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July 28, 2017

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SUBJECT: **Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards - August 9-11, 2017 California Coastal Commission Meeting**

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission award \$546,685 in grant funds to seven local jurisdictions for LCP updates and sea level rise planning.

As approved in the Enacted Budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, \$3 million from Prop 40 bond funds will be transferred from the State Coastal Conservancy to the Coastal Commission through an Interagency Agreement to support local governments in developing or updating Local Coastal Programs (LCP) pursuant to the [California Coastal Act](#), with special emphasis on addressing impacts from climate change and sea level rise (SLR). Most of these funds were awarded in August 2016 to 14 local governments as the third round of LCP Grant funding.¹ The remaining \$546,685 is available for the fourth round of Commission LCP Local Assistance grant funds that have been available since Fiscal Year 2013/2014.

On August 14, 2013 the Commission adopted the priorities and selection criteria for reviewing and recommending awards for the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program and authorized staff to solicit and evaluate proposals subject to the requirement that the Commission approve final selection of any grants awarded under this program.² The application period for Round 4 grants opened on February 1, 2017 and closed on May 31, 2017. Work programs for the Round 4 grants are expected to begin in the fall or winter of 2017 and end by December of 2019.

¹ <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2016/8/f5-8-2016.pdf>

² <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2013/8/W31b-8-2013.pdf>

The Coastal Commission received seven grant applications for LCP grants with funding requests totaling \$1,267,846 (see [Table 1](#)). The grant requests range from a low of \$55,500 to a high of \$300,000 and comprise a variety of technical studies and planning work including 5 new sea level rise vulnerability assessments; 7 other technical studies; 2 sea level rise adaptation plans; and extensive LCP planning work. The proposed grant projects recommended for awards will result in 3 targeted LCP amendments for SLR; 1 targeted LCP amendment on low-cost visitor serving accommodations; 3 LCP updates, 2 of which will be submitted within the grant term; and 1 IP update, which will be submitted within the grant term. Those grantees not anticipating certification within the grant term will provide an anticipated timetable for finalizing and certifying the LCP work, as required by condition 9 ([Section II](#)).

GRANT REVIEW PROCESS

Coastal Commission staff reviewed and ranked the applications according to the adopted selection criteria, with input from Commission District and technical staff, and State Coastal Conservancy staff (See [Attachment A](#) for the adopted criteria, and [Attachment B](#) for the rankings).

RECOMMENDED GRANT AWARDS

Commission staff recommends the Commission award seven grants for a total of \$546,685. [Table 1](#) and [Section VI](#) summarize the seven grant projects recommended for funding.

The proposals for the 7 projects recommended for grant funding are hyperlinked in Table 1 below and are also available on the Coastal Commission's website at: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/lcp/grants/>. Due to the length of the application packets, Commission staff opted to provide the proposals in an electronic format via the links below, and to provide detailed descriptions of the grant proposals recommended for award in [Section VI](#). Paper copies of the grant proposals are available upon request.

Table 1: Round 4 Grant Applications and Recommended Awards

	Jurisdiction	Grant Project³	Amount Requested	Recommended Grant Award
North Coast	County of Humboldt	Adaptation Plan, incorporation into LCP Update (Round 2 grant)	\$ 100,000	\$ 50,000
	City of Trinidad	Technical Studies, IP Update, incorporation into LCP Update (Round 2)	\$ 55,500	\$ 51,000
	City of Fort Bragg	Vulnerability Assessment, Technical Studies, LCP Amendment	\$ 120,000	\$ 100,000
Central Coast	City of Marina	Vulnerability Assessment, Adaptation Plan, LCP Update	\$ 300,000	\$ 85,685
	City of Pismo Beach	Vulnerability Assessment, Technical Studies, Draft LCP Policies	\$ 250,000	\$ 85,000
South Coast	City of Avalon	Vulnerability Assessment, Targeted LCP Amendment	\$ 142,346	\$ 75,000
San Diego District	City of San Diego	Vulnerability Assessment, Technical Studies, Targeted LCP Amendments	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000
Total			\$1,267,846	\$ 546,685

The grant applications recommended for awards are consistent with the purpose of the LCP grant program and the Commission’s adopted priorities and criteria. They all are supported by adopted resolutions of the local governing bodies, indicating support for completion of the LCP planning work. All grant projects recommended for awards either contain tasks for public participation and early coordination with Commission staff or are conditioned to contain these tasks. In general, reductions in the recommended awards were based on Commission staff estimates of the costs of similar tasks, or when existing resources could be leveraged to provide data and information for proposed tasks.

Commission staff recommends that the Commission award \$546,685 in grant funding.

GRANT CONDITIONS

All of the recommended awards include grant administration requirements (see [Section VII](#)) as well as general conditions related to the grant work programs (see [Section II](#)).

To assist the Commission in carrying out Strategic Plan Action Item 4.3.1, all grants are conditioned to require grant recipients to submit LCP documents and maps in both paper and editable digital format (see condition #1 in [Section II](#)). In addition, as required by the State Coastal Conservancy, all grants must acknowledge Conservancy funding in the materials produced as part of the grant project (see condition #8 in [Section II](#)). Grant recipients must ensure their respective work programs exclude any and all work that has been funded through

³ For applications that are recommended for an award, the grant project is listed as modified by the award conditions

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

previously awarded grants such as Round 1, 2 and 3 Coastal Commission LCP Grants and grants awarded by the Ocean Protection Council and the State Coastal Conservancy (see condition #7 in [Section II](#)). To facilitate coordination and review of grant deliverables, grant recipients must also revise their work programs to allow for sufficient time to review and revise grant deliverables (see condition #6 in [Section II](#)). Further, work programs that do not include certification of proposed LCP planning work must be revised to include a description of the future steps that will be taken to achieve certification after the grant work is completed (see condition #9 in [Section II](#)).

Grants with tasks related to sea level rise planning are also required to use the Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance document (see condition #2 in [Section II](#)) and to coordinate sea level rise preparedness work with other local jurisdictions and state agencies, where appropriate (see condition #4 in [Section II](#)). Further, grant projects that include preparation of Vulnerability Assessments are also conditioned to assess sea level rise vulnerability through scenario-based analysis and using the best available science (see condition #3 in [Section II](#)).

The best available science on sea level rise continues to advance. The Ocean Protection Council, in partnership with the Ocean Science Trust, recently convened a Science Advisory Working Group to compile the latest climate research and produce a report with updated information on SLR scenarios. This report, entitled *Rising Seas in California*, was released in April 2017. It uses existing climate models to illustrate the probabilities that various sea level rise amounts will occur over time, and, separately, it describes how new research on ice sheet melt could cause the expected rate of sea level rise to increase. The report will be used to inform an update to the State Sea Level Rise Guidance, which is planned for February 2018. In addition, in Southern California, the USGS released final results of its CoSMoS 3.0 model depicting hazards associated with sea level rise. These changes will provide planners with more tools to understand the full suite of hazards associated with both storm and non-storm conditions, along with critical information on the timing of those impacts. With that detail, planners will be better equipped to develop comprehensive, effective sea level rise adaptation measures that can be formalized and implemented through the LCP. The new information in the *Rising Seas* report and the CoSMoS 3.0 model, or other available models, should be incorporated into local SLR planning effort to the extent feasible, as required by General Condition #3.

Grantees must also conduct planning work in accordance with the State of California's climate change principles, as outlined in the [Safeguarding California Plan](#)⁴ (2014) and as directed by the Ocean Protection Council's [Resolution on Implementation of the Safeguarding California Plan](#) (2014) (see condition #5 in [Section II](#)).

Lastly, the recommended awards include grant-specific conditions related to the work programs; please refer to [Section VI](#) for these specific conditions.

⁴ California Natural Resources Agency 2014. Available. http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Final_Safeguarding_CA_Plan_July_31_2014.pdf. Accessed 27 July 2017.

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I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

Motion:

*I move that the Commission **approve** the seven grant awards identified in the Commission Staff Recommendation column of Table 1 of this staff recommendation and authorize the Executive Director or his designee to enter into grant agreements with the grantees for allocation of these funds and to make any amendments thereto, subject to the requirements and conditions set forth in the staff recommendation.*

Staff recommends a **YES** vote on the foregoing motion. Passage of this motion will result in approval of the seven grant awards identified in Table 1 and the Commission authorizing the Executive Director or his designee to enter into grant agreements with the grantees for distribution of the grant funds. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

Resolution:

The Commission hereby approves the seven grant awards identified in the Commission Staff Recommendation column of Table 1 of this staff recommendation and authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to enter into grant agreements with the grantees for allocation of these funds and to make any amendments thereto, subject to the requirements and conditions set forth in the staff recommendation.

II. REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL GRANTS

All grant agreements will contain provisions to ensure successful implementation of the work program. Specifically, grant agreements will include requirements and conditions regarding the project schedule, progress reporting, reimbursement procedures, and stipulations and grant withholdings for projects not completed within the grant time period. The general grant requirements and conditions are explained in detail in [Section VII](#), Grant Administration. In addition to the general grant requirements, all grant projects will include the following conditions:

1. Prior to the Executive Director's determination and reporting of certification pursuant to Section 13544 of the California Code of Regulations of a grant-funded LCP project, grantees shall submit LCP documents and maps in both paper and editable digital format to the Coastal Commission.
2. Grantees shall use the Coastal Commission's [Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance document](#), and any other available Commission guidance related to sea level rise, to inform the development of Sea Level Rise impact assessments, vulnerability assessments, and LCP Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan completion or updates.
3. In addition to the general recommendations contained within the Coastal Commission's Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance, Vulnerability Assessments shall include: (1) storm and non-storm scenarios, including maximum daily and annual tidal inundation, (2) assessment of sea level rise vulnerability with and without key development that is currently vulnerable and/or protected by a revetment, such as Highway 1, railroad tracks,

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and/or a row of residences, (3) anticipated changes in beach width under future sea level rise scenarios, (4) evaluation of the feasibility and effectiveness of sediment management and beach nourishment, and (5) evaluation of sea level rise vulnerability of existing and planned segments of the California Coastal Trail (6) incorporate the subject of environmental justice by, to the extent feasible, analyzing the differential impacts of sea level rise upon various demographics and community groups, and (7) consider the latest reports on sea level rise science and recommendations from the state of California, including *Rising Seas in California* (Griggs et al. 2017)⁵ and the most recently adopted update to the State Sea Level Rise Guidance. These scenarios and topics should be modelled or quantitatively analyzed where feasible and applicable, or at a minimum thoroughly discussed in a qualitative manner.

4. Sea Level Rise work completed under the grant program shall be coordinated regionally to the extent feasible with other jurisdictions and entities working on sea level rise projects within the same county or broader regional area relevant for sea level rise adaptation, such as the watershed, littoral cell, or area with similar geologic characteristics. Entities working on sea level rise projects include the State Coastal Conservancy, the Ocean Protection Council, The Nature Conservancy, NOAA, and USGS. Coordination includes early coordination meetings among the different entities, sharing of technical analyses and lessons learned, and consideration of regional adaptation policies.
5. Grant-funded work shall be guided by the [Safeguarding California Plan for Reducing Climate Risk](#)'s recommended climate change preparedness actions and principles,⁶ as listed below and as described in the adopted [2014 Ocean Protection Council Resolution](#) to support implementation of the *Safeguarding Plan*⁷. The *Plan* states that projects or programs implemented with state funds should:
 - Encourage innovative design of new structures and infrastructure in areas vulnerable to sea level rise, storms, and erosion and priority should be given to green or nature-based solutions that use natural processes and habitats to reduce risk from flooding and erosion;
 - Reduce risk from climate impacts to the coast and ocean, by implementing the *Safeguarding Plan*'s recommendation to incorporate climate risk considerations into all relevant decision-making, including related to infrastructure, in such a way that it:
 - Encourages iterative approaches;
 - Protects California's most vulnerable populations;
 - Achieves multiple benefits from efforts to reduce climate risks and prioritizes green infrastructure solutions;

⁵ California Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team Working Group 2017. Available: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/docs/rising-seas-in-california-an-update-on-sea-level-rise-science.pdf>
Accessed 28 July 2017.

⁶ California Natural Resources Agency 2014. Available: http://resources.ca.gov/docs/climate/Final_Safeguarding_CA_Plan_July_31_2014.pdf
Accessed 27 July 2017.

⁷ Ocean Protection Council 2014. Available: http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20140827/Item5 OPC Aug2014 Exhibit 1 Safeguarding Resolution ADOPTED.pdf
Accessed 27 July 2017.

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- Integrates climate risk reduction with emissions reductions to the fullest extent possible; and
 - Develops metrics and indicators to track progress on efforts to reduce climate risk.
- Adhere to the *Safeguarding Plan* principles:
 - Use the best available science to identify risks and adaptation strategies;
 - Understand that an effective strategy for preparing for climate risks should evolve as new information is available;
 - Involve all relevant stakeholders;
 - Establish and maintain strong partnerships across all levels of government, tribes, businesses, landowners, and non-governmental organizations;
 - Give priority to strategies that also achieve benefits other than climate risk reduction benefits, including additional benefits to public health, the economy, environmental justice, and conservation of natural resources; and
 - Ensure that strategies to reduce climate risk are coordinated, to the extent possible, with the state's efforts to reduce GHG emissions and other local, national and international efforts.
6. Work programs shall be revised to ensure there is sufficient time for coordination with Commission staff on each deliverable, including time for review and comment by Commission staff, and time for grantees to revise deliverables where necessary. For major deliverables, there shall be sufficient time for multiple rounds of review and revision. Such coordination shall take place prior to public release of the deliverable.
 7. Work programs shall be revised to exclude any and all work that has been funded through previously awarded grants or the matching funds identified through previously awarded grants. Such grants include, but are not limited to, Coastal Commission LCP Grants awarded through Round 1, Round 2 and Round 3, grants awarded by the Ocean Protection Council, and grants awarded by the State Coastal Conservancy.
 8. State Coastal Conservancy funding shall be acknowledged in all written or published materials related to the grant program, in a manner approved by the Executive Director.
 9. For grant projects that do not include certification of proposed LCP planning work, work programs shall be revised to include a description of the future steps that will be taken to achieve certification after grant work is complete.
 10. All interested members of the public, including visitors and other non-residents, shall have opportunities to meaningfully engage in policy development, technical studies, and other tasks conducted pursuant to the grant work program. All public outreach activities related to the work program shall, to the maximum extent feasible, proactively engage those who already face disproportionate environmental burdens or vulnerabilities to environmental hazards, and/or those who come from communities of existing social

inequalities, including members of the public and organizations from the following communities: disadvantaged communities, communities of color and/or low income, communities with low capacity to adapt to climate change, and communities not in close proximity to the shoreline but who visit and recreate there. Outreach activities shall seek to provide maximum opportunities for these groups to engage with and provide input on the tasks of the work program.

III. INTRODUCTION

As approved in the Enacted Budget for Fiscal Year 2015/2016, \$3 million from Prop 40 bond funds will be transferred from the State Coastal Conservancy to the Coastal Commission through an Interagency Agreement to support local governments in developing or updating Local Coastal Programs (LCP) pursuant to the [California Coastal Act](#), with special emphasis on addressing impacts from climate change and sea level rise (SLR). Most of the Prop 40 bond funds were awarded in August 2016 to 14 local governments as the third round of LCP Grant funding.⁸ The remaining \$546,685 is available for the fourth round of Commission LCP Local Assistance grant funds that have been available since Fiscal Year 2013/2014.

On August 14, 2013 the Commission adopted the priorities and criteria for reviewing and recommending awards for the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program and authorized staff to solicit and evaluate proposals subject to the requirement that the Commission approve final selection of any grants awarded under this program.⁹ The application period for Round 4 grants opened on February 1, 2017 and closed on May 31, 2017. Work programs for the Round 4 grants are expected to begin in fall or winter of 2017 and end in December by 2019.

IV. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The goal of the Coastal Commission LCP Grant Program is to support local government efforts to complete certification of a new LCP or to update an existing LCP to reflect new information, changed conditions, and emerging issues, with an emphasis on addressing climate change and sea level rise, consistent with the Coastal Act. Round 4 of the LCP Grant Program is supported by bond funds from the State Coastal Conservancy.

This funding helps support the Coastal Commission's adopted Strategic Plan goal to strengthen the LCP Program (Goal 4). Goal 4 places high priority on updating and certifying LCPs, and states that the LCP Program is "the core implementation mechanism of the Coastal Act and the area most in need of increased investment to assure long run success in program implementation."¹⁰ The grants provide much-needed funds to local governments to complete this critical planning work. While most of the coastal zone (approximately 87% of the geographic area) is governed by a certified LCP, the average age of certified LCP segments is almost 25 years and there are some remaining uncertified areas. When these areas become certified, the local government will assume responsibility for issuing most coastal development permits in these areas.

