

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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Tu 18d

July 30, 1999

Memo

To: Coastal Commissioners and Interested Persons

From: Peter Douglas, Executive Director
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Steve Scholl, Deputy Director
Chris Parry, Public Education Program Manager

Subject: Commission Authorization of Expenditure of FY 1999/2000 Whale Tail License Plate Funds for a Grant to S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay

Item No. 18d Tuesday August 10, 1999

Start-up Funds for S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay

The Monterey Bay region has developed into one of the world's leading centers for marine studies and sustainable resource uses. Businesses, educators, and researchers are attracted by the high quality of the region's coastal and marine environments. The many research and educational centers in this region provide the key resources to offer a high quality learning experience for youth. A broad coalition of local, state, and national representatives from both the public and private sector is supporting the establishment of a national marine science education camp program, beginning with a flagship project on the Central California Coast: S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay.

S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay will be a year-round residential science camp where elementary and secondary students, their families, and teachers learn about our oceans and coasts through a combination of hands-on outdoor activities and exploration, interactive classroom projects, field seminars, mentorships, and visits to educational exhibits. It is projected to open in summer 2000, and will serve 10,000 to 15,000 K-12 students per year at full operation. The program will include an active outreach and scholarship program to promote diversity.

The Commission has long supported the creation of S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay and in FY 1998/1999 authorized a \$25,000 grant of Whale Tail Funds for the project. In June 1998, the Commission approved a resolution to President Clinton on ocean stewardship

and one of the key components in that resolution was support of S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay.

The board of directors for S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay is a broad based coalition and includes representation of the Commission by Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director. The board is actively seeking funds and collaborators and has received enthusiastic endorsements of the program. This \$45,000 Whale Tail Grant is critical to fund the one paid staff member that is co-ordinating the pilot project and fund raising.

Staff Recommendation:

The staff recommends that the Commission grant, not to exceed \$45,000, to California State University at Monterey Bay, for a portion of the costs of start-up of the S.E.A. Camp Monterey Bay pilot program including salary for the planning director.