

## **EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, seeks expressions of interest from governmental entities and qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations interested in operating guided paddling programs on the Los Angeles River within Sepulveda Basin, with an ingress point at Balboa Boulevard bridge and an ingress/egress point below Burbank Boulevard bridge, for the period of Memorial Day through early to mid-September, 2014.

This request for expressions of interest is issued concurrent with a Public Notice for NEPA purposes.

### **I. Submission requirements**

All proposals must be submitted no later than 5 p.m., April 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.

### **II. Relevant information**

The Corps anticipates approximately three licenses to governmental or qualified 501(c)(3) for guided paddling programs. Prospective licensees should be aware that the Corps may also grant short term licenses to unguided noncommercial (social) groups during the 2014 season. Prospective licensees should also be aware that the Corps may grant a lease to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority during summer 2014, at which time the boating area would be open to use by unguided noncommercial groups and individuals without a license. If a lease is granted, the licenses granted for guided paddling programs would remain in force for the season. Please see the Corps' accompanying Public Notice for additional information.

### **III. Program parameters and limitations.**

All licenses for guided paddling programs would be subject to the following requirements.

1. Dates and hours of operation: Program operation under licenses will begin approximately Memorial Day, concluding no later than mid September. All trips may begin no earlier than sunrise and must conclude no later than 4 p.m. each day of operation.
2. Access points: The northern ingress point is under Balboa Boulevard bridge. The southern ingress/egress point is immediately downstream of Burbank Boulevard bridge on the right bank. Trips may begin at either access point, with travel upstream or downstream. Paddlers may travel in river upstream to first grade stabilizer above Balboa Boulevard and no farther downstream than designated Burbank ingress/egress point. The emergency midpoint take out will be identified by the Corps and must be flagged/signed by licensee(s).
3. River structures: 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. No modifications to river structures or vegetation may be made by licensees.

4. Weather: River area is subject to closure due to weather. 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.
5. Coordination with Corps: Licensees must contact the Corps' Reservoir Operations Center on a weekly basis. Licensees must attend a pre-program meeting with the Corps to review license terms and discuss procedures.
6. Insurance: Licensees must carry appropriate insurance and provide proof of same.
7. Guide qualifications:
  - a. Guide Qualifications
    - i. River and flood rescue training – State Fire Marshal or equivalent
    - ii. CPR and first aid training
    - iii. Flatwater kayak training
    - iv. Recommended: Los Angeles River Safety orientation class
8. Safety Plan, including safety equipment: Cell phones, radios, throw bags, weather-monitoring plan (phone apps/alerts), spare paddle, first aid equipment, helmets, personal floating devices, and other equipment as needed.
9. Transportation and equipment storage: No equipment storage or parking will be authorized within the river area. Licensees should arrange shuttle transport for participants and equipment as needed. Licensees may use Corps access ramp at Burbank Boulevard for loading/unloading.
10. Licenses non-transferable: Only the licensee will be authorized to conduct guided trips. Any partnership, contractor relationship, or other arrangement may not result in transfer of license or transfer of license rights and responsibilities. All proposed partnership, contractor relationship or other arrangements shall be disclosed in the prospective licensee's proposal.
11. Fair and open registration: Licensees must utilize a fair and open system for registration by members of the public (individuals and/or groups). Licensee may not sell, transfer, donate, or otherwise provide trips outside of the fair and open registration system.
12. Compliance with all laws: Licensees are subject to all applicable laws, including labor and environmental laws.
13. All licenses are subject to revocation for failure to comply with their terms.

**IV. Proposal information required**

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

1. Entities and staff involved, with roles and responsibilities, including organization chart and resumes. Provide organization history and experience with non-motorized boating programs or trips.
2. Evidence of governmental or 501(c)(3) non-profit status.
3. Guide qualifications.
4. Proposed operation plan including:
  - a. Route, trip length (estimated time), and stops, if any.
  - b. Number of trips proposed (per day and per week).

- c. Staffing plan and number of participants to be guided per trip.
  - d. Boating equipment to be used and provided.
  - e. Transport of participants and equipment and other logistical considerations.
  - f. Safety equipment, staff training and qualifications, and safety plan/procedures.
  - g. Educational component, such as river history or biology.
5. Fair and open registration plan for participants and proposed number of “open” or “makeup” trips for rescheduling due to weather events. Licensees are encouraged to register participants on a monthly basis to allow for flexibility to address weather-based cancellations.
  6. Community involvement/outreach.
  7. Any distinguishing characteristics of proposal.
  8. Fees proposed to be charged, if any, with breakdown of basis for fees. Fees must be approved by the District Commander for reasonableness.

**V. Evaluation criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of completeness of information, safety, educational component, reasonableness of fees, and other public interest factors. The Corps anticipates issuing at least one and no more than three licenses. Number of licenses issued will be dependent on adequacy of proposals and results of environmental analysis. Incomplete proposals may not be considered. The Corps may contact requestors to obtain clarifying information.