⁸ <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2016/8/f5-8-2016.pdf>

⁹ <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2013/8/W31b-8-2013.pdf>

¹⁰ California Coastal Commission, Strategic Plan 2013-2018, Approved April 2013, pg 15. Accessed on 27 July 2017 at <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2013/4/F9a-4-2013.pdf>

Many of the LCPs that were certified in the 1980s and 1990s are out of date and would benefit from updates to reflect changed conditions, new information and knowledge, and new programs and policies, especially those related to climate change and sea level rise. Updated LCPs provide more certainty for economic development and enable stronger coastal resource protection in light of current environmental conditions and other factors. Also, many important public access, coastal resource protection, and priority coastal development issues will be impacted by climate change and sea level rise. Such impacts include narrowing beaches and wetland areas, saltwater intrusion of freshwater aquifers, and increased flooding of priority coastal development. To ensure coastal resources are protected as required by the Coastal Act, LCPs must be updated to address future climate change impacts.

On August 14, 2013, the Commission adopted priorities and evaluation criteria for implementing the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program to reflect this goal (see <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2013/8/W31b-8-2013.pdf> and [Attachment A](#) for a description of the criteria as provided in the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program application announcement). In brief, the evaluation criteria include: Public Benefit/Significance, Need and Extent, Addressing the Effects of Climate Change, Likelihood of Success/Effectiveness, Workload, and Project Integration/Leverage/Matching Funds.

V. REVIEW PROCESS

Commission staff reviewed the grant applications with input from District Managers and other Coastal Commission staff, including staff with technical expertise. In addition, Commission staff consulted with staff representatives from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) to ensure coordination with their grant programs.

Staff considered the Commission-approved [selection criteria](#) carefully when reviewing applications. As part of the review process, staff assigned a low, medium, or high value (low=1, medium=2, and high=3) to each proposal for each of the criteria. Staff added the assigned values for a total overall score for each application. The applications were then ranked according to the total score, and sorted into high, medium, and low priority for funding. For the application rankings, see [Table 2](#) (Attachment B) and for the full review sheets, see [Table 3](#) (Attachment B). A summary of the recommended awards can be found in [Table 1](#).

Lessons Learned from Rounds 1, 2 and 3

Commission staff also considered some of the lessons learned from the first three rounds of grants when evaluating the proposed work programs and budgets. Overall, two important trends to consider in moving forward with this fourth round of grants are the time it takes to complete these types of work programs, as well as the costs associated with various vulnerability assessments and related technical studies. In general, Commission staff found that the process of completing a vulnerability assessment, developing an adaptation plan, integrating this work into LCP policies, and then completing the local adoption and submittal process often takes longer than the allotted two-year grant term, particularly if there is a high degree of public engagement and coordination with Coastal Commission staff, as is recommended. Thus, we are supportive of those applications that include a pared down work program to focus on, for example, completing a targeted sea level rise amendment, or on reaching a final deliverable of a draft document as an interim step before completing the local adoption and Commission certification steps outside of the grant term.

Commission staff has also found that the costs associated with completing vulnerability assessments and other technical studies tend to be quite high. This is true both in cases in which there are existing data, modelling, or other sea level rise resources, as well as in cases where new technical studies need to be completed, because these types of studies require technical expertise, which often necessitates hiring a consultant. Although the Commission continues to encourage building on regional work and using existing resources (e.g., Pacific Institute, NOAA Sea Level Rise Viewer, and CoSMoS) when and where available, it is understood that in many cases additional synthesis of existing information and/or a higher degree of technical analysis will be desired to develop more proactive and robust sea level rise adaptation policies. Overall, the grant award recommendations, when combined with the grant-specific conditions, incorporate these timing and cost considerations to ensure grant programs are designed to succeed.

VI. ROUND 4 AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS¹¹

Commission staff recommends the Commission award seven grants for a total of \$546,685. [Table 1](#) on page 2 and the following section provide a summary of the Coastal Commission staff recommendations.

The grant applications recommended for awards are consistent with the purpose of the LCP grant program and the Commission's adopted priorities and criteria. They all are supported by adopted resolutions of the local governing bodies, indicating support for completion of the LCP planning work. All grant projects recommended for awards either contain tasks for public participation and early coordination with Commission staff or are conditioned to contain these tasks.

This section provides detailed summaries and discussions of each grant proposal as described in the application, with further detail and clarification from Commission staff. For each application, this section includes summaries of grant proposals, conditions of approval, and discussion regarding the fulfillment of the selection criteria. Grant projects are listed geographically, starting from the northern-most proposal. Complete applications are available through the hyperlink in the Project Title.

¹¹ In all grant applications, leveraged funds includes: grantee funding, grantee in-kind contributions, and other grant sources.

1) COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Project Title: [Humboldt Bay Area Plan – Strategic Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Project](#)

Project Location: Humboldt Bay, Humboldt County

Proposed Timeline: 9/1/2017 – 12/31/2019

	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Total	\$100,000	\$50,000

Grantee’s Leveraged Funds: \$8,449

Leveraged funds include \$8,449 in matching funds from the County’s Round 2 LCP grant; no additional leveraged funds were reported for Round 4.

Conditions of Approval

In addition to General Requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on the County of Humboldt’s grant award:

By September 15, 2017, the grantee shall submit a revised work program and budget for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$50,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the terms and conditions of the approval. One task shall be added related to incorporating the findings of the adaptation planning into the administrative draft of the LCP update completed as part of the Round 2 grant-funded work, which shall be finalized, locally adopted, and submitted to the Coastal Commission for certification outside of the grant term.

Grant Proposal Summary

The County of Humboldt is requesting an LCP Planning grant to complete a Sea Level Rise (SLR) Adaptation Plan, which would build off of the SLR Vulnerability Assessment currently being produced under the County’s Round 2 LCP grant. Findings from the Adaptation Plan would be incorporated into the County’s LCP policy development tasks required under the Round 2 LCP grant. The Round 4 grant project would entail a collaborative adaptive capacity building process for both the economically disadvantaged communities of Humboldt Bay and for agricultural, wildlife, transportation, and utility stakeholders of the former tidelands hydrologic units of Humboldt Bay.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Collaborative adaptive capacity building process for economically disadvantaged communities and for the diked former tidelands hydrologic units of the Humboldt Bay Area Plan
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan development
- Public Outreach and Workshops
- Coordination with Commission staff
- Incorporation of Adaptation Plan findings into LCP under Round 2 LCP Grant

Discussion

Humboldt County has significant coastal resources of statewide significance, including the second largest coastal estuary in the state, agricultural lands, timberlands, old growth redwood forests, tidal marshes, freshwater and riparian wetlands and other environmentally sensitive habitat areas along the Humboldt Bay and the Eel River estuaries, and several freshwater and brackish lagoons (such as Big Lagoon, Stone Lagoon, and Freshwater Lagoon). The County has over 120 miles of coastline (not including an additional 100 miles of shoreline associated with Humboldt Bay) with numerous public access areas and expansive beaches, including Gold Bluffs Beach in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Moonstone County Park, Little River State Beach, Mad River Beach County Park, Mal'el Dunes, and Clam Beach County Park (one of only three areas along the California coast with significant populations of Pacific razor clams). In addition, due to the decline in the timber economy and other changing circumstances in the area, the County has significant tracts of underutilized industrial lands. The area is also especially vulnerable to sea-level rise, with the highest rate of relative sea-level rise on the West Coast, and to tsunami hazards, due to its proximity to the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which has the potential for large earthquakes. Resources at risk include the most significant expanse of eelgrass beds in the state, tidal and freshwater marshes, agricultural lands, wastewater treatment plants, significant public utility and community services infrastructure, large sections of Highway 101, energy facilities, and commercial and residential areas.

Humboldt County's LCP was certified in 1982, does not address sea level rise impacts and has not undergone a comprehensive update since it was originally certified. The County received two previous LCP grants during the Commission's Round 1 and Round 2 grant term. In Round 1, the County completed administrative drafts of LCP amendments for three Areas of Deferred Certification (ADC): Azalea Habitat Areas on Stagecoach Hill, portions of the Big Lagoon subdivision, and portions of the Trinidad Area Shoreline. The Round 1 grant project also resulted in the submittal of an administrative draft LCP amendment to the Commission to establish an inventory of Industrial/Coastal Dependent (CDI) land and to develop policies to allow for the potential interim use of such land. In Round 2, which is currently underway, the County will complete a comprehensive update of the Humboldt Bay Area Plan. The Round 2 grant also includes regional coordination with the Cities of Eureka and Arcata (two local governments that hold jurisdiction within the Humboldt Bay Coastal Zone and are in the process of updating their own LCPs), establishing baseline environmental and community conditions, completing a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, and directing policy initiatives to give priority protection for coastal-dependent land uses, as well as tsunami safety planning.

