

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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March 25, 2004

FROM: Peter Douglas, Executive Director
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Christiane Parry, Public Education Program Manager
Sylvie B. Lee, Grants Program Coordinator

Th23a

SUBJECT: Proposed Awarding of Unallocated Grant Funds from Sales of the Whale Tail License Plate (for Coastal Commission Meeting on April 15, 2004)

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION**Approve the following 5 grants, which total \$53,800**

- (1) California State Parks Foundation (\$10,600 supplement to existing \$14,400 grant)
- (2) San Diego BayKeeper (\$10,000 supplement to existing \$25,000 grant)
- (3) California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino District (\$12,900)
- (4) Purchasing Beach Wheelchairs (\$300 supplement to \$9,000 already allocated)
- (5) Tides Center (\$20,000)

Motion: I move that the Commission approve the 5 grants recommended by staff for Whale Tail License Plate funding (FY2003/04), 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 supports environmental programs in other state agencies. As of February 28, 2004, close to \$6 million has been raised for the CBCEA. A total of 100,000 Whale Tail plates have been sold. The Coastal Commission's FY2003/04 budget includes \$740,000 in funds from the CBCEA for grants to nonprofit organizations and government agencies for coastal and marine education and other related projects.

Previously Awarded Grants for FY 2003/04

At its September 2003 meeting, the Commission voted to allocate the \$740,000 FY2003/04 grantmaking budget as follows: seven targeted grants totaling \$339,000, a temporary reserve of \$20,000, and the remaining \$381,000 for the competitive grantmaking program. One of the seven targeted grants approved in September was for \$93,500 to support the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup, which is discussed on the next page.

At its February 2004 meeting, the Commission voted to allocate the \$381,000 competitive grantmaking budget to 24 organizations recommended by the staff. Two of those organizations that received partial funding relative to their requests, California State Parks Foundation and San Diego BayKeeper, are being recommended for additional funding at this time.

Before now, no action had yet been taken on the \$20,000 temporary reserve.

Changes since the February 2004 Commission meeting

One of the grants approved by the Commission in February 2004 was for \$25,000 to the Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation. This grant was intended to support the Young Women in Science Program for middle school girls. Review by CCC legal staff concluded that funding this girls-only program would violate the state Constitution (as amended in 1996 by Proposition 209), which provides that the state may not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group based on factors such as race and gender in the area of public education and public contracting. Staff proposed that the Aquarium accept a condition in its contract requiring the program to admit boys if any requested to join, but the Aquarium staff declined the funding rather than accept that condition. Therefore, staff recommendations on reallocating the \$25,000 appear below.

In addition, some of the funds allocated to the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in September 2003 have ended up not being needed by the grantees conducting that program. \$84,700 has been divided by local coordinators in San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles, Morro Bay, Fresno, San Francisco, and Humboldt County as well as a statewide aerial art coordinator. \$8,800 remains, and staff recommendations on reallocating those funds appear below as well.

Staff Recommendation:

The purpose of this staff report is to allocate the following available grant funds:

	\$25,000	previously allocated to Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation
+	\$8,800	previously allocated to the School Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup
+	<u>\$20,000</u>	<u>temporary reserve</u>
=	\$53,800.	

The staff recommends that the Commission fund the 5 programs listed below, totaling \$53,800.

**Staff Recommendations for
Whale Tail Grant Awards for FY2003/04**

1. California State Parks Foundation \$10,600

Project Title: *Coast Alive!*
Project Location: *Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego counties*
Project Timeline: *March 2004 to June 2005*
Total Project Budget: *\$702,100*
Estimated number of people served by the project: *50,000*

The California State Parks Foundation is partnering with the California Institute for Biodiversity to develop a multi-media environmental education program called "Coast Alive!" The program will provide instruction on marine ecology and the importance of conservation in an interactive way for students in grades 5-9 using CD-ROMs with video, animation, graphics, and other engaging features. The curriculum will meet State Content Standards in science, math, social sciences, and language arts. In addition to their classroom lessons, students will also take part in field studies and stewardship projects at coastal, wetland, and riparian habitats managed by California State Parks or the State Coastal Conservancy. Field studies will include investigating such things as water and soil quality, sand crab behavior, and plant and animal populations. Stewardship activities will include habitat restoration, removal of non-native plants, erosion control, or cleanups.

"Coast Alive!" will also provide printed instructional guides and in-depth workshops for teachers. As a collaborative program, staff from State Parks and the Coastal Conservancy will help teach students and teachers, and the Coastal Conservancy has provided the project with a \$250,000 grant. Funds from the Coastal Commission are supporting separate costs including development of field study activities and transportation to field study sites for underserved schools.

Previously awarded:	\$14,400
Additional funding recommended:	\$10,600
Total grant award:	\$25,000
Amount originally requested:	\$39,740

2. San Diego BayKeeper \$10,000

Project Title: *Project SWELL*
Project Location: *San Diego*
Project Timeline: *March 2004 to February 2005*
Total Project Budget: *\$191,875*
Estimated number of people served by the project: *40,000*

San Diego City Schools, the City of San Diego, San Diego BayKeeper, and other organizations are all collaborating to produce a water quality and pollution prevention curriculum called Project SWELL (Stewardship: Water Education for Lifelong Leadership). San Diego City Schools has made the commitment that its teachers will be required to implement it as it becomes available for different grade levels. Currently it is being introduced to fifth grade classrooms, and BayKeeper is requesting funding to add units for three more levels in 2004, tentatively kindergarten, second, and sixth grades. The long-term goal is to have this curriculum taught throughout a student's academic

career, in hopes of creating a sense of ownership of natural resources and a conservation ethic to address the serious water quality problems currently found in San Diego Bay.

