

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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DATE: February 14, 2020

TO: Commissioners and Interested Parties

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director
Christiane Parry, Public Education Program Manager
Annie Kohut Frankel, Grants and Education Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Proposed Competitive Grants for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 from the Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants Program.** The Executive Director recommends that that the Commission **approve** the following proposed competitive grants for Fiscal Year 2019/2020.

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Approve the following 19 competitive grants totaling \$391,721 and serving the following areas and grant categories:

- Big Sur Land Trust, Northern Monterey County (youth audience)
- Brown Girl Surf/Social Good Fund, Oakland (youth and general public audience; enhancement project; organization budget under \$500,000)
- CSU Chico Ecological Reserves/Chico Enterprises, Butte County (youth audience; climate change)
- Camp Phoenix, San Jose and Oakland (youth audience; organization budget under \$500,000)
- Friends of the Dunes, Humboldt County (youth audience; climate change; organization budget under \$500,000)
- Friends of Sausal Creek, Oakland (youth audience; organization budget under \$500,000)
- Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center, Guadalupe (youth audience)
- Kern Environmental Education Foundation, Kern County (youth audience)
- Learning Equipment Supply Service, Los Angeles (youth audience; organization budget under \$500,000)
- Mattole Restoration Council, Mattole watershed (youth audience, climate change)
- Napa County Resource Conservation District, Napa County (youth audience, climate change)
- Nature Collective, Escondido (youth audience)
- Ocean Discovery Institute, City Heights (youth audience)
- Outward Bound Adventures, Los Angeles (youth and young adult audience)

- Reef Check Foundation, Los Angeles (youth and young adult audience)
- San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Madera County (youth audience)
- Smith River Alliance, Del Norte County (general public audience; enhancement project)
- Tolowa Dunes Stewards/Friends of the Dunes, Del Norte County (youth and general public audience; enhancement project; organization budget under \$500,000)
- Trinidad Coastal Land Trust, Humboldt County (youth and general public audience; organization budget under \$500,000)

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 grant 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 grant agreements with the grantees for allocation of these funds, and to make any amendments thereto.

II. INTRODUCTION

WHALE TAIL® grants support projects that provide California's youth and the general public with opportunities to learn about, visit, and take action to benefit the state's marine and coastal resources, with an emphasis on serving those who would not otherwise have access to such coastal programs. Funding for these grants comes from two sources: sales and renewals of the California WHALE TAIL® License Plate, and voluntary contributions to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund on the state tax return form

WHALE TAIL® License Plate

The WHALE TAIL® License Plate was established as a mechanism through which the public can contribute funds to coastal and marine education programs in California. As of December 31, 2019, 257,091 license plates have been sold. After the DMV deducts administrative fees, funds from WHALE TAIL® Plate sales and renewals are divided between the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account (CBCEA) and the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF). An average of \$11 is deposited into the CBCEA for each new plate that is sold, and an average of \$20 per plate is deposited into the CBCEA from annual renewal fees. An equal amount per

plate is deposited into the ELPF for all sequentially numbered WHALE TAIL® license plates sold. Additional fees that are charged for personalized plates also go into the ELPF. **Altogether, from FY1997/98 through December 2019, WHALE TAIL® License Plate sales and renewal fees (plus miscellaneous other small fees) have contributed over \$30 million to the CBCEA and over \$77 million to the ELPF.**

California Vehicle Code Section 5067 dictates how the funds raised by sales of the WHALE TAIL® plate and deposited in the CBCEA account are to be used:

“Upon appropriation by the legislature, the money in the account (CBCEA) shall be allocated by the Controller as follows: (A) First to the California Coastal Commission for expenditure for the Adopt-A-Beach program, the Beach Cleanup Day program, coastal public education programs, and grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations for the costs of operating and maintaining public beaches related to these programs.” (B) Second, from funds remaining after the allocation required under subparagraph (A), to the State Coastal Conservancy for coastal natural resource restoration and enhancement projects and for other projects consistent with the provisions of Division 21 (commencing with Section 31000) of the Public Resources Code (as amended in 2004 in Budget Trailer Bill SB 1107).

