

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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W27a

November 2, 2010

TO: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

FROM: Susan M. Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Michelle Jespersion, Federal Programs Manager

SUBJECT: **Interagency Agreement for Implementing Improvements to Land Use and Project/Permit Tracking Information Systems** for public hearing and Commission action at the Coastal Commission Meeting of November 17 - 19, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the California Coastal Commission (Commission) authorize the Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement to administer the pass through of \$58,927 of federal funds to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) for the purpose of implementing improvements to BCDC's land use and project/permit tracking information management system pursuant to the terms and conditions of the California Coastal Commission's federal grant NA10NOS4190233 awarded under the Coastal Zone Management Act. The term of this award begins on October 1, 2010, and extends through March 31, 2012.

MOTION:

"I move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement to pass through \$58,927 of federal funds to BCDC for the purpose of implementing improvements to BCDC's land use and project/permit tracking information system pursuant to the terms of federal grant NA10NOS4190233."

Staff recommends a **YES** vote.

STAFF ANALYSIS:

The federally-approved California Coastal Management Program (CCMP) comprises three distinct state agencies: the Commission, BCDC, and the California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy). The CZMA requires that one single state agency be the primary recipient of all federal CZMA funds awarded to the CCMP. The Coastal Act designates the Commission to serve this purpose. Therefore, any federal CZMA funds for other state agencies must be received by the Commission; included in the Commission's budget; and passed through to the other CCMP agencies by means of an interagency agreement. The arrangement to pass through funds has been used since 1977, when the United States Department of Commerce approved the CCMP.

In the fiscal year 2010-11 appropriation for CZMA grants, NOAA received additional funding to provide a competitive grant program for eligible states to modernize and improve their state's land use information and permit tracking systems. The Commission and BCDC submitted a joint proposal in early June of this year seeking funding for improvements to each agency's respective land use information and project/permit tracking system. We were successful in the grant competition and received a total grant award of \$235,710. BCDC will receive a portion of these funds totaling \$58,927 (see table below).

The CCC and BCDC each maintain their own separate permit and project tracking systems due to their differing jurisdictions and regulatory authorities. The existing systems for both agencies are labor intensive, outdated and woefully inadequate to assess, track and manage the high volume of projects and permits within their respective jurisdictions. The outdated functionality of these systems hampers the ability of each agency to efficiently manage their important regulatory and planning functions.

The federal funding received under this grant award will be used to take initial steps to modernize, expand on and improve each agency's coastal management project and permit information systems. While each agency has their own system, the end goal of both of these projects is to improve the effectiveness of each agency's coastal management program by providing reliable and convenient access to permit records, supporting land use documents, and natural resource information for use in regulatory decision-making, planning and enforcement and to integrate this data with each agency's Geographic Information System (GIS). The funds from this grant will cover only a small portion of the overall project cost of modernizing the Commission's existing permit tracking system and allow important first steps to be taken. BCDC will use its funds to complete a portion of the second phase of their modernizing effort.

As stated above, the Commission is the primary agency designated to receive federal funds for the coastal management program. As such, in order to distribute BCDC's portion of the grant award, the Commission must authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Agreement with BCDC. Staff recommends a yes vote.

Distribution of FY10-11 CZMA grant funding for Modernizing and Improving State Coastal Zone Management Information Systems

<i>CZMA Sections</i>	<i>CA Coastal Commission</i>	<i>BCDC</i>	<i>State Coastal Conservancy</i>	<i>CZMA grant TOTAL</i>
<i>Miscellaneous – Other Funding provided in FY 10-11 CZMA appropriations for land use information system modernization and improvements</i>	\$176,783	\$58,927	Not Applicable	\$235,710