The Round 4 grant project will target the development of actionable SLR adaptation strategies and implementation measures based on the information attained from the Round 2 grant. The grant project will target the development of specific adaptation strategies for two of the most vulnerable assets at risk in the Humboldt Bay Area Plan, including the economically disadvantaged communities of King Salmon, Fields Landing, and Fairhavem/Finn Town, as well as the critical agricultural, utility, transportation, and environmentally sensitive habitat areas in the diked former tidelands. Development of such adaptation strategies will increase the adaptive capacity of property owners, transportation agencies, and utility providers, while also addressing coastal resources under threat from SLR-related impacts, such as shoreline erosion, flooding, tidal inundation, and salt water intrusion. Although the County has experienced past delays in LCP planning work due to staff turnover and increased workload from permitting associated with cannabis cultivation, the grant would build off of LCP planning work currently underway,

including current updates to the County’s General Plan and regional sea level rise work undertaken by the Cities of Arcata and Eureka. Further, the County has built in opportunities for public input early on in the grant project and throughout the grant term, as well as ongoing coordination with Commission staff.

Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends partially funding the County of Humboldt’s grant project. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$50,000 to fund the County’s development of an Adaptation Plan.**

The outcome of this grant is expected to be development of an Adaptation Plan and incorporation of adaptation policies into the draft LCP Update that will be developed under a prior grant agreement and submitted and certified outside the grant term.

2) CITY OF TRINIDAD

Project Title: [City of Trinidad LCP Update](#)
Project Location: Trinidad Planning Area, Humboldt County
Proposed Timeline: 11/1/2017 – 12/31/2019

	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Total	\$55,500	\$51,000

Grantee’s Leveraged Funds: \$125,000

Leveraged funds include \$10,000 in proposed matching funds for the Round 4 grant project, as well as \$80,000 in previous LCP grant funds, and \$35,000 in previous matching funds.

Conditions of Approval

In addition to General Requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on the City of Trinidad’s grant award:

By September 15, 2017, the grantee shall submit a revised work program and budget for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$51,000 and includes the necessary revisions and detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the terms and conditions of the approval.

Grant Proposal Summary

The City of Trinidad is requesting a Round 4 LCP Planning grant to undertake additional technical studies and updates that were identified in the City’s prior LCP planning work. The grant project includes development of a Coastal Erosion Hazard Management Plan, specifically focusing on a landslide/slow creep near Edwards street and impacts on infrastructure and public access areas (particularly access to the Trinidad Lighthouse and Harbor area); a Water Supply Assessment, which will assess potential water supplies for new areas under City water services, while also considering the effects of climate change on such water supplies; and an update of portions of the Implementation Plan to ensure that the entire LCP can be internally consistent before submittal of the LCP for certification.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Coordination with Commission Staff
- Technical Studies and Plans
 - Coastal Erosion and Hazard Management Plan
 - Water Supply Assessment
- Public Outreach
- Updates to the Implementation Plan

Discussion

The City of Trinidad, although small in area, has significant scenic, cultural, and environmentally-sensitive coastal resources, including boating, pier, and harbor uses. The City is highly vulnerable to climate change, as much of the City is located on a marine terrace with steep, unstable bluffs that border the south and west sides of the City, which are at significant risk of bluff erosion. Increased erosion and flooding from sea-level rise and storms is anticipated to lead to increased bluff instability, which could expose cultural artifacts and restrict public access along the shoreline. In addition, sea-level rise is expected to lead to saltwater intrusion into septic systems and loss of function of stormwater outfalls. These impacts could also lead to a loss of coastal ecosystems, and other impacts to cultural resources.

The City of Trinidad's LCP was certified in 1980, making it the oldest LCP in the state. While the City received a Round 2 LCP Grant to comprehensively update its LCP, the City is requesting a Round 4 LCP Grant to fill data gaps that were identified during the Round 2 grant project and to update portions of the Implementation Plan. Indeed, the existing grant (Round 2) doesn't include a water study, which is needed to understand whether or not the service areas north and south of the City should be modified and/or reduced, as there is some evidence to suggest that there is not enough water to serve both the entire City and the two certified service areas north and south of the City. A Coastal Erosion Hazard Management Plan is critical as well because there has been significant erosion on the City's bluff front that supports a large portion of the City, which has implications for public access and circulation as well as residential development, trails, and archaeological resources. Updating the Implementation Plan is critical as well since the IP is outdated and there have been no partial LCP updates for the City to date, except for a handful of amendments. Given the steady increase in workload for Commission staff due to litigation, appeals, and the need to issue CDPs in the uncertified harbor area, coupled with a high likelihood of success (the City's grant would build off the existing Round 2 LCP Grant project), Commission staff anticipates that the City will successfully complete its proposed LCP planning work.

Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends partial funding of the City of Trinidad's grant project. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$51,000 to fund the City's development of technical studies and its update to the Implementation Plan.**

The outcome of this grant is expected to be completion of technical studies, incorporation of related policies into the draft LCP completed under previously funded grant work, and development and submittal of an updated IP.

3) CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Project Title: [Mill Site LCP Amendment](#)
Project Location: City of Fort Bragg, Mendocino County
Proposed Timeline: 6/1/2017 – 7/31/2019

	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Total	\$120,000	\$100,000

Grantee’s Leveraged Funds: \$70,450

Leveraged funds include \$21,450 in General Fund contributions from the City and \$49,000 from a Community Development Block Grant for the reuse of the Mill site.

Conditions of Approval

In addition to General Requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on the City of Fort Bragg’s grant award:

By September 15, 2017, the grantee shall submit a revised work program and budget for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$100,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the terms and conditions of the approval.

Grant Proposal Summary

The City of Fort Bragg is requesting an LCP planning grant to develop a reuse plan and LCP Amendment for the 425-acre former Geogria-Pacific Lumber Mill site. The proposed project includes a public visioning and issue identification task and development of an Existing Conditions and Trends Assessment, which will include a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, Water Supply Analysis, and additional studies on energy use, conservation and transportation. Grant work would also result in the development of an administrative and final draft LCP amendment, with the LCP Amendment submitted within the grant term.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Coordination with Commission Staff
- Public Outreach, including public workshops, tribal consultation, and local government workshops
- Technical Studies including:
 - Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment
 - Water Supply, Storage, and Demand
 - Energy Use and Conservation
 - Transportation
- Development of a Draft LCP Amendment
- Submittal of Final LCP Amendment

Discussion

The City of Fort Bragg is located 150 miles north of San Francisco along the Mendocino coast off of Highway 1. The City has several coastal resources that provide recreational and

educational activities, including the Fort Bragg coastal trail and Noyo Headlands Park, the Point Cabrillo Lighthouse Station, and Glass Beach. The City also has many coastal redwoods along the coast, while the Mill Site is home to numerous wetlands. While much of the City is a major visitor destination, the coastal access trail is only accessible from the very northern and southern edges of the Mill Site, which is closed until the site can be rezoned and redeveloped. Development of a reuse plan for the Mill site will thus provide an opportunity to preserve much of the site’s sensitive coastal resources, while also expanding public access and recreational opportunities.

The City of Fort Bragg last completed a comprehensive update to its LCP in 2008. However, the LCP does not address the impacts of sea level rise on the City’s coastal zone, including impacts to the Noyo Harbor, the area around Pudding Creek beach, creek, dam and reservoir, and significant portions of the Mill site. Many coastal dependent uses, such as commercial and recreational fishing companies, hotels, and restaurants are vulnerable to SLR, while the entire coast is subject to accelerated rates of coastal erosion. Additionally, the entire City is dependent on surface water sources, which experience extreme seasonal fluctuations with Climate Change. Thus, an LCP planning grant will allow the City to prepare for sea level rise and address these impacts through the development of a Vulnerability Assessment, including sea level rise policies that support low-carbon urban development and climate adaptation and resilience.

Commission staff anticipates a high likelihood of success due to the proposed grant project’s ability to build off of the draft Mill Site Specific Plan, as well as incorporating numerous public outreach opportunities. Further, the City has pledged a significant amount of matching funds towards the grant project.

Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends reduced funding for the City of Fort Bragg’s grant project. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$100,000 to fund the City’s update to the Mill Site Specific Plan and for the development and submittal of a draft LCP Amendment.**

The outcome of this grant is expected to be completion of technical studies and the development and submittal of an LCP amendment.