The ELPF funds a variety of environmental programs in state agencies such as the California Natural Resources Agency, California Conservation Corps, State Coastal Conservancy, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of Fish and Wildlife, California State Parks, and many others.

Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund

The Protect our Coast and Oceans “check box” on the California state tax return form was created pursuant to legislation authored in 2013 by Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi and renewed in 2017 by State Senator Josh Newman. Per Article 5.1 (Sections 18745-18748) that was added to Chapter 3 of the Revenue and Taxation Code:

“All money designated under the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund space on a tax return ... shall be allocated as follows:

(a) To the Franchise Tax Board and the Controller for reimbursement of all costs incurred by the Franchise Tax Board and the Controller in connection with their duties under this article.

(b) (1) To the California Coastal Commission to support eligible programs awarded grants under the selection criteria established by the California Coastal Commission for the Whale Tail Grants Program, and for direct program-related expenses.”

In January 2014, California taxpayers began making voluntary contributions to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund while completing their state tax returns. **As of December 31, 2019, \$1,766,516 has been donated to the Protect our Coast and Oceans Fund.**

Reaching Diverse and Underserved Audiences

One of the primary goals of this grantmaking program is to use funding to reach diverse and underserved audiences that are unlikely to receive coastal and marine education from other sources. These audiences include low-income populations, inland, urban, and rural communities,

and English language learners. To serve diverse populations, the guidelines emphasize project need, cultural relevancy, and cultural competency. In September 2018, a new subcategory for smaller, more grassroots organizations working with underserved communities was added to the grantmaking program. In this year's pool of recommended grants, 100% of the projects focus on underserved and under-resourced communities.

Public Education Grantmaking Budget

The Commission's Public Education budget for FY2019/20 included \$584,000 for local assistance grants: \$259,000 from the CBCEA and \$325,000 from the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund. At its September 2019 meeting, the Commission voted to allocate the \$584,000 as follows: five targeted grant projects totaling \$266,955, a temporary reserve of \$20,000 to be awarded later in the fiscal year, and the remaining \$297,045 for the competitive grantmaking program. The \$20,000 temporary reserve is being added to the competitive grants as well as \$74,676 additional available CBCEA funds to increase the total to \$391,721.

For a listing of the five targeted grants, and other recent grants that have been funded through sales of the WHALE TAIL® License Plate, see [Appendix A](#). (For a complete listing of all WHALE TAIL® grants ever awarded, please visit the online map of WHALE TAIL® Grant Recipients Since 1998 at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/plgrant.html>.)

The Competitive Grants Program for FY2019/2020

The WHALE TAIL® Competitive Grants Program offers the following five funding subcategories:

- A) coastal and marine education for youth;
- B) coastal and marine education for adults and the general public;
- C) shoreline cleanup and enhancement programs (such as Adopt-A-Beach);
- D) projects addressing climate change as it relates to the ocean or coastline; and
- E) any of the above subcategories, specifically being done by organizations with annual operating budgets of \$500,000 or less that are working with underserved communities.

The staff began publicizing the grant program in September 2019. The deadline for submittal of grant applications was November 4, 2019, which was extended to November 9 due to fires and power outages throughout much of California during the preceding week. Applicants could request any amount up to \$50,000, and between 25 and 50 percent of the grant funds are to be allocated in small grants no greater than \$12,000.

Competitive Grants Applicant Pool

The staff received 109 grant applications requesting a combined total of \$2,515,400 which equals nearly six and a half times the amount of funding available. [Appendix B](#) is a list of the applicants, project titles and amounts requested for this funding cycle.