Project SWELL will provide instruction on watershed lessons including point and nonpoint source pollution; riparian, wetland, and marine ecosystems; sources of water; pollution prevention; water conservation; and San Diego watersheds. Developing the curriculum involves compiling existing information and adding San Diego-specific content to modules of an already existing, hands-on FOSS (Full Option Science System) curriculum originally developed at UC Berkeley.

Coastal Commission funding is paying for educational materials for inclusion in the curriculum and accompanying kits. It is also supporting the cost of a project manager who is coordinating the Education Subcommittee guiding the curriculum's development and teacher training.

Previously awarded:	\$25,000
Additional funding recommended:	\$10,000
Total grant award:	\$35,000
Amount originally requested:	\$40,500

3. Purchasing Beach Wheelchairs

\$300

Project Title:	<i>Beach Wheelchairs</i>
Project Location:	<i>Various locations in coastal California</i>
Project Timeline:	<i>April 2004 to August 2004</i>
Total Project Budget:	<i>\$9,300</i>

One of the goals of both the Commission's education program and access program is to make it possible for *all* citizens of the state to experience the coast firsthand. Beach wheelchairs are an increasingly popular product that expands the opportunities for coastal access for people who have difficulty walking due to permanent disability, injury, or old age. The chairs have large balloon tires that are able to move across soft sand, and stainless steel frames that can withstand outdoor exposure. They are dispensed and monitored by lifeguards and beach concession operators.

The Commission previously approved funding to continue to support the purchase of beach wheelchairs in regions that do not yet have any to offer the public. The staff has researched and tested different models to find those that operate well on the sand. The beaches receiving chairs all have lifeguards or concessionaires able to provide chairs to interested people free of charge, have wheelchair access, and are well-used by the public. The recipients are required to conduct outreach and publicity regarding the chairs' availability.

This small recommended increase in funding is due to recent slight increases in the price of chairs and storage lockers. \$9,300 is expected to pay for five chairs and one storage locker. These prices already reflect a discount provided by the selected chair manufacturer. Beaches are currently being identified by the staff as potential recipients, with an emphasis on the central coast.

Previously awarded:	\$9,000
Additional funding recommended:	\$300
Total grant award:	\$9,300

4. California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Mendocino District \$12,900

Project Title: Mendocino Coast Tidal Ecology Teacher's Guide

Project Location: Mendocino

Project Timeline: June 2004 to September 2004

Total Project Budget: \$15,620

Estimated number of people served by the project: 500 per year

Each year, approximately 1,000 school children visit the tidepools in Mendocino County. However, their teachers often do not have the background information necessary to fully prepare for and lead these trips.

The Mendocino District of California State Parks would like to create a tidal ecology guide for teachers to help prepare them for leading their students to the tidepools and to help minimize the impact all the children have on the tidepools and the animals living there when they visit. The guide would target grades 3-6 and be correlated to state academic content standards. It would provide information on tidal ecology on the Mendocino coast, activities for the classroom, and guidance for preparing for and conducting field trips. Teachers could also use it in their classes even without taking trips to the coast. Copies would be printed and it would also be made available on the Park District's website.

CCC staff received a grant proposal for this project earlier this year, and while it was well received, it was not ultimately selected for funding at the time due to limited funds in the grantmaking budget.

Previously awarded:	\$0
Additional funding recommended:	\$12,900
Total grant award:	\$12,900
Amount originally requested:	\$15,620

5. Tides Center \$20,000

Project Title: Community-Based Restoration and Education Program

Project Location: Upper Newport Bay, Orange County

Project Timeline: May 2004 to June 2005

In September 2003, Commissioners approved a temporary reserve of Whale Tail grant funds in order to maximize flexibility and keep a small amount of grant funding available for unforeseen opportunities. Possible projects, both of which are operated by CCC's Public Education Program, included: a) producing clean boating kits for the Boating Clean and Green Campaign; b) printing a coastal wetland restoration curriculum for high school students participating in the Community-Based Restoration and Education Program (CBREP) in Orange County; or c) another unforeseen opportunity.

At this time, the Boating program has the funds necessary for producing clean boating kits, but the CBREP in Orange County still needs funding to complete its high school curriculum. The curriculum will cover topics such as the functions of wetlands, the ecology of Upper Newport Bay, the effects of urbanization and non-point source pollution, and non-native plant invasions and loss of biodiversity. This grant from the Coastal Commission would support completing the curriculum as well as other educational activities undertaken by CBREP. The nonprofit Tides Center serves as the fiscal agent for this program.

Proposed 2005 Coastal Commission Meetings

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JANUARY

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Los Angeles						
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FEBRUARY

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Meeting in San Diego						
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MARCH

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Meeting in Monterey						
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Santa Barbara						
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MAY

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Long Beach						
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JULY

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Meeting in San Diego							
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AUGUST

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Los Angeles						
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DECEMBER

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San Francisco						
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