

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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December 22, 1997

TO: California Coastal Commissioners

From: James W. Burns, Chief Deputy Director
Jaime C. Kooser, Federal Programs Manager

Subject: **Recommended Approval of an Agreement with the Oregon State University to Complete an Interagency Coastal Resource Management Geographic Information System**
(for consideration during the Executive Director's Report at the Commission's January 12 - 16, 1998 Meeting)

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Oregon State University to support the completion of a project entitled "California Coastal Resource Management Geographic Information System" carried out by a Coastal Management Fellow under the overall sponsorship of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coastal Services Center (CSC). The total amount of this agreement is \$12,000, of which \$3,000 is the Commission's contribution, with the remaining contributions made under another agreement by three other agencies --State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the State Lands Commission (SLC).

Staff Summary

In 1994, the Coastal Services Center was created within NOAA for the purposes of identifying, developing and facilitating the use of technologies and information that support the sustainable use and management of coastal resources. To that end, the Center established a competitive coastal management fellowship program that provides both professional education and training opportunities for post-graduate students in coastal management and policy. Recipients of the fellowship are placed with "hosts" around the U.S. in state coastal zone management programs for a period of two years, working on substantive state-level coastal resource management issues related to federal management policies and regulations. In California, a proposal authored jointly by the Commission, BCDC, the Coastal Conservancy, and the State Lands Commission was accepted and awarded a CSC Fellow. The two-year fellowship began in November, 1996. The project is entitled "Expanding the Use of Geographic

Information for Coastal Management in California", and the scope of work is described below.

The Fellowship Program requires each of the four host agencies to provide a sum of \$3,000 cash contribution toward the salary of the Fellow during the second year of fellowship. The two-year grant of \$72,000, of which \$60,000 is made by CSC to a sponsoring local Sea Grant institution, in this case, Oregon State University, pays for the Fellow's stipend and expenses. California must pay the remaining \$12,000 balance toward the placement.

Scope of Work

During the two year time-frame of this project, the CSC Fellow has assumed the lead role in assisting the coastal zone management agencies in overcoming technical, policy, legal, informational, and institutional barriers to the development and implementation of appropriate geographic information systems-based tools for improved protection and management of California's coastal resources.

Under the proposed standard agreement, Oregon State University will receive \$12,000 to support the remaining stipend of the CSC Fellow to complete the work in accordance with the specifications of the project.

The specific objectives of the project are:

- Perform a reconnaissance study and inventory of the coastal zone management agencies present Geographic Information System (GIS) activities, capabilities, and needs;
- Based on this study and additional research, develop a coastal resource management GIS strategy designed to overcome non-technical/cross-jurisdictional obstacles to improved use of GIS. The strategy will investigate and recommend common data access, data format, and metadata structures, in addition to financial and personnel resource requirements;
- Construct a Coastal Resource Management GIS project information center and clearinghouse; and
- Carry out initial strategy implementation activities to support the development of GIS tools for the participating agencies.