Selection Criteria

The staff evaluated the applications using the following criteria, first approved by the Commission in 1998 and slightly modified with Commission approval in 2009, 2013, 2017, and 2018:

1. Educational Impact (and/or Environmental Improvement) (25 points): We are seeking projects with a strong educational impact that feature high-quality education involving the marine and/or coastal environment. We encourage experiential, hands-on learning and incorporation of stewardship, where possible. The project's educational content and mode of delivery should be age-appropriate and culturally relevant for the target audience. Community projects improving the quality of beaches or coastal or marine habitats will be also be scored favorably like those emphasizing educational impact.

2. Need (15 points): Projects will be assessed on the degree to which they address an identified need (educational, ecological, social, etc.). Projects that reach audiences who have historically been underserved in terms of marine education, including low-income populations, multicultural communities, and residents of inner city, rural and/or inland areas, are especially encouraged. Proposals for underserved audiences should explain how the target population is underserved in terms of marine education.

3. Project Concept (30 points, potentially up to 35 points): We seek thoughtfully developed ideas, technically sound concepts, and creative, innovative, culturally competent approaches. Project design that reflects research-based best practices are encouraged. The degree to which a project could potentially be expanded or continued after the grant ends, and/or build organizational capacity, will be considered. The degree of impact relative to cost will also be evaluated. Up to an additional 5 points of extra credit will be awarded if the project will have a ripple effect beyond the project itself, by providing useful tools or knowledge to others in the field, helping to advance the field into new areas, or building fruitful collaborations with other entities.

4. Proposal Content and Project Implementation (30 points): The proposal should demonstrate that the concept has been fully thought out and developed into a concrete, feasible project with clearly stated, realistic goals and measurable objectives; a defined audience; a workable project design; and a clear plan for implementation. A sensible plan for evaluating the project's success should be included, as should detailed and accurate cost information. The likelihood of the project's successful implementation and completion will be considered, including the likelihood that project objectives and goals will be achieved, as well as the strength of the organization's track record, and the qualifications and capabilities of project personnel.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE WHALE TAIL® GRANT AWARDS FOR FY 2019/20

The staff recommends that the Commission fund the 19 programs listed below (\$391,721).

The staff also recommends that the grants be funded from the following sources:

WHALE TAIL® License Plate (CA Beach & Coastal Enhancement Account)	Voluntary contributions on state tax return (Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund)
Friends of the Dunes—\$12,000	Big Sur Land Trust—\$12,000
Friends of Sausal Creek—\$12,000	Brown Girl Surf/Social Good Fund—\$25,416
Kern Environmental Education Foundation— \$15,099	Camp Phoenix—\$37,500
Mattole Restoration Council—\$48,353	CSU Chico Ecological Reserves/Chico Enterprises—\$24,254
Nature Collective—\$28,749	Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center—\$30,000
Outward Bound Adventures—\$10,875	Learning Equipment Supply Service—\$12,000
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust—\$24,969	Napa County Resource Conservation District— \$25,574
Tolowa Dunes Stewards—\$12,000	Ocean Discovery Institute—\$25,000
	Reef Check Foundation—\$12,000
	Smith River Alliance—\$11,975
	Trinidad Coastal Land Trust—\$11,957
Total Competitive Grants—\$164,045	Total Competitive Grants—\$227,676
Total allocated for targeted grants—\$169,955	Total allocated for targeted grants—\$97,000
Grand total to be allocated FY 2019/20—\$334,000	Grand total allocated FY 2019/20—\$324,676

Regional distribution of the 2019/20 competitive grant funds:

- North Coast: \$96,285 (25%)
- Bay Area: \$74,916 (19%)
- Inland: \$89,896 (23%)
- Central Coast: \$42,000 (11%)
- South Coast: \$88,624 (23%)

Twenty-seven percent, or \$106,807 of the total recommended competitive grant funds are to small grants of \$12,000 or below.

