

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

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# Th5

**DATE:** January 26, 2017

**TO:** Commissioners and Interested Parties

**FROM:** John Ainsworth, Acting Executive Director  
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director  
Christiane Parry, Public Education Program Manager  
Sylvie B. Lee, Grants Program Coordinator

**SUBJECT: Proposed Awarding of Unallocated Funds from the Commission's WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> Grants Program.** The Executive Director recommends that that the Commission **approve** the following proposed targeted grant for Fiscal Year 2016/2017.

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## SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following targeted grant:

- (1) County of Santa Barbara for the purchase of four beach wheelchairs (\$10,600)

### I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

**Motion:**

*I move that the Commission **approve** the funding allocations set forth in the staff recommendation.*

Staff recommends a **YES** vote on the foregoing motion. Passage of this motion will result in authorization of the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreement for disbursing the available funds. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

**Resolution:**

*The Commission hereby approves and authorizes the Executive Director to enter into the appropriate agreement for funding new beach wheelchairs in Santa Barbara County.*

**II. INTRODUCTION**

The WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> grants program is part of the Commission’s Public Education Program. The grants support coastal and marine education and related projects to educate and involve the public in the protection of marine and coastal resources. Funding for these grants comes from sales of California’s WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> License Plate and from voluntary contributions to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund on the state tax return form.

**Previously Awarded Grants for FY 2016/17**

At its August 2016 meeting, the Commission voted to allocate the FY 2016/17 WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> grantmaking budget of \$868,000 as follows: six targeted grant projects totaling \$349,850, a temporary reserve of \$30,000 to be awarded later in the fiscal year, and the remaining \$488,150 for the competitive grantmaking program.

Before now, no Commission action has been taken on the \$30,000 temporary reserve, which had been set aside to be available for potential opportunities which could arise. Since the August Commission meeting, an opportunity has arisen that qualifies for a targeted WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> grant—that is, a grant for high priority projects linked to existing Commission programs and priorities. The Commission’s Public Education staff received a request from the County of Santa Barbara to support the purchase of four new beach wheelchairs. Other beach wheelchair projects were included in the targeted grants approved in August.

**III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR TARGETED WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> GRANT AWARD FOR FY 2016/17**

The staff recommends that the Commission fund the project listed below in the amount of \$10,600 with funds set aside in this year’s temporary reserve of \$30,000. Leftover funds from the reserve will be added to the FY 2016/17 competitive grantmaking budget (see Item Th6 on this month’s agenda).

**(1) \$10,600 FOR COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

One of the goals of the Commission’s education and access programs is to help make it possible for *all* citizens of the state to experience the coast firsthand. With large balloon tires that are able to move across soft sand, beach wheelchairs expand coastal access for people who have difficulty walking due to disability, injury, or old age.

**Program History.** Over the years, the Commission has helped numerous California beaches acquire beach wheelchairs to lend to members of the public. These chairs were purchased with funding from WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> grants and from funds received from a lawsuit

settlement over the 1990 *American Trader* oil spill. This funding included a WHALE TAIL<sup>®</sup> grant to the County of Santa Barbara in 2003 to purchase two beach wheelchairs: one at Jalama Beach and one at Goleta Beach.

**Proposal.** Over the years since 2003, the County of Santa Barbara's beach wheelchairs have gotten old and are breaking down despite ongoing maintenance. The County is requesting two new chairs to replace these old ones at Jalama and Goleta Beaches. Goleta Beach receives an estimated 1.5 million visitors per year. Jalama Beach is the site of an accessible cabin for rent that is ADA compliant, so having a beach wheelchair in good condition at that site would be beneficial. The County of Santa Barbara is also requesting two more beach wheelchairs for two popular beaches that have not had one before. One chair would be for Arroyo Burro Beach in Santa Barbara, and the other would be for the flat part of the beach at the Guadalupe Dunes, which provides the best coastal access point for residents of the Santa Maria area.