

Division of Research, Innovation and System Information
CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS 2022
Question and Response

Question 1: Are proposals expected to address all of the listed objectives (Section IV)? Are they also expected to address all of the items in the Task Description of Work and Expected Deliverables sections (Section V)?

Answer 1: Task 2 and 3 include and/ or – there are two possible avenues of research, one to develop BMPs to remove microplastics. The other is to eliminate the source by development of new materials that are biodegradable. Development of BMPs to remove microplastics would address all sources of microplastics. While control of all sources is the eventual goal. The development of biodegradable materials will focus on one major Caltrans source thermoplastics stripe and markings.

Task Description of Work and Expected Deliverables:

1. A scientifically defensible research design to estimate the quantity and impacts of microplastic pollutants from Caltrans thermoplastic stripe and markings in the state highway system - yes
2. Conduct a field or experimental study or studies where the results will inform the development of a BMP guidance manual
3. Develop a BMP's guidance manual that will help Caltrans practitioners be able to remove microplastic pollutants and/or test new pavement stripe and marking materials that are bio-degradable
4. Write a final technical report with findings of research results and recommendations - yes

Question 2: We have another colleague who is a faculty member at a private institution in New York. Would it be possible to include her as a co-PI?

Answer 2: Public entities can subcontract to private firms, if necessary. However, the work must be primarily performed with the staff of the public entity. The total subcontracting to private entities should not exceed \$50,000 or 25%, whichever is less. The private subcontracting should be integral to the work being performed.

Question 3: Are Caltrans employees, state, or county personnel able to participate on the proposed project?

Answer 3: Yes

Question 4: The CFS mentions “microplastics pollution from Caltrans sources”. Can you clarify what are Caltrans sources? Does it include tires, bitumen, paints, stop signs or other traffic sign materials?

Answer 4: From Caltrans products, so not including products outside Caltrans direct control such as tires or trash.

Question 5: Can you provide guidance on budget size for the project? We are anticipating 3 PIs from 3 different institutions and we would like to stay within a competitive budget range for the project.

Answer 5: We expect the research team to propose a budget based on the work needed to address the Initial Scope of Work. Per the CFS “Does the budget reflect the actual needs of the proposed work? Have the requests for personnel, equipment, supplies, etc. been fully justified? Have cooperative features, partnerships and subcontracts been fully identified?”