

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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August 30, 2013

TO: California Coastal Commission

FROM: Charles Lester, Executive Director
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Michelle Jespersion, Federal Programs Manager

SUBJECT: Recommended approval of an Agreement with Tridec Technologies, LLC to provide administrative services for a NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship to address work with the Commission staff on a variety of climate change issues

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director or designee to enter into an Agreement with Tridec Technologies, LLC, to provide administrative services to support two years (September 2013 to September 2015) of the Commission's portion of costs to sponsor a NOAA Coastal Fellow (Kelsey Ducklow) under the overall sponsorship of the Coastal Services Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The total amount of this agreement is not to exceed \$18,0000, which \$15,000 is the Commission's portion of the Fellow's stipend over a two-year period and \$3,000 is a contingency for possible other expenses related to the Fellowship that Commission staff may authorize for the Fellow. The Coastal Services Center will provide the remaining stipend. 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.

MOTION

I move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with Tridec Technologies, LLC, pursuant to the staff recommendation.

Staff recommends a **YES** vote.

SUMMARY/SCOPE OF WORK

In 1994, the Coastal Services Center (CSC) was created within NOAA to identify, develop and facilitate the use of technologies and information that support the sustainable use and management of coastal resources. To that end, CSC established a competitive coastal management fellowship program that provides both professional education and training opportunities for post-graduate students in coastal management and policy. The Fellowship provides on-the-job education and training opportunities for post-graduate students in coastal resource management and policy, while also contributing specific technical assistance for state coastal resource management programs. The Coastal Commission has previously hosted five Fellows from the program. The NOAA Coastal Fellowship program provides a very cost-effective way to help address key issues that are a part of the Coastal Commission's core program. Many of the past NOAA Coastal Fellows have become permanent members of the Commission staff after the two-year Fellowship.

In October 2012, the California Coastal Commission submitted a proposal for a project to be funded under this program. Other coastal states also submitted proposals under a competitive process. The NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship program selected the Coastal Commission to receive a Fellow for a two-year term starting in September 2013. The Fellow will assist with many of the pressing climate change tasks in the Commission's adopted Strategic Plan including sea level rise policy development, LCP updates and recommendations for permit conditions to address climate change impacts. The Fellow will work closely with Commission senior management and the Commission's internal staff Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) throughout the two-year Fellowship.

The Commission will contribute a total of \$15,000 toward the Fellow's stipend for two years. This funding will be paid to Tridec Technologies, LLC, the sponsoring institution for this Fellowship. In addition, the Commission has agreed to administer the Fellowship and to provide internet and computer access, day-to-day supervision, office space, travel costs, and basic operating expenses over the two-year period of the Fellowship. The agreement will include a \$3,000 contingency for the two years for possible other expenses.

Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director and Michelle Jespersion, Federal Programs Manager, will provide day-to-day supervision. The NOAA Coastal Fellow will work closely with the Commission's Sea Grant Fellows and with the Commission staff on a wide range of climate change issues.

The goal of the Fellowship is to assist the Commission in conducting adaptation planning for climate change along the California coast through: (1) improved coordination with other state and local governments; (2) developing and providing information, tools, best practices and policy examples to local government partners to facilitate updates of Local Coastal Programs (LCPs); and (3) developing educational materials for the Coastal Commissioners and the public about the need to mitigate and plan for the impacts of climate change.