4) CITY OF MARINA

Project Title: [City of Marina Local Coastal Plan Comprehensive Update](#)
Project Location: City of Marina, Monterey County
Proposed Timeline: 12/1/2017 – 12/31/2019

	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Total	\$300,000	\$85,685

Grantee’s Leveraged Funds: \$75,000

Leveraged funds include \$50,000 from in-kind services and \$25,000 from the City’ General Fund.

Conditions of Approval

In addition to General Requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on the City of Marina's grant award:

By September 15, 2017, the grantee shall submit a revised work program and budget for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$85,685 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the terms and conditions of the approval. Task 2, "Identify Existing Conditions, Issues" shall rely on the available sea level rise tools and existing vulnerability assessment work that has been completed for the Monterey Bay Region, and the associated budget shall be revised to reflect the availability of these resources.

Grant Proposal Summary

The City of Marina is requesting an LCP Planning grant to comprehensively update their LCP to address sustainable development, increased opportunities for coastal access and public recreation, and vulnerability to Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. The City will develop a public outreach program to solicit public input on the LCP update. An Existing Conditions and Issues report will also be developed based on technical data, stakeholder input, and public workshops, which will be followed by the preparation of a Vision, Goals and Objectives report that will guide the LCP update process. An Adaptation Plan will then be developed that will analyze a variety of strategies to address SLR impacts.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Public Outreach
- Coordination with Commission Staff
- Preparation of an Existing Conditions and Issues Report and Vision, Goals, and Objectives Report, including a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment
- Development of a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan
- LCP Policy Development
- Submittal of LCP Update

Discussion

The City of Marina is located in northern Monterey County, approximately 8 miles north of the City of Monterey, roughly between the Salinas River mouth and the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. The City has numerous coastal resources, including Marina State Beach, which provides various coastal recreational opportunities. The City has about three miles of shoreline fronted by restored coastal dune habitat, most of which is in public ownership. The last remaining sand mining plant (CEMEX) on the Monterey Bay operates just above the surf line in the northern portion of the City. The coastal zone inland of Highway 1 is limited to roughly 60 acres that includes commercial retail development, visitor-serving overnight accommodations, coastal dunes, and three significant vernal ponds. Fort Ord Dunes State Park, which is located in the City of Seaside, is accessible from the City of Marina.

The City of Marina's LCP was certified in 1982 and has not undergone a comprehensive update since it was originally certified. Thus, the LCP does not provide a clear vision for dealing with the impacts of Climate Change or with dealing with the coastal impacts associated with the CEMEX sand mining site. This makes the need to update the City's LCP high, as the City needs

to assess its vulnerabilities to coastal erosion and other SLR-related impacts, especially in light of land use changes that will occur with the cessation of sand mining. Commission staff anticipates a high likelihood of successful completion of the proposed project, with new planning staff hired and an extensive public outreach program proposed.

The City will also leverage existing SLR work, such as the Monterey Bay SLR Vulnerability Assessment and studies by the Southern Monterey Coastal Erosion Workgroup. Given the availability of regional resources, the relatively smaller size of the City’s coastal zone, and the limited amount of grant funds available, the recommended grant award has been reduced from the amount requested by the City.

Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends reduced funding for the City of Marina’s grant project. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$85,685 to fund the City’s preparation of an Adaptation Plan and comprehensive LCP update.**

The outcome of this grant is expected to be completion of a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan, and development and submittal of an LCP Update.

5) CITY OF PISMO BEACH

Project Title: [City of Pismo Beach General Plan Circulation Element Update and Coastal Program Enhancements](#)

Project Location: City of Pismo Beach, San Luis Obispo County

Proposed Timeline: 5/3/2017 – 2/22/2019

	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Total	\$250,000	\$85,000

Grantee’s Leveraged Funds: \$275,000

Leveraged funds include \$275,000 in matching funds.

Conditions of Approval

In addition to General Requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on the City of Pismo Beach’s grant award:

By September 15, 2017, the grantee shall submit a revised work program and budget for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$85,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the terms and conditions of the approval. Task 1, “Circulation Element Update”, will be eliminated from the proposed budget and work program. Task 4, “Low-cost Visitor Serving Accommodation Policy Development” shall incorporate work completed by the Coastal Commission and the Coastal Conservancy.

Grant Proposal Summary

The City of Pismo Beach is requesting an LCP Planning grant to assist with the City's General Plan and Local Coastal Program update. The proposed project includes an update to the City's Circulation Element; development of a short-term rental (STR) ordinance to address increasing non-permitted STRs and associated issues; sea level rise modeling and evaluation, which includes analysis of vulnerabilities and development of a policy framework for implementation in future LCP updates; and policy development for lower cost visitor serving accommodations, including public outreach, research, data collection, and studies to determine what constitutes low-cost. Policy development and draft LCP Amendment(s) will be completed for each of these topics as well. The intent of this work is for it to be the first phase of a larger effort that would eventually include the development, local adoption, submittal, and certification of an updated LCP and General Plan.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Public Outreach
- Coordination with Coastal Commission staff
- Update to the Circulation Element of the General Plan
- Technical Studies, Data Collection, and Policy Development related to:
 - Preparation of a Short-term Rental Ordinance
 - Sea Level Rise Modelling and Evaluation
 - Lower Cost Visitor Serving Accommodations
- Draft LCP Amendment(s)

Discussion

The City of Pismo Beach is located in San Luis Obispo County and stretches along the shoreline for approximately seven miles. Most of the city lies within the coastal zone, with the northwestern half of the City mostly confined by steep hillsides that rise to 1,000 feet in some areas and form a magnificent open space backdrop to the City's northern neighborhoods and the beaches below. A series of recreational beaches stretch to the south, ultimately connecting to and including the beach and dune areas associated with the Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreational Area. Mobile home parks, RV parks, and camping areas extend along many of these beaches. North of the downtown, the shore is lined with steep cliffs up to 100 feet above ocean level. Much of this area nearest downtown is developed with larger hotels and restaurants. The remainder of the city is generally made up of the downtown area and residential neighborhoods: smaller beach oriented cottages and apartments in southern Shell Beach and the downtown; larger, and newer homes and condos east of Highways 1 and 101 and in the northern Shell Beach and Palisades areas. Significant public access is available along much of the City's bluffs, with trail connections extending to the Avila Beach area to the north and to Grover Beach to the south.

The City of Pismo Beach's LCP was first certified in 1984, and it was last significantly updated in 1993. Some minor amendments to the Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan have occurred in the interim; however, given the age of each document and their lack of adequately addressing sea level rise (SLR) and Climate Change impacts, the need to update the LCP is high. Further, existing sea level rise mapping and modelling resources are generally not inclusive of this region, which makes the need to undertake SLR modelling even more pressing.

Given a lower permit workload compared with other local jurisdictions in the region, Commission staff recommends a reduced grant award. This reduced award amount also reflects the paring down the proposed grant project, including eliminating funding for the City’s General Plan Circulation Element.

Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends partial funding of the City of Pismo Beach’s grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$85,000 to fund the City’s development of a Short-term Rental Ordinance, Sea Level Rise Modelling and Evaluation, and Policy Development for Lower Cost Visitor Serving Accommodations.**

The outcome of this grant is expected to be completion of technical studies, policy development, and draft LCP amendment(s).

6) CITY OF AVALON

Project Title: [City of Avalon Local Coastal Program Update to Address Sea Level Rise](#)

Project Location: City of Avalon, Los Angeles County

Proposed Timeline: 9/1/2017 – 3/2/2019

	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Total	\$142,346	\$75,000

Grantee’s Leveraged Funds: \$172,371

Leveraged funds include \$72,371 from in-kind services and \$100,000 in matching funds.

Conditions of Approval

In addition to General Requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on the City of Avalon’s grant award:

By September 15, 2017, the grantee shall submit a revised work program and budget for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$75,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the terms and conditions of the approval. Tasks shall be limited to Task 1 (Project launch) and Task 2 (Vulnerability Assessment Preparation), as proposed, and Tasks 3-6 shall be removed from the work program. A task shall be added to the work program for the development of a targeted LCP amendment to incorporate the key findings of the vulnerability assessment into the LCP, including updated hazard maps, if feasible, and a program policy to conduct future Adaptation Planning and develop a comprehensive LCP amendment on sea level rise.

Grant Proposal Summary

The City of Avalon is requesting an LCP grant to complete a comprehensive climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan that will inform the City's LCP update. Through an extensive public outreach program, the City proposes to solicit input from the public and from various community stakeholder groups and local governmental agencies in the preparation of LCP policies that address sea level rise and coastal hazards.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Coordination with Commission Staff
- Preparation of Vulnerability Assessment
- Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Development
- Public Outreach
- LCP Update and Submittal of LCP Update to Commission for Certification

Discussion

The City of Avalon is the only incorporated city on Catalina Island, which is located approximately 22 miles southwest of the City of Los Angeles Harbor. The coastal community of approximately 4,000 residents has around three miles of coastline along the Pacific Ocean, with the majority of the City's services centered around the harbors and beaches of Avalon Bay. The City has an abundance of coastal resources geared towards eco-tourism activities, including numerous beaches, hiking trails, and swimming and boating areas.

