

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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April 18, 2002

FROM: Peter Douglas, Executive Director
Steve Scholl, Deputy Director
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SUBJECT: Proposed Awarding of \$8,000 Unallocated Reserve from Sales of the Whale Tail License Plate (for Coastal Commission Meeting on May 8, 2002)

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following awarding of funds, totaling \$8,000, previously held in reserve.

Approve the following targeted grant:

- \$8,000 to support unanticipated expenses in developing a revised "Save Our Seas" curriculum.

Motion: I move that the Commission approve the targeted grant recommended by staff for Whale Tail License Plate funding (FY2001/02), and authorize the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreements.

Introduction

The California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail License Plate was established as a mechanism through which the public can contribute funds to coastal and marine education programs in California. For each new plate that is sold, approximately \$15.00 is deposited in the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account (CBCEA). Annual renewal fees deposit \$20.00 per plate into the account. Additional funds are deposited in the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF), which funds environmental programs in other state agencies. The Coastal Commission's FY2001/02 budget includes \$359,000 in funds from the CBCEA for grants to nonprofit organizations and government agencies for coastal and marine education and other related projects.

Targeted Grants for FY 2001/02

In September 2001, the Commission approved dividing the \$359,000 budget into \$208,500 for competitive grants and \$150,000 for targeted grants. The competitive grants were approved by the Commission in February 2002. The targeted grants support high priority projects that are an outgrowth of work commenced under previous Commission grants or linked to existing Commission programs and to meeting the goals of the Commission's strategic plan.

The Commission approved the following targeted grants in September, totaling \$142,500:

- (1) S.E.A. Lab Monterey Bay (\$60,000)
- (2) Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program and Kids' Cleanup (\$54,000)
- (3) Creative Environmental Conservation's Return of the Natives Program (\$10,000)
- (4) Natural Communities Curriculum Compendium revision (up to \$10,000)
- (5) Crystal Cove State Park tidepool education video (\$6,500)
- (6) California Environmental Education Interagency Network (\$2,000)

\$8,000 Temporary Reserve

In addition to the above targeted grants, the Commission approved saving \$8,000 in a temporary reserve to meet any unanticipated expenses associated with completion of an updated "Save Our Seas" curriculum. After determining whether these reserve funds would be needed for the curriculum, staff were to return to the Commission before the end of the fiscal year to request allocating these funds either for the curriculum update, or for another proposed use of the money instead. Staff is returning to the Commission with a recommendation at this time.

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends that the Commission award the \$8,000 reserve to provide additional support to the revision of the "Save Our Seas" curriculum. This contribution will supplement \$50,000 awarded for this purpose to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation in FY2000/01.

The extra \$8,000 would support unanticipated costs associated with illustrating the curriculum, which will need more new illustrations than previously expected, because the curriculum will have more brand-new activities than originally expected. Money left over would also fund supplemental materials for teachers using the curriculum, such as educational videos.

The Coastal Commission developed the "Save Our Seas" curriculum in 1993 in conjunction with the Center for Marine Conservation. New curriculum materials will include a unit on marine debris, as before, and will now also address issues such as polluted runoff, wetlands and other sensitive coastal habitat loss and restoration, and coastal geologic processes. The curriculum will address the applicable state science content standards met in each activity, and will follow the state mandated frameworks for science teaching. Completion of the revised curriculum is expected this fall.