

used to test the feasibility of the Initiative. One of the key benefits of the CBES approach is that it enables MBDA, with the participation of joint venture partners, to deliver management and technical assistance services that are specifically tailored for a given minority business community.

In its initial stage, markets targeted for CBES will undergo a comprehensive community assessment, which will be used to determine the feasibility of providing service to those markets under the CBES Initiative and, if appropriate, to design a coordinated funding and service delivery strategy for its subject market, including the identification of community-based organizations and service providers who, by virtue of their resources and expertise, would constitute potential joint venture partners. Subject to funding availability, and shifts in the Agency's program goals with respect to specific markets, MBDA expects to assess the following locations to determine the feasibility of providing service to these markets under the CBES Initiative: Anaheim/Santa Ana, California; Los Angeles, California; Oxnard, California; San Francisco, California; Jacksonville, Florida; Orlando, Florida; Tampa/St. Petersburg, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Shreveport, Louisiana; Boston, Massachusetts; Las Vegas, Nevada; Newark/Jersey City, New Jersey; Bronx, New York; Charlotte, North Carolina; Cincinnati, Ohio; Brownsville, Texas; Corpus Christi, Texas; El Paso, Texas; Houston, Texas; Laredo, Texas; McAllen, Texas; San Antonio, Texas; and Washington, D.C.

The comprehensive market assessments of these locations will also be prepared by the research firm of D.J. Miller & Associates, Inc. These assessments will result in written final reports which will then be used to determine the optimum service delivery strategy for each market. Organizations interested in being included in the market assessments should contact the further information contact listed at the beginning of this notice.

MBDA will contribute federal funding to selected joint ventures, and its best practices experience and technical support from its headquarters and regional offices. Recipients of direct federal funding will be limited to non-profit organizations, state, local or Indian tribal entities. State and local governments, as well as private funding sources, will be attracted to the joint venture because the pooling effect of funds for a common mission will allow all partners to realize a greater return on investment. Furthermore, the delivery of

enhanced services through community-based partners decreases the dependency of the project on any single funding source, and facilitates the development of the project as a long-term resource in its local market.

Individual notices, which will solicit applications for Federal funding on a competitive basis, will be published in the Federal Register as new markets are identified for inclusion in the CBES Initiative.

Authority:

15 U.S.C. § 1512 and Executive Order 11625.

Dated: February 28, 1996.

Joan Parrott-Fonseca,

*Director, Minority Business Development Agency.*

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### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[Docket No. 960130020-6020-01]

RIN 0648-2A18

### **Joint and Cooperative Institute Program**

**AGENCY:** Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), Environmental Research Laboratories (ERL), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA issues this notice to announce its Fiscal Year 1996 funding plan to continue its financial support of the Cooperative and Joint Institutes sponsored by the NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories. The Cooperative and Joint Institute Program establishes formal, collaborative research agreements between ERL through the Office of the Director and participating universities. The primary purpose of each institute is to create a mechanism to bring together the resources of a research-oriented university, the ERL and other branches of NOAA in order to develop a center of excellence in research relevant to understanding the Earth's oceans, the Great Lakes, inland waters, arctic regions, solar terrestrial environment, intermountain west and the atmosphere.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Marilyn Moll, Program Manager, OAR/ERL Joint Institute Program 1315 East-West Highway (R/E), Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. (301) 713-2474. Internet: mmoll@rdc.noaa.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The institutes represent a close research link

between ERL, other branches of NOAA and the academic units of various universities. The collaboration between the universities and NOAA provides an interdisciplinary approach and a pooling of resources required to address the needs of the universities and NOAA for better scientific understanding, and of NOAA for improved capability of environmental prediction and other mission-related goals. NOAA funds activities of the institutes through cooperative agreements with the universities to support and stimulate research in defined areas which comport with NOAA's mission as authorized pursuant to 49 U.S.C. App. § 1463, 33 U.S.C. § 883d, and 15 U.S.C. § 2904.

The institutes are established by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NOAA and each university. The MOU identifies the unique capabilities of the university, the interdisciplinary areas for proposed themes of research, and structure of the institute. Each participating organization takes full financial and operational responsibility for its employees affiliated with the institute. The director of the institute is a university senior faculty/staff member. The location of the institutes are generally on university property. Financial assistance is not provided through the MOU. The research themes and associated administrative costs of the institutes are currently funded by a cooperative agreement. The period of the cooperative agreement for the Fiscal Year 1996 funding cycle will be for five years.

Subject to the availability of funds, NOAA intends to continue supporting the following institutes during the Fiscal Year 1996 funding cycle.

The Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences/University of Colorado (CIRES). The University of Colorado is the only university co-located with NOAA research laboratories in Boulder, and the only university in the Colorado area that has the critical mass or the quality of atmospheric chemistry to support the Climate and Global Change and Air Quality programs of NOAA. CIRES' research themes include environmental chemistry, atmospheric and climate dynamics and solid earth sciences.

The Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere/Colorado State University (CIRA). The Colorado State University is the only other Colorado university co-located with a NOAA research program, and is the only university in Colorado that has a graduate meteorological program that is required to support the Climate and

Global Change and weather research missions of NOAA. CIRA's research themes include global climate dynamics, local weather forecasting, applied cloud physics, satellite observations, air quality, and numerical modeling.

The Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies/University of Oklahoma (CIMMS). The University of Oklahoma is the only university in the Norman area co-located with the NOAA research laboratory, and it is unique in graduate mesoscale meteorology research and training—a primary consideration for the study of tornadoes and severe convective storm processes. Also co-located with CIMMS are the National Weather Service Forecast Office and the Operational Support Facility. CIMMS' research themes include basic convective and mesoscale research, forecast improvements, climate effects of/controls on mesoscale processes, socioeconomic effects of mesoscale weather systems and regional climate variations.

The Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystems Research/University of Michigan (CILER). The University of Michigan is the only university co-located with the NOAA Great Lakes ERL. The University is the only one in the Ann Arbor area that has expertise in Great Lakes limnology and ecosystems research. CILER's research themes include climate and large lakes dynamics, coastal and nearshore processes, and large lake ecosystem structure and function.

The Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies/University of Miami (CIMAS). The Rosenstiel School of Marine Atmospheric Sciences, University of Miami, is the only university component co-located with NOAA/AOML. It is also co-located with NOAA/Southeast Fisheries Center, is the only university in the Miami region that has a graduate program in meteorological and oceanic research, and has the number and caliber of researchers able to effectively coordinate research with NOAA Fisheries, Climate and Global Change, Coastal Ocean and Hurricane research elements. CIMAS' research themes include climate variability, fishery dynamics and coastal ocean ecosystem processes.

The Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research/University of Alaska (CIFAR). The University of Alaska is the only university situated in the Arctic region that has graduate programs in the collaborative research areas of fisheries oceanography, hydrographic studies and sea ice dynamics, atmospheric research,

climate dynamics and variability, tsumani research and prediction, and environmental assessment, monitoring and numerical modeling. CIFAR's research themes include all phases of arctic research.

The Cooperative Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Terrestrial Applications/Desert Research Institute of the University and Community College System of Nevada (CIASTA). The Desert Research Institute (DRI) represents the University and Community College system of Nevada. NOAA's National Weather Service forecast office is co-located on DRI's campus. DRI and NOAA will continue to collaborate on weather, climate and remote sensing research. CIASTA's research themes include atmospheric physics and chemistry in mountainous regions, hydrology and water supply in the arid regions, aerospace remote sensing, atmospheric modification, and global environmental change.

The Joint Institute for the Study of Atmosphere and Oceans/University of Washington (JISAO). The University of Washington is the only university in the Seattle area co-located with NOAA/PMEL and is the only university in the Seattle area that has graduate research programs in oceanography and meteorology which coordinate research and support NOAA's Climate and Global Change, Coastal Ocean and Weather Research offices. JISAO's research themes include climate variability, estuarine processes, environmental chemistry, and interannual variability of fisheries recruitment.

The Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research/University of Hawaii (JIMAR). The University of Hawaii is co-located with the Tsunami Forecast Center, the National Marine Fisheries Center, the National Weather Service, is the closest university to the NOAA observatory on Mauna Loa and is the only U.S. university that supports graduate programs in Tsunami research. It is the only U.S. university that has a Pacific sea level measuring program, and is the only U.S. university sited geographically close enough to maintain a viable research program in fishery recruitment on volcanic islands in the Pacific. JIMAR's research themes include tsunamis, climate research, equatorial oceanography, fisheries oceanography and tropical meteorology.

Each of the universities provide the location/space, staff, and share in the financial support to operate the institutes. NOAA utilizes the institutes to collaborate on research and provides financial support to enhance the public benefits to be derived by universities'

research activities. The institutes with universities are established based on their geographical location associated with the NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories and expertise in the research activity related to NOAA's mission.

The base funding for each institute generally ranges from \$100,000 to \$700,000 a year. The institutes' funding cycle will be contingent upon the appropriation of funds by the Congress of the United States and the legislature of the universities' states necessary for NOAA and the universities to meet all of their respective financial obligations.

NOAA does not intend to establish or fund new institutes at this time. This notice is not a solicitation for proposals. Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance

The ERL institute program is listed in the Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance under number 11.432, Environmental Research Laboratories Cooperative Institutes and under number 11.455, Cooperative Science and Education Program.

#### Classification

This action has been determined to be not significant for purposes of E.O. 12866.

Dated: December 19, 1995.

Marilyn Moll,

*Program Manager, OAR/ERL Joint Institute Program.*

[FR Doc. 96-5267 Filed 3-5-96; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 020196C]

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Marine Mammals

**AGENCIES:** National Marine Fisheries Service, (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Issuance of scientific research permit No. 985 (P405B).

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that a permit for scientific research has been issued to The Burke Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

**ADDRESSES:** The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment, in the following offices:

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289);