The City of Avalon's LCP was certified on 1981 but has not been comprehensively updated to address sea level rise and climate change. The City initiated an update to its General Plan and LCP in 2013; however, the LCP update preceded the Commission's release and adoption of its Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance. Thus, the City's LCP is inconsistent with current Commission guidance on sea level rise and coastal hazard mitigation. In addition, the LCP does not recognize changes that have occurred in the coastal zone as a result of intensifying coastal erosion, which presents the greatest threat to the City as much of the public safety concerns are a result of existing coastal hazards. Because existing sea level rise models do not cover Catalina Island, the City proposes to develop its own SLR modeling and to coordinate with other cities and regional stakeholders in the development and implementation of common adaptation strategies.

The City expressed strong interest in the grant program before the application period opened and provided numerous letters of support for their application, indicating that there is strong momentum to complete the project. The City can also leverage its draft LCP update from 2013, further demonstrating a high likelihood of successful completion of the grant project. Despite this, the City's application scored low on workload as coastal development permitting in Avalon does not impose a large workload on Commission staff. Due to limited funds available in this round of LCP Local Assistance grant funding and the need to reduce award amounts, the recommended award is limited to the first two tasks of the proposed work program, including the project launch and SLR vulnerability assessment preparation. These tasks would provide the City the technical information on potential future sea level rise impacts needed to inform comprehensive sea level rise planning. To ensure the results of the SLR vulnerability assessment are incorporated into the LCP within the timeframe of the recommended work program, a condition of approval of the grant award would require the development of a targeted LCP

amendment that includes the key findings of the vulnerability assessment, including updated hazard maps if feasible, and a policy committing the City to completing a comprehensive LCP amendment in the future. Thus, as recommended, the work program would result in significant progress toward a complete LCP update for SLR.

Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends partial funding of the City of Avalon’s grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$75,000 to fund the City’s development of a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and adaptation plan, which will be incorporated into an LCP Update.**

The outcome of this grant is expected to be a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and associated public outreach, as well as a targeted LCP amendment for sea level rise.

7) CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Project Title: [Technical Studies, Vulnerability Assessment, and Public Outreach for Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan](#)

Project Location: City of San Diego, San Diego County

Proposed Timeline: 8/1/2017 – 9/30/2019

	Amount Requested	Recommended Award
Total	\$300,000	\$100,000

Grantee’s Leveraged Funds: \$160,000

Leveraged funds include \$70,000 in-kind services and \$90,000 in matching funds.

Conditions of Approval

In addition to General Requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on the City of San Diego’s grant award:

By September 15, 2017, the grantee shall submit a revised work program and budget for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$100,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the terms and conditions of the approval. The work program shall include Task 2 (Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment), as proposed, and associated Public Outreach (Task 3). Additional Technical Analyses (proposed in Task 1) shall be incorporated into the work program as feasible. A task shall be added to the work program for the development of a targeted LCP amendment that incorporates the key findings of the vulnerability assessment, including updated hazard maps, if feasible, and a program policy to conduct future Adaptation Planning and develop a comprehensive, LCP amendment on SLR.

Grant Proposal Summary

The City of San Diego is requesting an LCP grant to prepare technical studies on coastal hazards, including an update to the Coastal Erosion Assessment Program, and to develop a Vulnerability

Assessment, including development of a City-managed database on asset vulnerabilities. The proposed grant project also includes extensive public outreach to garner public input on the development of major deliverables and regional coordination with climate change groups to share expertise and advance adaptation measures that address local hazards.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Public Outreach
- Coordination with Coastal Commission staff
- Development of technical studies as needed (e.g. hydrology, water quality, biological resources, and infrastructure), including an update to the Coastal Erosion Assessment Program
- Preparation of a Vulnerability Assessment

Discussion

The City of San Diego is the 8th largest City in the United States and has a population of more than 1.3 million people stretched along 17 miles of coastline. The City has an array of coastal resources, including public beaches (e.g., La Jolla Shores, Mission Beach, and Ocean Beach), regional and shoreline parks that provide coastal view areas and access points like Torrey Pines State Preserve, and other opens spaces such as the Cabrillo National Monument.

The City of San Diego's LCP was segmented into twelve geographic areas, corresponding to local community plan boundaries, with separate land use plans submitted and certified in 1988 (excluding Mission Bay, which does not have a certified Land Use Plan). When the Commission approved segmentation of the LUP, it found that the implementation piece of the City's LCP should be a single unifying element, which was achieved in 1988 with Implementation Plan certification. Since effective certification of the City's LCP, there have been numerous major and minor amendments processed. These have included everything from land use revisions in several segments, to the rezoning of single properties, to modifications of citywide ordinances. In November 1999, the Commission certified the City's Land Development Code (LDC), and associated documents, as the City's IP, replacing the original IP adopted in 1988. The LDC became effective in January 2000.

Despite these efforts, a challenge remains in updating these 12 segments with regards to sea level rise, as the City lacks a cohesive citywide strategy for climate change. The proposed grant project would address this need by providing a citywide climate adaptation and resiliency plan, including an assessment of vulnerabilities for use in future LCP amendments. Much of this work has already commenced, as the City has participated in regional efforts like the San Diego Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy led by ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, thus laying the groundwork for the successful completion of the proposed grant project. The grant project would also build off of the City's Climate Action Plan, which calls for building resilient communities and requires the City to complete a stand-alone adaptation plan. Further, the City has updated two community plans (Ocean Beach and San Ysidro) and has incorporated SLR-related policies as a part of those efforts. This demonstrates a high likelihood of success, as the proposed vulnerability assessment will greatly facilitate further updates and likely provide additional incentive for the City to come forward with additional updates in the future.

Since the application did not include the development of a comprehensive LCP update for SLR, which is a key goal and criteria of the LCP Grant Program, and given that there are numerous existing SLR resources to leverage (e.g., CoSMoS), Commission staff recommends reduced funding for the City's proposed grant project. The recommended award is conditioned to ensure these funds are focused on the parts of the proposed work program of highest priority under the grant program selection criteria, including the Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and associated public outreach. Also, to ensure that this work is incorporated into the existing LCP to at least some extent, a condition of approval requires the development of a targeted amendment to be applied city-wide. This targeted amendment will incorporate the key findings of the vulnerability assessment, including updated hazard maps if feasible, and a program policy that calls for the development of a comprehensive LCP amendment for SLR in the future. Thus, the grant project will ensure that the findings of the City's technical studies and vulnerability assessment will be incorporated into its LCP as part of the funded work program, but also establish the groundwork for more detailed work in future to develop a comprehensive LCP amendment for SLR city-wide.

Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends partial funding of the City of San Diego's grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$100,000 to fund the development of technical studies related to coastal hazards, including an update to the Coastal Erosion Assessment Program and the preparation of a Vulnerability Assessment, and as conditioned, to update the City's LCP.**

The outcome of this grant is expected to be a SLR vulnerability assessment and a targeted LCP amendment for sea level rise.

VII. GRANT AWARD ADMINISTRATION

Upon compliance with the requirements for each grantee to revise its work program and budget, the Coastal Commission staff will provide the local government with a draft grant agreement for execution by both parties. Commission staff will also review, process, and approve invoices under the grant agreements. During this process, Commission staff will work with grantees to ensure work programs and budgets are sufficiently detailed and contain the necessary benchmarks to meet the goals of the grant program.

GENERAL GRANT AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. All grantees shall work with Commission staff to finalize the work program, including progress benchmarks and budget for Executive Director review and approval that reflects the amount of the grant award and final products that will be produced as a result of the grant funding. Grantees shall include a schedule and benchmarks that show the plan for completing the certification process. The final work program, schedule, and budget shall be part of the grant agreement.
2. Grantees seeking subcontractors to perform grant-related tasks and services shall select all subcontractors pursuant to a bidding and procurement process that complies with all applicable laws.

