

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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TO: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JAMES W. BURNS, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR *JWB*
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SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH SANTA CRUZ COUNTY (for consideration at the Commission's December 1996 meeting.)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement with the County of Santa Cruz, allocating \$5,000 of a \$150,000 grant from NOAA's Coastal Services Center, for access to the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers under a Data License Agreement with the County. Specific responsibilities are described under "Scope of Work" below.

STAFF SUMMARY Under Federal and State legislation, the Commission is charged with improving its ability to manage polluted runoff entering coastal waters. Achieving this objective requires a high degree of coordination between public agencies at the Federal, State, and local levels, and a common base of scientifically valid resource, land use and water quality data.

With its limited funding, the Commission has not had the resources to develop a great deal of the scientific data needed to manage polluted runoff. Fortunately, much of this data has been and continues to be collected by other agencies; however, there is currently a very limited ability to share that information between agencies. For issues that are regional in scope, including polluted runoff and coastal water quality, the inability to share data poses a major impediment to coordinated inter-agency management.

To address this problem, the Commission has received a 1-1/2 year, \$150,000 grant from NOAA's Coastal Services Center (CSC) for a pilot project in the Monterey Bay area. The objective of the project is to develop a set of data exchange tools and protocols that allow coastal resource data to be shared among Federal, State, and local agencies. For the pilot region, the project will integrate data that currently resides on the computers of a dozen different agencies in the region.

The product, called the Watershed Analytical Tool for Environmental Review (WATER), will integrate Geographic Information System (GIS) data layers, satellite images, aerial photographs and tabular data (such as water quality readings) from previously incompatible sources, and will make this information available over the Internet's World Wide Web. The goal is to provide a regional picture of resource constraints and

opportunities accessible not only to management agencies, but to schools, universities, individual property owners -- anyone with a computer and a modem.

At a more specific level, Commission analysts in the Central Coast region will use WATER in the application of the Commission's *Procedural Guidance Manual Addressing Polluted Runoff in the California Coastal Zone* and to support the Commission and its partners in joint planning efforts to better manage polluted runoff to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. It is hoped that WATER will serve as a prototype for other regions of the California coast.

STAFF ANALYSIS Santa Cruz County is the largest holder of GIS data in the WATER pilot region. The parcel-based resource, planning, and land use information is ideally suited for the day-to-day permit review and LCP work of Commission analysts, and will open new opportunities to work with the county and others in the region in managing not only polluted runoff but a host of other coastal resource issues, as well.

The proposed agreement with the County of Santa Cruz would provide \$5000 to the county for licensed access to this data. In comparison, the cost for the Commission to develop similar data sets on its own would be much, much greater. In addition, working with the same data that the county uses will greatly facilitate inter-agency planning and management efforts between Santa Cruz County and the Commission. In short, obtaining access to Santa Cruz County's GIS data will greatly enhance the Commission's ability to work with its partners in managing polluted runoff in the region and is critical to achieving the objectives of the NOAA grant.

SCOPE OF WORK In exchange for \$5000, the County of Santa Cruz would license to the Commission the use of the county's GIS data according to the terms of a Data License Agreement. Under the Agreement, the data itself remains the property of the county, but the Commission may use the data in its planning and regulatory work, including day-to-day permit and LCP review and implementation of the Commissions polluted runoff Guidance Manual.