



## Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership Request for Proposals: Wetland Water Budgets

The Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership (MBCP) is seeking proposals from qualified applicants to prepare water budget information for Central Valley managed wetlands that can be used in the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

### Proposals

Please keep proposals between 2-4 pages, not including attachments. Proposals should describe your approach to each of the tasks listed below, your rationale, and any recommended changes or additions. A maximum of 10 additional pages of attachments should include a description of the roles and qualifications of key staff, a budget, and relevant work examples. For questions or clarifications, please email both [kdybala@pointblue.org](mailto:kdybala@pointblue.org) and [sarthur@audubon.org](mailto:sarthur@audubon.org) no later than June 25, 2018.

Proposals should be submitted electronically by **June 29, 2018** to:

Dr. Kristen Dybala, Senior Research Ecologist  
Point Blue Conservation Science  
[kdybala@pointblue.org](mailto:kdybala@pointblue.org)

### Statement of Purpose

Produce water budget information for managed wetlands to facilitate representation of wetland water needs in the GSP development processes.

### Background Information

The Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership formed in 2008 to align the complementary skills and expertise of Audubon California, Point Blue Conservation Science, and The Nature Conservancy towards a common goal: to improve the health of Pacific Flyway bird populations by increasing the pace, scale, and effectiveness of migratory bird conservation in California. Over the last ten years, the Partnership has used a suite of approaches to create and maintain habitat for migratory birds. We continue to refine and adapt our strategy based on success rates, feedback, and analysis of changing conditions.

We have identified the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as very likely to impact the Partnership's goals. We are engaging in groundwater policy, science, and project implementation to ensure that the needs of migratory birds, and additional co-benefits such as water quality, are being met alongside new requirements to sustainably manage the groundwater supply in California.

Within this context, we have identified a need for water budget information for Central Valley managed wetlands. Lack of information about the surface water and/or groundwater needed to meet management goals, as well as any groundwater recharge managed wetlands may contribute, limits their full representation in GSPs, and the ability of beneficial users to advocate for them. This RFP addresses our current objective, which is to rapidly produce wetland water budget information from data that are already available, and that are appropriate and sufficiently accurate for inclusion in GSP development. Future objectives may include new data collection to further refine these estimates and address key uncertainties, but this is beyond the scope of this current RFP.

### **Expected Scope of Work**

The applicant will be responsible for preparing water budget information for Central Valley managed wetlands that can be used in the development of GSPs. Proposals should address each of the tasks listed below, describe your approach to each task, and any recommended changes or additions.

*Task 1. Wetland Water Budget Tool* – Provide methods for estimating all major components of water budgets for Central Valley managed wetland complexes from the limited data that are already available (e.g., surface water delivery data, soil maps, existing models), and that are appropriate and sufficiently accurate for inclusion in GSP development. Components include but are not limited to:

- 1) Methods for estimating evapotranspiration, run-off, and groundwater recharge.
- 2) Methods for incorporating differences in wetland management (e.g., seasonal vs. semi-permanent, whether or not irrigated).
- 3) Methods for incorporating effects of geographic variation among Central Valley managed wetland complexes, such as differences in climate, soil types, and depth to groundwater.
- 4) Methods for incorporating historical or projected variation in temperature, precipitation, and surface water deliveries, annually and seasonally.

These methods should be provided in the form of a tool, such as a spreadsheet tool, that can be readily applied to individual managed wetland complexes throughout the Central Valley by non-specialists. It should produce estimated water budget information on the time-scales (e.g., monthly and/or annual) that are appropriate for inclusion in GSP development. The tool should be accompanied by a document that fully describes and justifies the methods included, and clearly explains any assumptions and major uncertainties, especially those that could be addressed with additional data collection.

*Task 2. Wetland Water Budgets* – Refine the tool with wetland manager feedback, and use the tool to produce estimates for all major components of water budgets required for inclusion in GSP development for a small number of target managed wetland complexes (up to 3, TBD).

- 1) We anticipate the MBCP will organize and hold a one-day workshop with wetland managers, during which the applicant will be expected to demonstrate use of the Wetland Water Budget Tool, receive feedback, and refine the Tool.
- 2) We anticipate the MBCP will directly engage in the development of a select number of GSPs (up to 3, TBD) that include target managed wetland complexes, for which we expect this applicant to apply the Wetland Water Budget Tool to demonstrate its use and provide water budget information.

### **Project Timeline**

All tasks and deliverables outlined above shall be completed within five months of the start date of the project.

### **Project Budget**

Please include a detailed budget (preferably not to exceed \$25,000) as an attachment to the proposal. A detailed budget should include key staff positions, expected hours, and billing rates by task.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be evaluated on criteria including, but not limited to, relevant experience, qualifications, and costs. As an attachment to the proposal, please include a description of the roles and qualifications of the applicant and key staff, including:

- 1) a list of relevant work examples
- 2) a description of any recent or current engagement with GSAs or water modeling for GSP development, and
- 3) a description of any recent or current experience working with federal, state, or private managed wetlands in California.