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

3. All grant agreements shall require progress reports at least every 3 months, and all shall be subject to Executive Director review and approval. Each grant agreement shall include the standards Commission staff will use to assess whether work progress reflected in such reports is adequate and procedures to address any grantee that is not meeting the final approved work program and benchmarks.
4. Grant funds will not be available in advance of expenditures. Expenses will be paid in arrears no more than once per month upon submission of an approved invoice by the grantee. That is, all funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis, and payments will be made to local governments only after work tasks are completed.
5. If a grantee fails to properly execute the grant agreement or fails to meet the performance criteria and benchmarks in the grant agreement, the Executive Director or his designee may cancel the grant agreement and re-allocate any unspent funds to one or more of the other approved grantees whose grant was not fully funded.
6. Complete reimbursement of grant funds will be dependent upon successful completion of the final deliverable of the grant agreement. Up to 20% of the grant award may not be reimbursable until all final deliverables have been completed by the grantee.
7. Should a jurisdiction not need the full amount of funds awarded by the Coastal Commission, they shall notify Commission staff as soon as possible so that any remaining allocated but unspent funds may be redistributed, as feasible. In addition, should a local government fail to enter into a grant agreement in a timely manner or fail to meet work program benchmarks as noted above, the Executive Director or his designee may reallocate funds to supplement an already awarded grant.
8. Travel Reimbursement shall be at the same rates as similarly situated State employees. If any conflicts exist between the Contractor's rates and those applicable to State employees, the State's reimbursement rates shall prevail. Receipts will be required. All travel costs are inclusive within the budgeted amount referenced in the grant agreement.

ATTACHMENT A
EVALUATION CRITERIA ADOPTED BY COASTAL COMMISSION
ON AUGUST 14, 2013

- ◆ **Public Benefit/Significance:** The Commission will consider the extent to which the proposed LCP planning effort will address issues of statewide significance and maximize public benefits of the coast. These can include: preserving and enhancing coastal habitat, protecting, providing and enhancing public access, protecting priority land uses such as agriculture, coastal dependent development or recreation, protecting and providing lower cost visitor and recreational opportunities, and addressing climate change.

LCPs are the means to implement the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act at the local level and when submitted are reviewed by the Commission for conformance with the Coastal Act. As LCPs have become more dated, their ability to provide an up to date framework to govern coastal development in light of changed circumstances and new scientific information may be weakened. As one purpose of this grant program is to update LCPs, the Commission will must consider the extent to which priority Coastal Act resources are addressed and the public benefits maximized.

- ◆ **Relative Need for LCP/Extent of Update:** Related to the public benefits of a proposal, the Commission will consider the relative need for an LCP update, considering the length of time since an LCP or LCP segment has been updated and the significance of the issues proposed to be updated. For example, many sensitive species and habitats have been identified since the time of certification of many LCPs. A proposal to update an LCP's environmentally sensitive habitat (ESHA) policies, ordinances, resource maps, etc. may be an important update in specific jurisdictions. Other jurisdictions may benefit from updates in policy areas that will resolve known deficiencies or sources of conflict and/or appeals of local coastal development permits to the Commission. In addition, the extent or scope of an update is an important consideration, with higher priority being placed on proposed updates of greater extent/scope, such as a complete LUP/IP update, or an update that results in comprehensive updating of one or more policy areas or a geographic sub-area.
- ◆ **Addressing the Effects of Climate Change:** Climate change is one of the most significant policy areas to emerge since many of the LCPs have been certified. The Commission is seeking LCP updates that address the effects of climate change, including sea level rise and other coastal hazards, as well as other issue areas affected by climate change, such as changes in habitat, fire hazards, and transportation and land use policy to facilitate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles travelled. Special consideration will be given to LCP amendment proposals to address this policy area.
- ◆ **Likelihood of Success/Effectiveness:** The Commission has had past grant programs where the investment of public funds has not resulted in completed certified LCPs or LCP Amendments. In a few cases, funding has been awarded but reverted. Overall, the success of the Commission's grant program will be measured by the progress made toward LCP certification or update.

The Commission thus will consider the likelihood of success of each proposal, including evaluating the practicality, feasibility, and effectiveness of a proposed work program that may lead to successful implementation. Proposals should address the need for coordination with the public and the Commission, and provide for practicable benchmarks for LCP amendment development and review. Other evidence in support of this criteria may include resolutions of intent and endorsement for the proposed work from the jurisdiction and other organizations, matching funds or other complementary efforts (see below), or other factors that may affect the likelihood that an LCP amendment will be successfully completed. Applicants will be asked to describe any LCP planning work that has been initiated or is already underway at the local level and how this grant program is needed to substantially further that effort. A resolution from the applicant committing to completing an LCP Amendment submittal to the Commission will be required as part of the application.

For new LCP development, the local government should demonstrate its willingness and capacity to assume local coastal development permit processing. Related, some areas of the coastal zone remain uncertified because the Commission and local government have been unable to reach agreement on the resolution of issues or the issue is particularly intractable. The Commission will consider the likelihood that such areas and specific policy questions can be successfully addressed, leading to certification of the area.

- ◆ **Workload:** The Commission will consider the level of existing permit workload generated by uncertified jurisdictions and thus the relative statewide benefits of certification of any particular jurisdiction.

While most of the geographic area of the coastal zone is under certified LCPs, there are 36 segments that are not yet certified and 44 specific Areas of Deferred Certification. The Commission is responsible for review of all coastal development permits in these uncertified areas. If LCPs were certified for these areas, then most coastal development permits would be reviewed at the local level and the Commission's staff resources could be reallocated to assist matters of more statewide significance and importance, such as early coordination with local government on LCP planning matters, as well as oversight, review, and coordination with local governments on LCP implementation.

- ◆ **Project Integration/Leverage/Matching Funds:** The Commission will consider the relationship of the LCP work program to other planning work being undertaken by the jurisdiction. Applicants will be asked to describe any other related grant awards (such as through the Ocean Protection Council, Coastal Conservancy or the Strategic Growth Council) that may support the LCP planning work and any availability and amount of local matching funds.

There are several related grant programs underway which may positively integrate with this LCP Planning Grant program. For example, the Ocean Protection Council is currently processing applications for grants to update LCPs to address sea level rise. The Coastal Conservancy is administering a Climate Ready grant program (http://scc.ca.gov/files/2013/07/Climate-Readygrant-announcement-July-18_FINAL.pdf).

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

The Strategic Growth Council provides a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program to fund efforts to conduct planning activities that will foster sustainable communities, lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and achieve other sustainability objectives, and for which coastal jurisdictions are eligible to apply. The Commission will consider the ability to integrate and leverage any additional program funds available that could help support a comprehensive LCP certification effort or update.

ATTACHMENT B. PROPOSAL RANKINGS BASED ON CRITERIA

Table 2. LCP Grant Evaluation Scoring by Points*

Jurisdiction (Listed by points, North to South)	Public Benefit/Significance	Need/Extent	Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Work-load	Project Integration/Matching funds	Total Score **	Rating **
City of Trinidad	2.5	3	2.5	2.5	2	2	14.5	High
City of Fort Bragg	3	2	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	14	Med
City of Avalon	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1	3	14	Med
County of Humboldt	3	2.5	3	2	1	2	13.5	Med
City of Pismo Beach	2	3	3	1.5	1.5	2.5	13.5	Med
City of San Diego	2	2	2.5	3	1	3	13.5	Med
City of Marina	2.5	2.5	2.5	2	1.5	2.5	13.5	Med

*Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; ** Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

Table 3. LCP Grant Evaluation Review Sheet (listed in order of points, north to south)

Humboldt County

Public Benefit/Significance	Need/Extent	Addressing Effects of Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Workload	Project Integration	Matching Funds	Total Score
3	2.5	3	2	1	2		13.5
-Targets County's most vulnerable areas: economically disadvantaged communities and the diked former tidelands (and related infrastructure. -Development of Adaptation Strategies will increase adaptive capacity of property owners, utility providers, and protect threatened coastal resources, such as agriculture and public access.	-LCP has not been comprehensively updated since certification in 1982. -Humboldt Bay Area Plan does not address SLR impacts. -Approximately 9,000 acres of the LCP area consists of reclaimed tidelands that are protected by dikes that are actively eroding or overtopping. This area contains critical regional utility lines.	-Proposed project will target development of Sea Level Rise adaptation strategies for critically-vulnerable areas in Humboldt Bay.	-Builds off of LCP grant work currently underway. -The county is in the process of updating its General Plan. -Opportunities for public input will be integrated into project schedule. -History of past delays.	-No changes in the areas of certification are proposed; thus there will be no change in the area of permitting authority.	-The County has an existing LCP Grant for \$125,000 that will serve as the foundation for the proposed project. -The project will build off of vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning for the Cities of Eureka and Arcata.	-None reported for Round 4. -\$8449 in matching funds from Round 2.	

Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

The criteria point value for Project Integration and Matching Funds are combined in accordance with the adopted selection criteria

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

City of Trinidad

Public Benefit/ Significance	Need/Extent	Addressing Effects of Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Workload	Project Integration	Matching Funds	Total Score
2.5	3	2.5	2.5	2	2		14.5
-Public access will be improved through the development of hazard management policies. -Water supplies will be evaluated to determine potential for increased water service and ability to adapt to Climate Change impacts.	-Project will perform assessments and plans based on data gaps and changing conditions identified in current LCP grant. -Water supply assessment will potentially address increased requests for water service in the area. -Building, grading, and subdivision ordinances are outdated and are not being updated in the Round 2 LCP grant, but will be updated under this grant.	-Project proposes to develop a Coastal Erosion Hazard Management Plan that will provide policy responses to coastal hazards and sea level rise impacts.	-Project builds off of previous LCP Grant award. -The City proposes to incorporate public outreach in its effort to develop hazard policies. -The City has already contracted with consultant engineers and geologists to produce a current, geologic analysis of an active hazard in the City.	-Outdated LCP results in substantial workload for Commission staff due to litigation, appeals, and CDPs in Areas of Deferred Certification; a comprehensive LCP update will greatly reduce CCC workload.	-The City has a Round 2 LCP Grant for \$80,000 that will serve as the foundation for this proposed project, as the data gaps identified in Round 2 will be addressed here.	-\$10,000 in match. -\$80,000 in previous LCP grant funds, and \$35,000 in previous matching funds	

Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

The criteria point value for Project Integration and Matching Funds are combined in accordance with the adopted selection criteria

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

City of Fort Bragg

Public Benefit/ Significance	Need/Extent	Addressing Effects of Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Workload	Project Integration	Matching Funds	Total Score
3	2	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.5		14
-A significant area of coastal open space will be restored and protected, while public access, wetland restoration, and lower cost visitor serving and recreational opportunities will be improved.	-The City's LCP was comprehensively updated 10 years ago, but did not address Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. -The City's LCP also must be updated to address legal changes in housing requirements, stormwater management, and ADA requirements.	-The project will include the preparation of a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and policies that support low-carbon urban development, climate adaptation, and resilience. -Work will also include technical studies on Water Supplies, Energy Uses, and Transportation.	-Proposed grant project will build off of work completed under the draft Mill Site Specific Plan, including public outreach. -The City proposes to further incorporate public outreach and coordination with Commission staff throughout the grant project.	-Few CDPs are appealed to the Commission; thus workload will not be significantly reduced.	-The project will build off of work completed under the draft Mill Site Specific Plan, as well as numerous technical studies that will inform the LCP update, including studies on wetland delineation, traffic, archaeology, and water resources, amongst others.	-A \$50,000 Community Development Block grant for the Mill Site reuse planning process will be leveraged towards the grant. -\$21,450 in matching funds.	

Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

The criteria point value for Project Integration and Matching Funds are combined in accordance with the adopted selection criteria

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

City of Marina

Public Benefit/ Significance	Need/Extent	Addressing Effects of Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Workload	Project Integration	Matching Funds	Total Score
2.5	2.5	2.5	2	1.5	2.5		13.5
-The proposed project will address the impacts of the CEMEX sand mine and how to reuse the site if sand mining were to cease. -The project will identify where coastal erosion and SLR may threaten public access.	-LCP was certified in 1982 and a comprehensive update that addresses SLR and Climate Change has not been accomplished to date. -Existing LCP maps are outdated and do not provide a clear vision for the reuse of the CEMEX sand mine site.	-Work includes preparation of a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan that will assess risks to key infrastructure and populations. -Project will incorporate existing SLR work, such as the Monterey Bay SLR Vulnerability Assessment	-New staff has been hired that is committed to addressing SLR and Climate Change. -Public Outreach will be incorporated into the development of technical studies and LCP policies.	-Due to the outdated nature of the LCP, many projects experience delays and uncertainty, and are appealed to the Commission. An LCP update will reduce both City and CCC staff workload.	-Project will leverage existing SLR work, such as the Monterey Bay SLR Vulnerability Assessment and studies by the Southern Monterey Coastal Erosion Workgroup.	-\$75,000 pledged in-kind.	

Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

The criteria point value for Project Integration and Matching Funds are combined in accordance with the adopted selection criteria

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

City of Pismo Beach

Public Benefit/ Significance	Need/Extent	Addressing Effects of Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Workload	Project Integration	Matching Funds	Total Score
2	3	3	1.5	1.5	2.5		13.5
-City includes resources of critical importance to residents, businesses, and visitors. -Proposed tasks would address coastal access through new policies on short term rentals and affordable accommodations, as well as protection of coastal dependent development, hazard mitigation, and recreation through a sea level rise study.	-LCP was certified in 1984, with an update to the LUP in 1993 and an update to the Zoning Ordinance in 1983. Neither document adequately addresses new information and changed conditions. Updates are needed to address inconsistencies between the documents.	-Work includes a Sea Level Rise Modeling and Evaluation task to identify vulnerabilities and develop short and long term adaptation strategies. -Impacts of sea level rise have the potential to damage key economic areas in the city.	-The City is committed to working closely with Commission staff on the proposed tasks. -The City recognizes the importance of updating the LCP and incorporating sea level rise and affordable accommodations, as well as new information.	-By eliminating existing inconsistencies between LCP documents and ensuring consistency with the Coastal Act, the proposed tasks would remove delays, reduce workload for the City and Commission staff, and reduce costs for applicants.	-The proposed tasks would leverage an existing report "Citywide Transportation Model and Circulation Study" (2016).	-\$275,000 in match.	

Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

The criteria point value for Project Integration and Matching Funds are combined in accordance with the adopted selection criteria

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

City of Avalon

Public Benefit/ Significance	Need/Extent	Addressing Effects of Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Workload	Project Integration	Matching Funds	Total Score
2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1	3		14
-Significant coastal access and recreational resources inventoried and assessed for recent General Plan update. -Significant public safety concerns resulting from existing hazards. -Most existing affordable accommodations are in areas with high hazard exposure.	-LCP was certified in 1981 and requires updates for topics like public access and sea level rise and to incorporate/ address existing conditions, best practices, best available science, and recommendations in the CCC SLR Guidance. -Land use maps are out of date.	-Work includes a sea level rise vulnerability assessment, which will provide information on how hazards could change in the future and impact coastal resources and development, thus informing the development of adaptation strategies to incorporate into the LCP.	- City Manager, Planning Director, and City staff are committed to working with CCC staff on this project. -The project would leverage the work and momentum associated with the 2013 General Plan update and would fulfill the requirements of AB 691. -Community awareness and engagement are also high.	- Coastal development permitting in Avalon does not impose a large workload on Commission staff.	-Proposed project would build off of the 2013 General Plan update and ensure consistency with similar or regional vulnerability assessment efforts, including those conducted by the City of Long Beach Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, the City of Huntington Beach General Plan, and the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability's (LARC) recently released Climate Action Framework.	-Leveraged funds include \$73,371 in in-kind services and \$100,000 in match.	

Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

The criteria point value for Project Integration and Matching Funds are combined in accordance with the adopted selection criteria

Recommended Round 4 Local Coastal Program Local Assistance Grant Awards

City of San Diego

Public Benefit/ Significance	Need/Extent	Addressing Effects of Climate Change	Likelihood of Success	Workload	Project Integration	Matching Funds	Total Score
2	2	2.5	3	1	3		13.5
-Proposed project includes addressing impacts of SLR on a Citywide scale, specifically for 12 geographic segments, some of which are disadvantaged.	-The City's 12 segments were all certified in 1988 with the exception of the Mission Bay segment, which remains uncertified. A challenge in updating disparate segments with differing local conditions is the lack of a citywide resiliency plan that provides the background needed for individual updates to each segment's LCP.	-Proposed work includes a sea level rise vulnerability assessment and technical studies needed to provide data for such an assessment.	-Proposed project would build off of the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP), which calls for building resilient communities. The CAP requires that the City complete a stand-alone climate adaptation and resiliency plan. -Project includes public outreach and development of summary reports on technical studies available to the public.	-Not reported.	-Project would build on the 2012 San Diego Bay Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategy, the 2017 San Diego Regional Coastal Resiliency Assessment, the 2016 Ocean Beach Community Plan update, and the City's work with regional collaboratives.	\$90,000 in match and \$70,000 in in-kind funds.	

Criteria points: Low=1, Medium=2, High=3; Total score: Low= 6-10, Med=10.5-14, High=14.5-18

The criteria point value for Project Integration and Matching Funds are combined in accordance with the adopted selection criteria