

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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***For Immediate Release***

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**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION ANNOUNCES
 GRANT AWARDS FOR COASTAL AND MARINE
 EDUCATION PROJECTS TOTALING \$753,000**

Grant proposals for new projects are now being accepted through November 1st.

(SAN FRANCISCO, September 22, 2016)—The California Coastal Commission has announced that \$488,000 will be available for marine education and stewardship projects in its upcoming round of education grants. Last year, three-quarters of a million dollars was awarded across the state to fund 37 projects including, for example, a series of short videos about the California Coastal Trail, taking Boy and Girls Clubs participants kayaking on the Napa River, an ocean oriented public lecture series, and showing students how to hatch and release salmon and steelhead trout. That round of grants included the first-ever disbursement of “Protect Our Coast and Oceans” Fund tax check-off donations, which were combined with proceeds from California’s WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate sales.

Last year, grants were awarded to the following organizations (*individual project descriptions, organized by county, are provided in the attachment*):

DEL NORTE COUNTY:

Rural Human Services

HUMBOLDT COUNTY:

Friends of the Dunes (3)

MENDOCINO AND SONOMA COUNTIES:

Action Network

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

NEVADA COUNTY:

Sierra Streams Institute

SACRAMENTO COUNTY:

California Exposition & State Fair

NAPA COUNTY:

Friends of the Napa River

MARIN AND SAN FRANCISCO COUNTIES:

Marine Science Institute

SAN MATEO COUNTY:

Pacifica Beach Coalition

Vida Verde Nature Education

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY:

O'Neill Sea Odyssey

MONTEREY COUNTY:

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

FRESNO COUNTY:

Fresno's Chaffee Zoo

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY:

Camp Ocean Pines

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY:

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

VENTURA COUNTY:

Parkview Elementary School

LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

Algalita Marine Research and Education

Children's Maritime Foundation

Guided Discoveries

Heal the Bay

Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Sierra Club Foundation

ORANGE COUNTY:

Amigos de Bolsa Chica

Orange County Coastkeeper

RIVERSIDE COUNTY:

Los Angeles Waterkeeper

SAN DIEGO COUNTY:

I Love A Clean San Diego (2)

Ocean Connectors/The Ocean Foundation

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy

WILD COAST

STATEWIDE:

California State Parks Foundation

International Documentary Association

National Fisheries Conservation Center

Tides Center

The grants program supports marine education and coastal habitat improvement programs in California. Funding priorities include:

- high-quality coastal and marine education;
- providing access to the coast, with a priority for underserved communities general public education on issues about the health of watersheds and the ocean;
- enhancement of beaches or other coastal habitats;
- reaching low-income, multicultural, or inland populations;
- creative, innovative ideas.

The WHALE TAIL® Grants Program runs on an annual cycle and grant applications for the next cycle are now available at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/plgrant.html>.

The WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate is a way for individuals to use their purchasing power to support marine education, and to make a statement of their support for our coast and ocean. Revenue from sales of the plate benefit a variety of coastal and marine education and conservation programs, including the WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate grants program. To date, over 236,000 Californians have purchased the WHALE TAIL[®] Plate. It is one of the most popular specialty plates in California. The plate features an image of a whale diving into the sea. It costs \$50, or \$98 to have it personalized. The annual renewal fee is \$40 for a regular plate and \$78 for a personalized plate. The WHALE TAIL[®] plate can be ordered over the Internet at www.ecoplates.com, by calling (800) COAST-4U, or through the DMV.

In 2014, a “check-off” box was added to the California state tax return form to provide taxpayers the option to voluntarily contribute to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund. The entire purpose of the fund is to supplement the amount of money available for WHALE TAIL[®] grants and this past fiscal year was the first time those donations could be used.

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination. The WHALE TAIL[®] Grants Program is part of its effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship.

(attachment follows)

2015/16 WHALE TAIL® GRANTS BY COUNTY

DEL NORTE COUNTY (\$9,995):

- **Rural Human Services** for raising salmon and steelhead trout in the classroom (\$9,995). Students of all ages will incubate fish eggs in classroom aquariums that mimic ideal natural stream conditions. After they hatch, the students will bring the fry back to Rowdy Creek and release them. The students will also help improve the salmon's spawning habitat by planting native tree seedlings along streams to provide bank stabilization, shade, and woody debris.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY (27,740):

- **Friends of the Dunes** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Humboldt County (\$15,000). The assembly program will educate students at underserved and inland elementary schools about dune ecosystems and the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup and invasive plant removal event for 1,000 students.
- **Friends of the Dunes** for a new beach wheelchair (\$2,765). A special wheelchair that can be pushed across the sand will be purchased for visitors to Humboldt Coastal Nature Center.
- **Friends of the Dunes** for the Coastal Education Revitalization & Expansion Program (\$9,975). For updating the Bay to Dunes education program and aligning it with new state standards in order to remain relevant for teachers, and for working with the Wiyot Tribe to incorporate tribal cultural history and stories into the organization's curriculum and a display at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center.

