



## Request for Proposals

### Indicators for Measuring the Integration of Land and Water Policy and Management in the Colorado River Basin

#### Summary

[The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy](#) is seeking a contractor to assist in the development of a new set of indicators for assessing and tracking the integration of land and water resource policy and management in the Colorado River Basin. The contractor will quantify the impact that management and policy practices have on local and regional sustainability. This will include a proof of concept consisting of at least two actual indicators.

#### Context

The challenges associated with planning for and accommodating community growth in a water-constrained future have become more acute across the arid west. There is growing recognition that it is no longer acceptable to approve new development without any consideration of the water demands associated with the type of development (e.g., density, landscaping, etc.). In response, the adoption of management and decision-making practices for improved integration of land use and water resource is expanding. There are numerous examples of such practices: the incorporation of assured water supply requirements into the development approval process; the meaningful incorporation of water elements into general/comprehensive plans; and the construction of multipurpose green infrastructure projects.

Well-intentioned practitioners face a wide array of possible solutions, but the ability to rigorously measure the actual impacts of implementing sustainable management and policies as they pertain to integrated land and water sustainability goals may be inadequate or nonexistent. For example, determining whether and to what extent a green infrastructure project is generating the expected benefits is difficult to ascertain without sufficient monitoring techniques and capacity to track change over time. Moreover, the absence of a robust longitudinal assessment creates a practical cost-benefit problem for local governments lacking infinite political and/or financial capital to adopt and implement all the policies they seek.

One way to address these challenges is through the development of a set of indicators that links integrated land and water management and decision-making practices to water sustainability goals at geographic and administrative scales that are appropriate and relevant to practitioners. Ideally, indicators will be comparable across jurisdictions, foster exchange of information and data across jurisdictions obtained from tracking implementation and measuring impact, and lay the foundation for documenting change over time.

### **Scope of Work**

- The contractor will develop a written description of an executable research project for the development of an original set of indicators, including a proof of concept of two indicators. The project description, built upon existing preliminary research, should include:
  - comments on prior reviews of existing water, environmental, urban, and other sustainability indicators and indices conducted by the Babbitt Center and partners;
  - description, identification, development, and application of an overarching integrated land and water indicators framework and initial set of indicators;
  - general assessment of data needs; and
  - proof of concept of at least two indicators, consisting of:
    - a thorough description of the concept;
    - method of calculation;
    - data requirements, including a preliminary sampling of data; and
    - an example of completed calculation for all or part of the area of interest (within the Colorado Basin and adjacent water-receiving areas).
- The contractor will be responsible for conducting interviews with relevant practitioners as necessary in coordination with the Babbitt Center.
- The Babbitt Center will oversee the project and schedule regular meetings with the Contractor.

### **Minimum Qualifications**

- Master's degree and/or current Ph.D. student or candidate in geography, environmental science or engineering, sustainability science, or other related field; **OR** individual or small team of professionals currently working or possessing prior experience in urban planning and/or water management
- Three years of experience working in or conducting research on water and land resources in the U.S. West or Southwest
- One year of experience working with land and/or water sustainability indicators
- Flexibility to work with minor supervision and act as an independent thinker and innovator

### **Preferred Qualifications**

- Five or more years of experience working in or conducting research on water and land resources in the Colorado River Basin
- One or more years of experience conducting original research and/or development of land or water sustainability indicators

### **Term of Agreement**

The term of the agreement shall be from May 31, 2020 until December 31, 2020.

### **Timeline**

Note: A pre-bid informal consultation is highly recommended; contact Zach Sugg at 602-393-4308 or [zsugg@lincolninst.edu](mailto:zsugg@lincolninst.edu)

- May 15, 2020 6:00 p.m. PDT: RFP submission deadline
- May 22, 2020: Award notification to selected applicant
- October 1, 2020: Intermediate summary/progress report
- December 1, 2020: Final report

### **Agreement Amount**

The amount of this agreement shall not exceed \$20,000, disbursed in three payments.

### **Proposal Requirements**

1. **Cover Sheet** including name, title organization, contact information, email, and research collaborator information
2. **Narrative** of no more than four pages that describes individual tasks and identifies the deliverable(s)
3. **Detailed Budget** including estimate of hours, hourly rates, and any other expenses associated with the tasks outlined in the narrative
4. **Brief Descriptions** of up to three projects similar or relevant to this RFP on which you have worked. Include references for these projects: name, organization, title, and phone and email contact information. Limit this to one page.

**Email** your submission to Zach Sugg at [zsugg@lincolninst.edu](mailto:zsugg@lincolninst.edu) by May 15, 2020 6:00 p.m. PDT. Please use Times Roman, 12 pt font on all documents submitted.

### **About the Sponsoring Organization**

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, seeks to advance the integration of land and water management to meet the current and future water needs of Colorado River Basin communities, economies, and the environment. We develop tools and best practices to guide decisions through research, training, and partnerships for sustainable management of land and water resources in the Basin and beyond. The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy seeks to improve quality of life through the effective use, taxation, and stewardship of land. A nonprofit private operating foundation whose origins date to 1946, the Lincoln Institute researches and recommends creative approaches to land as a solution to economic, social, and environmental challenges.

### **Lincoln Institute of Land Policy**

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