(1) \$12,000 FOR BIG SUR LAND TRUST

Project Title: Day Camps at Marks Ranch and Martin Dunes
Project Location: Northern Monterey County
Project Timeline: March 2020 – June 2021
Total Project Budget: \$48,977
Estimated number of people served by the project: 120

Big Sur Land Trust’s free Youth Outdoor Programs serves youth with little access to parks and coastal recreation spaces in the Salinas Valley and surrounding communities. This grant will fund day camp programs for 10-17 year-old youth at Marks Ranch in Salinas and program expansion to two pilot camps at Martin Dunes near the mouth of the Salinas River. The connection between inland communities and the coast will be highlighted through the movement of wildlife through a wildlife corridor and the flow of water through the Salinas River Watershed. Time at Martin Dunes will culminate in a stewardship project relating to the specific content of the day, such as a cleanup, invasive plant removal, or trail sign creation. These field trips take place mostly on the weekend and The Land Trust offers follow-up events that engage campers and with their families.

(2) \$25,416 FOR BROWN GIRL SURF/SOCIAL GOOD FUND

Project Title: Launching the Next Generation of Environmental Leaders
Project Location: Oakland
Project Timeline: March 2020 – February 2021
Total Project Budget: \$26,396
Estimated number of people served by the project: 70+

Brown Girl Surf offers programs that provide opportunities to build an emotional connection to the ocean in communities underrepresented at the coast. In order to make marine science and environmental conservation culturally accessible to participants, Brown Girl Surf is proposing to integrate their Environmental Education Program with their Rising Leaders program. Environmental education, stewardship, and action will become central components of being a Brown Girl Surf youth leader. This project will cultivate a pipeline of environmental ambassadors, from summer camp participants to junior youth leaders, to mentors and role models who take ownership of the program. The grant will support two community conservation programs during Earth Day and Creek to Bay Day, educating the public and engaging in stewardship activities; and three four-day sessions of youth summer camp that include hands-on science, stewardship, and surfing.

(3) \$24,254 FOR CSU CHICO ECOLOGICAL RESERVES/CHICO ENTERPRISES

Project Title: Fish and Fire
Project Location: Butte County
Project Timeline: March 2020 – June 2021
Total Project Budget: \$54,557
Estimated number of people served by the project: 1,500

This project will enhance and expand field trip opportunities for Butte County elementary students impacted by the Camp Fire by adding 50 additional days of programming and two

teacher workshops focusing on the impacts of climate change on watershed ecosystems. The programming will make the connection between the Butte Creek Ecological Preserve and the coast and ocean environment as part of its watershed, specifically as spawning grounds for the endangered Chinook Salmon. This grant will align existing curriculum with California's Next Generation Science Standards and create new curriculum that incorporates indigenous management practices that have allowed humans to live with and benefit from fire in the ecosystem. The grant will also include opportunities for students and the general public to participate in restoration and stewardship projects in the Preserve.

(4) \$37,500 FOR CAMP PHOENIX

Project Title: Camp and the Coast: Outdoor Ed for Environmental Stewardship
Project Location: Oakland and San Jose
Project Timeline: April 2020-March 2021
Total Project Budget: \$37,500
Estimated number of people served by the project: 190

This grant will support a three-week summer sleepaway camp near San Gregorio for middle school students from low income communities, which include trips to Pescadero State Beach and Monterey Bay Aquarium; as well as three beach excursions during the school year. As part of this grant, the camp will incorporate new curriculum on coastal processes. Camp Phoenix programming is exploratory, culturally relevant, outdoor environmental learning that empowers youth to develop leadership and community agency.

(5) \$12,000 FOR FRIENDS OF THE DUNES

Project Title: Coastal Stewards
Project Location: Humboldt County
Project Timeline: April 2020 – December 2021
Total Project Budget: \$20,242
Estimated number of people served by the project: 450

This project will revitalize the Coastal Stewards outdoor environmental education program, engaging underserved 6th-12th grade students in inquiry-based learning, citizen science, Wiyot language, and coastal stewardship in Ma-le'l Dunes near Humboldt Bay. Existing curriculum will be revised for Next Generation Science Standards alignment and Wiyot language integration. A new, age-appropriate activity will be developed on sea level rise, highlighting findings of the Humboldt Coastal Resilience Project on changes to coastal barrier dunes. Volunteers and college interns will be trained to assist in leading ten field trips over the course of the project. The project will also pilot a program to engage a diverse group of youth in conservation of coastal environments through monthly volunteer activities such as habitat restoration and beach cleanups.