MENDOCINO AND SONOMA COUNTIES (\$26,777):

- **Action Network** for the "Coastal Connections" program in northern Sonoma and southern Mendocino counties (\$17,250). For teaching youth (with a high percentage of youth from bilingual families, low literacy homes, or tribal reservations) during 10 weeks of in-depth, hands-on marine and coastal activities during the summer.
- **Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods** for the Sonoma Coast Mobile Marine Van (\$9,527). Docents will take the "Steward Ship"— a retrofitted marine education van with educational displays and hands-on activities— to schools, busy beaches, and public events to raise awareness about coastal natural and cultural resources and foster stewardship of Sonoma's coast.

NEVADA COUNTY (\$35,000):

- **Sierra Streams Institute** for the Climate Change Exchange program (\$35,000). A year-long environmental science program for 7th-grade students at three rural schools in the Sierra foothills will focus on Central Valley Chinook salmon as a means to learning about connections between mountain and coastal habitats and the effects of climate change on those habitats.

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SACRAMENTO COUNTY (\$50,000):

- **California Exposition & State Fair** for the “Whale Tales” exhibit (\$50,000). A large exhibition at the 2016 State Fair about the coast and ocean will feature different stations with ocean conservation information and activities, live rescue animal shows, and information on ways people can get involved with helping California’s coastal environment. A separate educational exhibit will feature a giant sand sculpture with a coastal theme and symbols, informational signage, and an area for playing in the sand.

NAPA COUNTY (\$9,995):

- **Friends of the Napa River** for “Riding the Tide: the Napa River Classroom” (\$9,995). For older youth from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Napa Valley to kayak on the Napa River and learn about its connection with the ocean, life in the estuary, and pollution prevention, and then learn how to lead educational activity stations for younger members of the club.

MARIN AND SAN FRANCISCO COUNTIES (\$13,000):

- **Marine Science Institute** for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in the San Francisco Bay Area (\$13,000). The program will educate students at underserved elementary schools in Marin and San Francisco about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 800 students.

SAN MATEO COUNTY (\$50,000):

- **Pacifica Beach Coalition** for the Adopt-A-Beach program and other public programming in San Mateo County (\$20,000). Pacifica Beach Coalition is receiving support for an expanded Adopt-A-Beach program in the Pacifica and Half Moon Bay areas, for producing Earth Day of Action and Pacifica’s large EcoFest, for public outreach at the Pacific Coast Fog Fest, and for an ocean-oriented public lecture series at the Sharp Park Library.
- **Vida Verde Nature Education** for providing overnight coastal environmental education programs (\$30,000). For students from urban, underserved Bay Area schools to attend the multi-day, outdoor environmental education program at Vida Verde where they will visit beaches and tidepools, Pescadero Marsh, and a nearby redwood grove and learn a variety of topics related to watersheds, open space, and local ecology.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY (\$9,800):

- **O’Neill Sea Odyssey** for transportation for Sea Odyssey students (\$9,800). Underserved students will receive bus transportation to attend the O’Neill Sea Odyssey program, an environmental stewardship program taking place aboard a 65-foot catamaran and at an educational center on land at the Santa Cruz Harbor. Lessons focus on marine biology, navigation, and pollution prevention. Participating classes will “earn” their trip by first completing an approved community service project.

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MONTEREY COUNTY (\$25,000):

- **Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove** for the LiMPETS program for Central Valley students (\$25,000). The Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History will recruit classes from Fresno, Stanislaus, and Merced counties, and hold a teacher workshop in Turlock, for its program bringing youth into the field for hands-on science and ocean literacy education as they observe, collect information, and analyze and share their data on sand crabs on beaches.

FRESNO COUNTY (\$7,500):

- **Fresno's Chaffee Zoo** for a Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup (\$7,500). The program will educate 200 students from Fresno about the harmful effects of ocean pollution and will bring the children to Monterey for a beach cleanup event.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (\$8,700):

- **Camp Ocean Pines** in Cambria for an educational marine touch tank (\$8,700). To build a large touch tank with invertebrates to use as a teaching tool for all student visitors at Camp Ocean Pines.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (\$47,208):

- **Santa Barbara Channelkeeper** for the Seafari Program for youth and parents from underserved Santa Barbara County communities (\$6,500). For an on-the-water program onboard Channelkeeper's research boat, where a SCUBA diver will go underwater with a video camera and communication system and show real-time life in the kelp forest while a scientist discusses good water quality, kelp forests, eelgrass beds, why they're important, and how to protect them.
- **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History** for "Carbon Counts: Living on Thin Ice" (\$40,708). The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, which serves visitors both at its museum and at the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf, will share climate change science and solutions through a variety of public programming at both facilities, including through using the "Magic Planet," a projection globe with a display that can help people visually understand complex oceanic and climate data. The museum will also train teen docents who will share information at local middle schools and with the public.

