

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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DATE: April 25, 2019

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

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

SUBJECT: Proposed Awarding of Funds from the Commission's WHALE TAIL[®] Grants Program. The Executive Director recommends that that the Commission **approve** the following proposed targeted grants for Fiscal Year 2018/2019.

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the following targeted grants:

- (1) Community Action Partnership of Kern (\$8,000)
- (2) Tides Center/Marine Education Project (\$39,500)

I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

Motion:

*I move that the Commission **approve** the grant awards set forth in the staff recommendation. I further move that the Commission authorize the Executive Director or his designee to enter into appropriate agreements with the grantees for allocation of these funds, and to make any amendments thereto.*

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

Resolution:

The Commission hereby approves the grant awards set forth in the staff recommendation. Further, the Commission hereby authorizes the Executive Director or his designee to enter into agreements with the grantees for allocation of these funds, and to make any amendments thereto.

II. INTRODUCTION

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

At its September 2018 meeting, the Commission voted to approve seven targeted grant projects totaling \$333,000, plus a temporary reserve of \$90,000 to be awarded later in the 2018/19 fiscal year for needs or opportunities that may arise. Since then, from the \$90,000 reserve, \$5,000 was added to Heal the Bay’s targeted grant, \$20,000 was approved at the 2019 February Commission meeting to support the 21st District Agricultural Association for an exhibit at the Big Fresno Fair, and \$25,000 was added to the competitive grants budget (and also awarded in February 2019). The staff planned to return to the Commission before the end of the FY 2018/2019 fiscal year to make a recommendation for the \$40,000 still remaining in the unallocated reserve, and that recommendation is being made at this time.

In addition, one of the targeted grant projects approved in September 2018— \$7,500 for Fresno Chaffee Zoo to support the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly and Beach Cleanup Program— ended up not being awarded. That organization has experienced some staffing changes and is no longer interested in continuing this program. As an alternative, the staff invited Community Action Partnership of Kern, a previous recipient of a competitive WHALE TAIL[®] grant, to apply instead. The staff is recommending reallocating the funds originally set aside for Fresno Chaffee Zoo to Community Action Partnership of Kern, plus adding an additional \$500 from the reserve.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION FOR TARGETED WHALE TAIL[®] GRANT AWARDS FOR FY 2018/2019

The staff recommends that the Commission fund the projects listed below with \$7,500 from the WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate Fund originally allocated to Fresno Chaffee Zoo, plus \$40,000 with money from the WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate Fund set aside in this year’s temporary reserve.

(1) \$8,000 FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP OF KERN

Program History. The Kids' Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly and Beach Cleanup Program takes place in six locations statewide, coordinated by separate partner grantees. While most of the children served are from coastal counties, one of the locations has been the Central Valley, where students are provided with the opportunity to travel to the Central Coast. In the past the local coordinator was Fresno Chaffee Zoo, which brought children out to Monterey, but that organization is no longer interested in continuing the program. Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) is based in Bakersfield. The organization received a WHALE TAIL[®] grant in 2015 to fund after-school science lessons at two youth centers for at-risk families, featuring ocean science topics, prehistoric marine life, and a field trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.

Proposal. CAPK is proposing to participate in the statewide Kids' Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly and Beach Cleanup Program by involving 175 highly underserved students in their care at the organization's youth centers in the Bakersfield area. The youth would travel to Morro Bay, visit the Museum of Natural History there, enjoy the coastal environment, and participate in a beach cleanup and educational lesson led by the local nonprofit ECOSLO.

(2) \$39,500 FOR THE TIDES CENTER/MARINE EDUCATION PROJECT FOR THE SCHOOL-BASED MARINE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PROJECT GROW

Program History. The Marine Education Project (MEP) is a project of the nonprofit Tides Center in partnership with the Commission's Public Education Program. The MEP programs that would receive WHALE TAIL[®] funding are: Project Grow (formerly called the Community-Based Restoration and Education Program), which mobilizes volunteers to restore habitat at Upper Newport Bay and provides educational resources and guidance for similar projects elsewhere; and the statewide School-Based Marine Education Program. The Coastal Commission has supported Project Grow with targeted grants since FY 2000/01 to supplement funding from a variety of external sources, and the School-Based Marine Education Program since FY 2003/04.

Proposal. \$20,500 from this grant would support Project Grow and its community-based habitat restoration and education work at Upper Newport Bay. While Project Grow did not receive a targeted grant earlier in FY 2018/19, recently it became apparent that a large contract to be awarded by the Metropolitan Water District has been delayed by several months. This \$20,500 would provide bridge funding until the new income can be accessed.

A separate \$19,000 would allow the Marine Education Project to continue to provide school-based marine education resources for students throughout California and to conduct teacher trainings. \$99,000 was already awarded in September 2018 to support the position of an Education Coordinator. This was a smaller amount than previous years because the funding did not support the position for a full year, but rather only through the end of the current fiscal year. However the staff is now aware that a full year's worth of funding is needed after all until next September, and therefore is recommending this increase.