(6) \$12,000 FOR FRIENDS OF SAUSAL CREEK

Project Title: From Headwaters to Ocean
Project Location: Oakland
Project Timeline: March 2020 – April 2022
Total Project Budget: \$37,200
Estimated number of people served by the project: 600

This project will engage K-12 students in Oakland’s Fruitvale District, in learning about, interacting with, and taking care of their local public wildlands. Students will study the Sausal Creek Watershed, Oakland Estuary, and Pacific Ocean ecology; understand water quality and storm drain pollution links; identify creek and marine flora and fauna; and engage in hands on stewardship activities. This grant supports a three-part series of experiences, including a classroom visit, a field trip to the creek in a park setting, and a field trip to the creek mouth at the shoreline. The students’ families and other members of the community will be invited to stewardship service events, Trout tours, history walks of the estuary, and a King Tides Walk on the Waterfront.

(7) \$30,000 FOR GUADALUPE-NIPOMO DUNES CENTER

Project Title: Explore the Coast Program
Project Location: Guadalupe
Project Timeline: June 2020 – July 2021
Total Project Budget: \$61,865
Estimated number of people served by the project: 155

This grant will support all 155 fifth grade students at rural Guadalupe’s Kermit McKenzie Intermediate School with six months of in-class and field trip activities culminating in two projects focused on coastal restoration and community education on water quality. Students will observe how ecosystems function, explore watershed characteristics, understand how human actions can affect the environment, and promote pollution prevention in the community. The program is designed to inspire interest in higher education in the fields of science and conservation. Students will make presentations to the City Council and create a watershed fact sheet to be included in water bills which will reach 7,000 residents. Parents are invited to join the field trips, which will include Monterey Bay Aquarium, Morro Bay, Santa Cruz Island, and Guadalupe Beach.

(8) \$15,099.61 FOR KERN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Project Title: Valley to the Sea Pilot Program

Project Location: Kern County

Project Timeline: April 2020 – June 2021

Total Project Budget: \$15,099.61

Estimated number of people served by the project: 315

This grant will develop a program for low-income, rural, inland students to learn about human impacts on the environment, particularly single-use plastic, and how they can serve as environmental stewards to improve beaches and marine habitats. They will conduct trash audits and develop plastic reduction projects at their schools and present their findings at a culminating event at the Foundation's outdoor school in Arroyo Grande. Teachers will receive professional development, curriculum, and ongoing support. A free, online library of curriculum modules will be created.

(9) \$12,000 FOR LEARNING EQUIPMENT SUPPLY SERVICE

Project Title: Marine Microbes Save the Planet Every Day

Project Location: Los Angeles, Compton, and Inglewood

Project Timeline: March 2020 – June 2020

Total Project Budget: \$12,000

Estimated number of people served by the project: 300

This grant will purchase environmental science laboratory equipment which will be available for loan to teachers moving forward. Learning Equipment Supply Service will facilitate five, two-hour teacher workshops connecting aquatic microbiology, climate, urban runoff, and its connection to marine ecology at three k-8 schools, which will include a field trip to collect plankton at a local park. Participants will observe five different urban runoff mitigation technologies, and then will design and build a model residential structure to capture runoff for reuse. Teachers will use the lab equipment in their classrooms, presenting lessons which will be designed as part of this grant.

(10) \$48,676.30 FOR MATTOLE RESTORATION COUNCIL

Project Title: Mattole Youth Environmental Stewards

Project Location: Mattole Watershed

Project Timeline: April 2020 – April 2022

Total Project Budget: \$107,406.30

Estimated number of people served by the project: 2,422

This project will provide rural and underserved youth with opportunities to become environmental stewards of their changing coastal watersheds through age-appropriate place-based climate change curriculum, hands-on field trips, stewardship projects, summer activities, high school internships, and a high school interpreter program. Through working with a team of teachers and other local organizations, this project will implement 42 classroom presentations (at five schools) and 35 coastal field trips, with each class completing a climate stewardship project. The grant will support 32 coastal stewardship internships for local teens.

