

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Background

Act 446 of the 2001 Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Ground Water Management Commission and the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force, who, along with the Commissioner of Conservation were delegated the task of development of a statewide comprehensive ground water management system and to provide for adoption of rules and regulations for the determination of critical ground water sources, response to emergency situations, and other related matters. To this end, a report was developed in 2002 entitled "Assistance in Developing the Statewide Water Management Plan" which lays the ground work to pursue a plan which could be used to promulgate laws relative to surface and groundwater management and conservation.

As a result of this work, Act 49 of 2003 was promulgated, directing the commissioner of conservation and the Louisiana Ground Water Resources Commission to develop a statewide groundwater resource management program that shall include but not be limited to evaluation of the state's water resources including current and projected demands; development of a water use conservation program; study of alternatives to groundwater use, such as surface water to include treatment and transmission system, and reclaimed water; incentives for conservation; use of alternative technologies; and education and conservation programs. The plan should stress conservation as the primary mechanism for the protection of the state's groundwater resources.

At a meeting of the Louisiana Ground Water Resources Commission (Commission) on March 5, 2009, Commission members unanimously recommended seeking funding to further study and evaluate Louisiana's ground water and surface water resources and to further develop a statewide water management plan to preserve the quality and sustainability of Louisiana's ground water resources. To that end, the Office of Conservation of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is issuing this request for proposals (RFP) for the development of a statewide ground water management plan for the State of Louisiana.

Purpose

It is anticipated that the information and recommendations provided to the Office of Conservation through this endeavor will greatly enhance our knowledge of the ground water resources of the state. Additionally, it would provide a sound scientific basis for our agency and the Ground Water Resources Commission to continue to develop and implement reasonable policies to address ground water quality and aquifer sustainability throughout the state.

Objective

The objective is to study and evaluate Louisiana's ground water and surface water resources and develop a statewide ground water management plan (plan) to preserve the quality and sustainability of Louisiana's ground water resources.

Scope of Work

The plan must include as a goal the long-term protection of each of Louisiana's aquifers, and must take into consideration the requirements, needs, and obligations of all stakeholders of ground water and surface water resources in the State of Louisiana.

The plan shall not duplicate the efforts of existing publications noted below, but, where applicable, shall expand upon the existing published facts and recommendations with proper reference to the same, to meet the scope of work provided below¹. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, an evaluation of a statewide ground water and surface water resources inventory and recommendations for short and long term ground water management plans. The plan shall also comprehensively address ground water quality and aquifer sustainability throughout the state, to include, but not be limited to, the following tasks;

Task 1:

Provide a historical review of all ground water sources and surface water sources serving Louisiana.

Task 2:

Provide comprehensive statistics on the number of users, volume of use, type and classification of users by both organizational structure (i.e., individual, corporate, cooperative, local, state, or federal governmental, etc.) and by end use of water withdrawn (i.e., potable public supply, individual potable supply, industrial process, power production, agriculture, aquaculture, mining, etc.), number of wells/intakes and similar statistical information for each aquifer and service water source; for the most recent 5 year period and projected demands for the next 10 years.

Task 3:

Review and recommend improvements to current procedures used by the Environmental Division technical staff in their review of ground water well prior notification form submittals for new non-exempt ground water wells (e.g. public supply, industrial, irrigation, frac water supply wells).

Task 4:

Study, evaluate and provide specific recommendations, both short term (5 years) and long term (25 years), to enhance the sustainability and quality of ground water resources throughout the state. This task shall include the development and recommendation of specific economic and financial criteria to be used in developing cost benefit ratios consistent with applicable Department of Economic Development methods in examining the feasibility of the substitution of surface or reclaimed water for ground water resources. This task shall include the identification and quantification of existing areas of known water level decline where continued withdrawal may adversely impact the current or future use of the aquifer or significant portions thereof. This task shall identify those instances described in the foregoing where substitution of alternative water resources for ground water usage would be both technically and economically feasible; and shall also identify and determine the technical and economic feasibility of short term or interim corrective measures such as installing well nests

in unutilized and underutilized areas of aquifers outside of the identified areas of water level decline with pipeline distribution systems and installing wells in high yield, rapidly recharged alluvial and terrace deposit aquifers (e.g. the Mississippi River and Red River Alluvial aquifers and the Pleistocene Terrace aquifer) to enhance recovery in water level decline areas. This task shall also include recommendations on all of the component parts of a comprehensive management plan including but not limited to registration, evaluation, conservation, education, enforcement, monitoring, auditing, and collaboration (water districts, local government, other state agencies, federal agencies, universities).

Task 5:

Prioritize short and long term recommendations of Scope of Services item 4 based on a cost (development, implementation and completion) / benefit (daily ground water use reduction) analysis ranking system.

Task 6:

Study, identify, and recommend sources of local, state, federal, or other funding resources, such as grants, loans, local user ground water withdrawal fees, etc., to fund prioritized short and long term recommendations of Scope of Services items 4 and 5. Study, identify, and recommend additional necessary organizational structures or funding vehicles, whether or not currently provided for under existing statutory authority.

Task 7:

Identify best management practices throughout the nation regarding the effectiveness and feasibility of implementing tax incentives to offset development, implementation and/or completion costs of prioritized short and long term recommendations of Scope of Services items 4 and 5.

Task 8:

Issue an electronic version of a **Draft Comprehensive Report** of task 1-7, inclusive. Conduct four (4) public hearings for the purpose of informing attendees and receiving public comments on the details of said **Draft Comprehensive Report**, during a 30 day period, at times and locations prescribed by the Office of Conservation. Subsequently, consult with the Office of Conservation on potential incorporation of public comments into a **Final Comprehensive Report**. The format for the **Draft Comprehensive Report** shall be in an “easy to read” format, with graphs, charts, and pictures, all consistent with the business standards for this type of publication

Task 9: Publish five (5) originals of a **Final Comprehensive Report** of task 1-8, inclusive, and an electronic version of said **Final Comprehensive Report**. Both versions shall include all reference information, appendices, resource information, etc. In addition, publish thirty (30) original hard color copies of an **Executive Summary of task 1-8, inclusive**, and provide an electronic version of said **Executive Summary**. The format for the **Comprehensive Report and Executive Summary** shall be in an “easy to read” format, with graphs, charts, and pictures, all consistent with the business standards for this type of publication.

Deliverable

The contract deliverable will be the submission of a statewide ground water management plan satisfactorily meeting the purpose, objective and scope of work provided herein.

¹ Existing publications include: Assistance in Developing the Statewide Water Management Plan at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/cons/groundwater/presentations/fenstermaker-dec02/index.htm> and Sparta Groundwater Study at http://www.spartaaquifer.com/docs/mmlh_sparta_study.pdf.