

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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W28d

June 28, 2013

TO: Commissioners and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **Interagency Agreement with Sea Grant/University of California, San Diego**
to provide the Coastal Commission's share of the cost of a two-year Sea Grant Extension Fellowship. For public hearing and Commission action, Wednesday, Item 28d, July 10-11, 2013 Commission Hearing

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the California Coastal Commission (Commission) authorize the Executive Director or his designee to enter into an interagency agreement with Sea Grant/University of California, San Diego, to provide the Coastal Commission's share of the cost of a Sea Grant Extension Fellowship for two-years with an option to extend for an additional six months if needed to complete the work. Carey Batha, a recent graduate of the Master of Environmental Science and Management at the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara was selected as the Commission's Fellow.

The total amount of the agreement is not to exceed \$48,000 over a two-year period (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015), for the Commission's portion of the Fellow's stipend, health insurance, and transit subsidy. The Sea Grant Extension Fellow will receive a salary of \$40,000 per year with costs for the two-years being split between the Coastal Commission and the Sea Grant Extension Program. In addition, to personnel expenses, the Commission will provide in-kind contributions to cover supervision and mentoring and basic operating expenses, equipment, and some travel costs associated with the Fellowship. This is the first time Sea Grant Extension has offered a Fellowship and the Coastal Commission will be the first host. This is a great opportunity for the Commission to have an excellent Fellow for two years and to work directly with the Sea Grant Extension Scientists.

MOTION

"I move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an interagency agreement with Sea Grant/University of California, San Diego, pursuant to the staff recommendation for a cost not to exceed \$48,000 with a term of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015, with an option to extend for an additional six months."

Staff recommends a **YES** vote.

Extension Fellowship Program Description

The California Sea Grant Extension Fellowship Program matches highly motivated and outstanding postgraduate students (people who are very near to completing or have recently completed a graduate degree) with “Hosts” in state and federal agencies in California, and provides Hosts with the chance to employ the skills of highly motivated and trained scientists. Under the guidance of an assigned California Sea Grant Extension Academic and Coastal Commission Supervisor, the Fellow is expected to help develop solutions to high-priority coastal and marine issues and disseminate information through diverse extension methods. A California Sea Grant Extension Academic will spend about 10-15% of his/her time working with the Fellow and the Host to design and implement projects of importance to the Host and SGEP. The Fellow will benefit from this partnership by learning about outreach tools and techniques from Sea Grant Extension academics and by working with the Host to learn about relevant management strategies and topics. The Coastal Commission as Host will benefit by having a highly motivated young scientist to work on projects of concern and by increased interaction with California Sea Grant Extension academics who have knowledge of people (stakeholders, partners), techniques, and processes that will help make outreach more effective.

Sea Grant Extension Fellowship Scope of Work

The Sea Grant Fellow will have a unique opportunity to assist executive, management and policy level staff in the headquarters and district offices of the California Coastal Commission on a variety of coastal and ocean resource protection issues. Working closely with Coastal Commission’s Chief Deputy Director, Deputy Director for Energy and Ocean Resources, technical staff and other senior staff, the Sea Grant Fellow will have the opportunity to work on critical natural resources and coastal and ocean management issues. The Fellow will have the opportunity to interface directly with senior government officials and leaders in resource management policy throughout California.

2013-2015 Fellowship

Specific project and program duties will be developed collaboratively with the Fellow, the Sea Grant Extension, and with Coastal Commission staff members currently working on these issues. Potential project opportunities at this time address a mix of policy and technical needs, as follows:

- A. Carey Batha has been selected for the 2013-2015 California Sea Grant Extension Fellowship and will work with the California Coastal Commission on outreach and education projects related to Adaptation to Global Climate Change. The goal of this project is to help provide coastal communities with information to make better informed decisions related to global warming and sea level rise, and ultimately develop and implement customized solutions to the hazards and climate change challenges which threaten their economic, environmental, and social well-being. Carey will work as a part of the Coastal Commission’s existing staff team and will also work on special projects with Sea Grant Extension.

- B. Involvement in a broad range of coastal and ocean issues involved in the Coastal Commission's regulatory work and Local Coastal Program planning work throughout the coastal zone.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that the Commission enter into an interagency agreement for a period of two-years with Sea Grant/University of California, San Diego, to provide the Coastal Commission's share of the cost of a Sea Grant Extension Fellow.

The motion is on page 1 of this staff report.