(11) \$25,574 FOR NAPA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Project Title: LandSmart Youth Stewards – Salmon to Sanctuary
Project Location: Napa County
Project Timeline: June 2020 – July 2021
Total Project Budget: \$104,795
Estimated number of people served by the project: 256

This program for 250 high school students and six teachers will focus on historic decline and current recovery of salmon and trout in the Napa River through three, day-long field trips demonstrating science, service, and careers, along with three, in-class presentations that extend field trip concepts into the classroom. In addition, RCD staff will meet with participating teachers three times during the project. Napa RCD will facilitate student exploration of the connections between the Napa River Watershed, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

(12) \$28,749 FOR NATURE COLLECTIVE

Project Title: Protecting our Watershed: From Inquiry to Action
Project Location: Escondido
Project Timeline: April 2020 – July 2021
Total Project Budget: \$82,155
Estimated number of people served by the project: 1,666

Nature Collective provides watershed programming to all 5th grade students in all 18 schools in Escondido Union School District. Students will engage in pre and post field trip classroom lessons and participate in a four-hour fieldwork experience at the San Elijo Lagoon and Seaside State Beach. Classroom teachers will receive professional development training and field educators will be trained in inquiry-based instruction. This effort is part of a collaboration with other nonprofits to serve all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 with conservation education and fieldwork related to watershed science. Students gain an understanding of ecosystem functions and the human impacts that can disrupt these systems. In the classroom, they participate in design-thinking projects to come up with solutions to environmental problems in their community.

(13) \$25,000 FOR OCEAN DISCOVERY INSTITUTE

Project Title: The Student Initiative: 5th Grade Biologists
Project Location: City Heights
Project Timeline: May 2020 – September 2021
Total Project Budget: \$91,166
Estimated number of people served by the project: 935

Ocean Discovery Institute will engage 900 5th grade students and 35 teachers from the highest poverty and most diverse community in San Diego, in robust science education focused on protecting coastal wetlands. Through three experiences in the classroom, at a coastal wetland, and at the Institute’s Living Lab, students will observe ecological connections, investigate human impacts, and take action for the coast. One of the project’s goals is for students to come away with a belief that science is something they can do and a scientist is someone they can be.

(14) \$10,875 FOR OUTWARD BOUND ADVENTURES, INC.

Project Title: Otters & Estuaries
Project Location: Los Angeles
Project Timeline: March 2020 – November 2020
Total Project Budget: \$12,000
Estimated number of people served by the project: 24

This project will train young adults from Outward Bound Adventures' Diverse Outdoor Leaders Institute to lead the Otters & Estuaries expedition for underserved Los Angeles area high school youth. Outward Bound Adventures will work with the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee to identify the 20 youth who will benefit most from participating in this course. The students will explore Elkhorn Slough and learn about its sea otter population, meet Monterey Bay Aquarium scientists conducting otter research, observe the elephant seals at Piedras Blancas, and explore the mudflats of Morro Bay National Estuary while learning about the otter population that lives there. Participants will camp, hike, and kayak during this experiential outdoor marine biology education program. They will learn about the importance of marine ecosystems and current threats to the health of the ocean within the framework of studying southern sea otters as a keystone species. Students will analyze the importance of biodiversity and construct an argument for how invasive species, overexploitation, and climate change disrupt the ecosystem of the southern sea otter.

(15) \$11,750 FOR REEF CHECK FOUNDATION

Project Title: Educational Marine Biology Adventures with Reef Check
Project Location: Los Angeles
Project Timeline: March 2020 – November 2020
Total Project Budget: \$12,000
Estimated number of people served by the project: 72

Reef Check will train members of Outward Bound Adventures' Diverse Outdoor Leaders Institute in SCUBA, marine biology, ocean conservation, and protocols for monitoring kelp and rocky reef ecosystems. These newly trained and certified 18-28 year-old citizen scientists will assist Reef Check in leading low-income middle and high school students from their own communities in on-the-ocean education programming. The young adult leaders will lead students in scientific activities including plankton tows, water quality measurements, and surface observations oceanography and marine life.

