by sediment deposition in the Morro Bay area. In general, alternative plans will focus on reducing the uncontrolled sediment deposition within the backbay, and associated restoration of the ecosystem. Alternative plans will also consider improving tidal circulation and tidal flushing. Other measures to restore desired environmental conditions and habitat for federal threatened and endangered species will be formulated and addressed during coordination efforts with the general public and other resource agencies. Environmentally sensitive dredging methods will be explored, and alternate sites and uses for dredged material will be considered.

The primary undesirable impacts of concern from any of the alternatives will

likely be related to disposal of dredged material, and construction impacts. These will be addressed in the study as part of the plan formulation of the Feasibility Study, and potential impacts will be analyzed in the DEIS.

4. Scoping Process

Participation of all interested Federal, State, and County agencies, groups with environmental interests, and any interested individuals is encouraged. Public involvement will be most beneficial and worthwhile in identifying the scope of pertinent, significant environmental issues to be addressed; identifying and eliminating from detailed study issues that are not significant; offering useful information such as published or unpublished data; providing direct personal experience or knowledge which informs decision making; and recommending suitable mitigation measures to offset potential impacts from the proposed action or alternatives.

A public scoping meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2001 in the City of Morro Bay. When available, the specific time and location of this meeting will be announced in a mailing to those on the mailing list developed for this project, and announced through local media channels. The purpose of the scoping meeting will be to gather information from the general public or interested organizations about issues and concerns that they would like to see addressed in the DEIS. Comments may be delivered in writing or verbally at the meeting or sent in writing to the Los Angeles District at the address given above. The scoping period will conclude 60 days after publication of this NOI.

5. Availability of the DEIS

The DEIS is expected to be available to the public for review and comment beginning in the fall of 2003.

Dated: October 12, 2001

Richard G. Thompson,

Colonel, Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

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BILLING CODE 3710-KF-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Federal Student Assistance Programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice inviting letters of application for participation in the Quality Assurance Program.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Education invites institutions of higher education that may wish to participate in the Quality Assurance Program, under section 487A(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), to submit a letter of application to participate in the program.

DATES: Letters of application may be submitted any time after October 23, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Institutions wishing to apply to participate in the Quality Assurance Program may do so by mailing a letter of application to Barbara Mroz, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20202-5232 or by submitting a letter of application electronically to Barbara Mroz at: Barbara.Mroz@ed.gov

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharyn Hutson, U.S. Department of Education, 830 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20202-5232, telephone: (202) 377-4379, or via internet: Sharyn.Hutson@ed.gov

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), you may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-888-877-8339.

Individuals with disabilities may obtain this document in an alternative format (e.g., Braille, large print, audio tape or computer diskette) on request by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Institutions of higher education are invited to join the Department in an effort to simplify regulations and administrative processes for the Federal Student Financial Assistance (SFA) Programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The vision of the Quality Assurance Program, with 143 institutions currently participating, is to provide tools that help all Title IV institutions promote better service to students, compliance, and continuous improvement in program delivery. The program encourages participating institutions to develop and implement their own comprehensive systems to verify student financial aid application data.

The Department continues to support the expansion of the Quality Assurance Program. The Secretary is authorized to provide participating institutions with regulatory flexibility for the verification of student data, and to encourage alternative management approaches in the areas of institutional processing and disbursement of Title IV funds, and entrance and exit counseling.

The Secretary believes that the process of continuous improvement fostered by the institutions already participating in the Quality Assurance Program has enhanced not only the accuracy of student aid awards and payments, but also the management of student aid offices and the delivery of services to students. By expanding the Quality Assurance Program to include other management areas, the Secretary believes it can serve more institutions and promote further improvements.

Features of the Program

The mission of the Quality Assurance Program is to help schools attain, sustain, and advance exceptional student aid delivery and service excellence. For the past 16 years, the program has done that by providing participating institutions with the flexibility to design an institutional verification program that more directly focuses on their own population segments. It has also helped them target areas of administration that affect award accuracy or that may leave the institution vulnerable to potential liabilities.

The Quality Assurance Program has given institutions the tools and techniques to assess, measure, analyze, correct and prevent problems, and has provided them with data on which to base their decisions for solving problems and addressing verification items.

The Secretary encourages institutions participating in the Quality Assurance Program to evaluate their policies and procedures and adopt improvements in those procedures. Institutions measure performance and test the effectiveness of their verification program by using the Department's Quality Analysis Tool. The Quality Analysis Tool is an Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) analysis software product that provides Financial Aid Administrators with an in-depth analysis of their applicant population. It allows them to see not only which FAFSA elements changed when verified, but also what impact these changes have upon the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This analysis helps Financial Aid Administrators develop a targeted institutional verification program, which makes the financial aid process easier for students.

The Quality Assurance Program also helps institutions make improvements beyond verification. It helps them set goals for continuous improvement in all areas of financial aid delivery, rather than be satisfied just to achieve basic compliance. It is a management tool that works well at all types of institutions,