

## **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, seeks expressions of interest from governmental entities and qualified non-profit organizations interested in operating guided non-motorized boating programs on the Los Angeles River within Sepulveda Basin, with a put-in point at Balboa Boulevard bridge and a take-out point below Burbank Boulevard bridge, during summer 2012.

Sepulveda Basin is located in the San Fernando Valley, 17 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, northwest of the junction of the Ventura Freeway (U.S. Highway 101) and the San Diego Freeway (I-405). The Los Angeles River runs through the basin from above the Orange Line Busway crossing to the Sepulveda Dam. Sepulveda Basin is owned in fee by the United States and operated and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for flood risk management and compatible purposes. The river and adjacent lands within the Basin are outside the land leased by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks for public recreation purposes and are generally designated as an Operations area, which allows public use of trails but does not offer general recreational access and use of the river at this time without a license.

In 2011, the Corps granted a license to a multi-organization group to run a pilot program for non-motorized boating on the Los Angeles River within the Basin, from Balboa Boulevard to Burbank Boulevard. That program provided information about the feasibility of non-motorized boating in the river within the basin.

The Corps is currently in the early stages of assessing long term options to facilitate safe access to and use of the river for boating within the Sepulveda Basin compatible with the operational needs for the flood risk management system. Public input will be sought as part of that process. The assessment process will be in progress throughout the 2012 summer season; therefore, the Corps has decided to request proposals from interested qualified organizations for licenses under Corps recreational authorities for this interim period.

For 2012, the Corps has received two license requests from non-profit organizations to date and wishes to solicit expressions of interest from all governmental entities and qualified non-profit organizations. The Corps will consider issuance of one or more licenses for river access for guided tours for the period of early-to-mid June through Labor Day 2012.

This solicitation of expressions of interest is issued concurrent with a public notice for NEPA purposes.

### **I. Program parameters and limitations.**

All licenses would be subject to the following requirements.

1. Program operation under licenses will begin in early to mid June, concluding no later than Labor Day.
2. The put-in location is under Balboa Boulevard bridge. The take-out is immediately downstream of Burbank Boulevard bridge on the right bank.
3. All trips must conclude no later than 4 p.m. each day of operation.

4. Grade stabilizers may not be altered/moved. Land portages around grade stabilizers may be used or in-water portage may be used, at discretion of licensees.
5. Licensees must monitor weather events within the drainage area through National Weather Service information and visual observation. Some weather events may require delays in trip start times or trip cancellations.
6. Licensees must contact the Corps' Reservoir Operations Center on a weekly basis.
7. The emergency midpoint take out will be identified by the Corps and must be flagged/signed by licensee(s).
8. Licensees must attend a pre-program meeting with the Corps to review license terms and discuss procedures.
9. Licensees must carry appropriate insurance and provide proof of same.

## **II. Proposal information required**

Proponents are requested to provide proposals addressing and including the following:

1. Entities involved.
2. Evidence of 501(c)(3) non-profit status.
3. Experience with non-motorized boating programs or trips.
4. Trip operation plan including:
  - a. Route, trip length (estimated time), and stops, if any. Corps NEPA analysis will consider use of the river upstream of Balboa, but all trips must start under Balboa Bridge and end immediately below Burbank Bridge.
  - b. Number of trips proposed (per day and per week).
  - c. Staffing plan and number of participants to be guided per trip.
  - d. Equipment to be used and provided.
  - e. Transport of participants and equipment.
  - f. Safety equipment, staff training and qualifications, and safety plan/procedures.
  - g. Educational component, for example river history and/or biology.
5. Registration plan for participants and proposed number of "open" trips for rescheduling due to weather events.
6. Community involvement/outreach.
7. Any distinguishing characteristics of proposal (community to be served, trip elements, etc.).
8. Plan for including any non-registered trip participants (e.g., media, area representatives/stakeholders), as needed.
9. Fees proposed to be charged, if any, with breakdown. Fees must be approved by the District Commander for reasonableness.

## **III. Evaluation criteria**

Proposals, including those from qualified non-profit organizations that have already requested licenses for the 2012 season, will be evaluated on the basis of completeness of information, safety, educational component, and other public interest factors. The Corps anticipates issuing at least one and no more

than three licenses. The number of licenses issued will be dependent on adequacy of proposals and results of environmental analysis. The Corps may contact requestors to obtain clarifying information.

#### **IV. Submission requirements**

All proposals must be submitted no later than 5 p.m., May 25, to receive full consideration. Proposals may be submitted electronically to: *Lisa Sandoval* at [lisa.m.sandoval@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.m.sandoval@usace.army.mil). Proposals should be in PDF format. Questions about proposal requirements should be directed to: *Lisa Sandoval* via email at [lisa.m.sandoval@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.m.sandoval@usace.army.mil) or by telephone at (213) 452-3147.

#### **V. Relevant information**

The following information is available from the Corps to assist in developing proposals: Environmental Assessment from 2011 program (includes final take-out point, midpoint take-out point, location of grade stabilizers, and map of drainage area).