VENTURA COUNTY (\$9,992):

- **Parkview Elementary School** in Port Hueneme for the "Ocean Ambassadors" project (\$9,992). Fourth-grade students will take a series of marine education field trips including tidepool studies on Anacapa Island, water quality testing on the Ventura River, and learning about wetlands and watershed protection at Ormond Beach. Some of the students will also attend a conference in Palm Springs to present what they learned.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY (\$84,840)

- **Algalita Marine Research and Education** for the Ship2Shore Program (\$9,890). For 100 middle and high school students from diverse communities (including Long Beach, Downey, Los Angeles, and Gardena) to take part in real-world research to assess the health of near-shore waters, launch community action projects to reduce plastic waste, and share their projects with wider audiences. Also for connecting them with students at other schools via a satellite communication system from Algalita's research boat.
- **Children's Maritime Foundation** for the Long Beach Watershed and Marine Science Program (\$9,500). For 475 4th-graders to study a 30-day environmental science curriculum and then visit the *American Pride*, the official Tall Ship of Long Beach, for a three-hour educational sail.
- **Guided Discoveries** for a new beach wheelchair (\$2,995). A special wheelchair that can be pushed across the sand will be purchased for visitors to the Catalina Island Marine Institute at Toyon Bay and elsewhere on the island.
- **Heal the Bay** for continuing the Adopt-A-Beach Program in Los Angeles County (\$30,000). Activities will include arranging cleanups for volunteers who adopt beaches, holding large monthly public cleanup events, and transporting students from underserved inland schools for a beach cleanup and educational presentation.
- **Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Los Angeles County (\$16,000). The program will educate students at 12 underserved elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 1,200 students.
- **Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy** for the Junior Naturalist Program (\$9,975). For elementary students from underserved schools in San Pedro and elsewhere in urban Los Angeles to go on guided field trips at the White Point Nature Preserve for a hands-on program covering watershed issues, local coastal plants and animals, and local Native American culture and use of coastal resources.
- **Sierra Club Foundation** for the Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program in Los Angeles (\$6,480). Sierra Club volunteers will lead a marine stewardship program combining coastal outings with school-based education and an environmental action project for teens from urban Los Angeles County communities such as Paramount and Huntington Park.

ORANGE COUNTY (\$48,000):

- **Amigos de Bolsa Chica** for the FLOW Program--Follow and Learn about Oceans and Wetlands (\$30,000). For strengthening a citizen science program for adult volunteers and multicultural, underserved students to learn about water quality and how to analyze the contents of ocean and wetland water samples for potentially harmful microalgae.

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- **Orange County Coastkeeper** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Orange County (\$18,000). The program will educate students at ten inland elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 1,200 students.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY (\$25,000):

- **Los Angeles Waterkeeper** for the Native American Coastal Youth Ambassadors Program (\$25,000). For providing watershed and ocean stewardship education and traditional American Indian ecological knowledge to students at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, including selecting some students to participate in Marine Protected Area monitoring boat trips and become "ambassadors" to the rest of the student body.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY (\$95,640):

- **I Love A Clean San Diego** for the Adopt-A-Beach Program in San Diego County (\$29,640). The program will recognize beach cleanup volunteers through signs at their adopted beaches, give interpretive presentations to groups conducting their cleanups, recruit "adopters" for inland creeks, maintain "do it yourself" beach cleanup stations, and lead zero-waste Adopt-A-Beach cleanups.
- **I Love A Clean San Diego** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in San Diego County (\$18,000). The program will educate students at 7-10 underserved elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for at least 700 students.
- **San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy** for "Our Living Watershed" program (\$20,000). Over several consecutive school years, students in grades 3-5 from underserved schools in Escondido will visit San Elijo Lagoon at the downstream end of their watershed to learn about animal adaptations, food chains, coastal wetlands, and water resources, and to participate in three different conservation skill-building activities.
- **The Ocean Foundation** for the Ocean Connectors program (\$8,000). 2,500 primarily Spanish-speaking youth from National City will learn about either migrating gray whales, sea turtles, or birds on the Pacific Flyway; observe these species outside the classroom and learn conservation activities that can help these animals; and exchange art and letters about their animals with pen pals in Mexico where these animals migrate.
- **WiLDCOAST** for Marine Protected Area (MPA) citizen science cruises for youth (\$20,000). Students from communities such as Chula Vista and San Ysidro will take part in outings to MPAs in South La Jolla. Using chartered fishing vessels as floating labs, they will measure water conditions and contribute data to MPA monitoring projects. They will also learn about local MPAs, marine ecology, threats to ocean health, and opportunities to engage in these environments, and they will attend at least one coastal cleanup at the Tijuana River mouth.

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STATEWIDE (\$168,813):

- **California State Parks Foundation** for launching a new coastal protection curriculum (\$5,600). A new curriculum of project-based lessons will be introduced at workshops for teachers of high school students so they can educate them about coastal science, policy, and management in the context of the issues facing the California coast.
- **International Documentary Association** for new California Coastal Trail films (\$50,000). To produce 6-9 new videos about segments of the California Coastal Trail in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Mateo Counties in order to raise awareness about the Coastal Trail and encourage people to explore it.
- **National Fisheries Conservation Center** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup (\$10,213). This grant will support statewide coordination of an aerial art component at four Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup events, plus the production of a video for World Oceans Day.
- **Tides Center** for school-based marine education activities (\$103,000). A variety of marine education resources will be developed and disseminated statewide teacher training workshops will be conducted, and a new curriculum for high school students will be completed and launched.

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