(16) \$24,969 FOR SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY AND CONSERVATION TRUST

Project Title: Madera Unified Salmon in the Classroom Project
Project Location: Madera County
Project Timeline: May 2020 – June 2021
Total Project Budget: \$61,502,50
Estimated number of people served by the project: 1,751

This project will empower sixth grade teachers in inland, low-income Madera Unified School District to incorporate environmental education into their classrooms, while providing hands-on experiential programming for students in the district. Students will build their knowledge about the San Joaquin River watershed and the interconnectedness of inland waterways and California’s coastal and marine environments using the salmonid lifecycle as the primary educational component, through raising salmon in the classroom. At least 1,700 students will visit the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies as well as locations along the San Joaquin River to learn about salmon and the ecosystem. At least 14 sixth grade teachers will attend a Project WILD Aquatic and California Department of Fish & Wildlife Classroom Aquarium Education Project training. The project will develop at least two new activities connecting to California’s marine and coastal environments for use by participating educators. This grant will purchase aquarium supplies for ongoing use in Madera classrooms.

(17) \$11,975 FOR SMITH RIVER ALLIANCE

Project Title: Del Norte and Adjacent Tribal Lands Coastal Stewardship
Project Location: Del Norte County
Project Timeline: March 2020 – February 2021
Total Project Budget: \$13,375
Estimated number of people served by the project: 800

This project will continue and expand Coastal Cleanup Day in rural Del Norte County, organize an additional cleanup on the lower river in collaboration with Tolowa Dee-Ni’ Nation, and create a collaborative waste prevention and cleanup campaign for two annual community celebrations. Smith River Alliance will support teacher-led cleanups on the Friday before Coastal Cleanup Day and organize a boat cleanup in areas inaccessible to people on foot.

(18) \$12,000 FOR TOLOWA DUNES STEWARDS

Project Title: Uplifting Communities through Stewardship
Project Location: Del Norte County
Project Timeline: April 2020 – March 2021
Total Project Budget: \$40,000
Estimated number of people served by the project: 1,200

Tolowa Dunes Stewards will create a series of interpretive plant and wildlife outings, and cultural and recreational activities, to engage diverse groups of local and statewide participants of all ages on the Tolowa coast. The Stewards will work cooperatively with Tolowa Dee-Ni' Nation on a seed collection workshop for a new native plant library, provide presentations and field trips for Howonquet Head Start children and parents, lead fun and restoration dunes outings with Tolowa Language class and Tolowa Summer Youth Employees, replace Wood Duck nesting boxes in the forested dunes and marshes, and collaborate on a project to 3D map the Lake Earl Estuary Dunes Restoration for monitoring purposes.

(19) \$11,957 FOR TRINIDAD COASTAL LAND TRUST

Project Title: Fostering a Coastal Conservation Ethic
Project Location: Humboldt County
Project Timeline: March 2020 – December 2021
Total Project Budget: \$18,300
Estimated number of people served by the project: 570

This project will provide inspiring coastal and marine education and stewardship programs and field outings for youth and adults, with hands-on activities designed to foster a coastal conservation ethic. The project will support school programs for Hoopa Elementary and McKinleyville Middle School students; public walks, events, and stewardship days; summer field trips for the Boys and Girls Club to Humboldt State University Marine Lab and the intertidal zone; and volunteer trainings for new California Coastal National Monument Ambassadors who help lead walks, stewardship, and outreach activities. The school component includes developing field experiences based on the Ocean Literacy Principles, classroom presentations, and seven field trips that will incorporate habitat exploration and stewardship activities. At least nine, free public walks will highlight coastal and marine habitats and the community connection to them.