

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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November 21, 2002

TO: CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

FROM: SUSAN M. HANSCH, Chief Deputy Director
 REBECCA K. ROTH, Federal Programs Manager

SUBJECT: **Amended Interagency Agreement for Funding the Central Coast Comprehensive Wetland Database** for public hearing and Commission action at the Coastal Commission Meeting of December 11, 2002, Item 10c.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to amend the existing interagency agreement to pass through \$203,101 of federal funds to the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay, also referred to herein as the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (NEP, for the purpose of completing the Central Coast Wetland Database. The original interagency agreement approved by the Commission in June 2001 authorized the Executive Director to pass through \$103,101 to the Morro Bay NEP.

MOTION:

"I move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement to pass through \$203,101 of federal funds to the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay for the purpose of completing the Central Coast Wetland Database."

Staff recommends a **YES** vote.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND BACKGROUND:

On October 1, 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved a \$312,531 grant application for the Coastal Commission, Morro Bay NEP and the California Conservation Corps to create a central coast wetlands geographic information systems (GIS) database. The GIS will be linked to habitat information and create a wetland inventory with detailed information in the Morro Bay area. The project will be completed in phases. First, the wetlands inventory will contain a set of GIS data layers that link wetland delineation, research and monitoring information for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. Second, the inventory will be expanded throughout the central coast of California and will be integrated with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network to become a fully comprehensive wetlands inventory.

In June 2001, prior to receiving the EPA grant, the Commission authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the Morro Bay NEP (\$103,101) and the California Conservation Corp (\$83,000) to act as partners in creating the GIS database. (Refer to Table.)

TABLE A: AMENDED Breakdown of EPA Grant Funds by Agency & Section

CA Coastal Commission (amount revised)	\$26,430 (previously \$126,430)
Morro Bay NEP (amount revised)	\$203,101 (previously \$103,101)
CA Conservation Corp	\$83,000
Total Grant	\$312,531

Due to the state hiring freeze, Coastal Commission staff was unable to complete the most of the agreed work program. Given this, Morro Bay NEP agreed to complete the bulk of the tasks as follows:

- Survey agencies for existing GIS data
- Compile GIS data
- Develop new GIS data based on data gaps
- Assemble aerial photograph time series
- Conduct literature search and populate relational database
- Link the GIS and relational database
- Develop website
- Conduct training workshop

Consistent with the original agreement between the agencies, the Conservation Corp will continue conducting the detailed habitat and vegetation surveys in the Morro Bay Watershed. Pursuant to the amended agreement, the Commission staff will continue to participate by providing technical assistance, project management and operating equipment and expenses. The Commission will retain \$26,430.