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February 24, 2022

TO: California Coastal Commissioners and Interested Public

FROM: John Ainsworth, Executive Director
Madeline Cavalieri, Chief Deputy Director
Kelsey Ducklow, Coastal Resilience Coordinator

SUBJECT: Recommended Round 7 Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance Grant Awards

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission award \$3,405,600 in grant funds to 7 jurisdictions for LCP updates and coastal resilience planning.

Funding is provided by the Budget Act of 2021, which appropriates \$31 million to the Coastal Commission to support its LCP Local Assistance Grant Program for Climate Resiliency. The funding is to be awarded to local governments as well as to support Coastal Commission staff administering the program and working with local governments on climate resiliency. Round 7 grants will support local governments developing new or amending existing Local Coastal Programs (LCPs) pursuant to the [California Coastal Act](#). Funds will be used for projects that are designed to assist local governments in assessing impacts and planning for coastal resiliency, including adapting to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and which contain an LCP planning component. This includes funding for developing technical and engineering studies; planning and design of adaptation strategies, including phased approaches, that address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise; and public outreach and engagement associated with this planning work.

Recommended Grant Awards

The application period for the Round 7 grants opened on November 9, 2021 and closed on December 22, 2021. The Coastal Commission received eight LCP grant applications with funding requests totaling \$3,705,600 (see [Table 1](#)). The individual grant requests

range from approximately \$180,000 to \$1.2M and comprise a variety of technical studies and planning work.

Commission staff recommends the Commission award seven LCP grants for a total of \$3,405,600. Due to the length of the application packets, Commission staff opted to provide the proposals in an electronic format via the links below ([Table 1](#)), and to provide descriptions of the grant proposals in [Section C](#). The grant applications recommended for awards are consistent with the purpose of the LCP Grant Program and the Commission’s adopted priorities and evaluation criteria¹. They all are supported by adopted resolutions of the local governing bodies, indicating support for completion of the LCP planning work.

The seven grant projects recommended for awards under Round 7 would result in finalization of two comprehensive LCP updates, development of three coastal monitoring programs to support implementation of adaptation strategies, two site-specific adaptation plans, and a nature-based adaptation feasibility report, as well as five LCP amendments to incorporate the findings and recommendations from the various adaptation planning efforts. One proposed project is not recommended for a grant award due to duplication with ongoing Round 6 grant work.

Table 1: Round 7 Grant Applications and Recommended Awards

Jurisdiction	Grant Project	Funding Request	Recommended Award
City of Trinidad	Trinidad Comprehensive LCP Update	\$200,000	\$200,000
City of Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program Development	\$180,100	\$180,100
City of Pismo Beach	Comprehensive LCP Update	\$300,000	\$0
City of Carpinteria	LUP Update Adoption Process and IP for CDP Procedures	\$340,500	\$340,500
City of Santa Barbara	Airport and Goleta Slough Climate Adaptation Plan	\$245,000	\$245,000
City of Santa Barbara	Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program	\$630,000	\$630,000
City of Santa Barbara	Waterfront Adaptation Planning	\$1,240,000	\$1,240,000
City of San Clemente	San Clemente LCP Nature Based Coastal Resiliency Pilot Project	\$570,000	\$570,000
	Total	\$3,705,600	\$3,405,600

¹ <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2021/10/Th5d/Th5d-10-21-report.pdf>

Grant Conditions

All of the projects recommended for awards will be subject to general grant administration requirements (see [Section D](#)). These general requirements cover topics related to finalization of the work programs; selecting subcontractors/consultants; progress reporting; requests for funds; reallocation of funds in the event of a failure to enter into a grant agreement or to meet performance criteria; grant agreement amendments; and so on.

Awarded projects will also be subject to requirements specific to the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program (see [Section D](#)). These include, but are not limited to, requirements for revising work programs to allow for sufficient time for CCC staff review of draft deliverables; submitting LCP documents and maps in paper and editable digital formats; describing the steps that will be taken to achieve certification of LCP work after the grant work is completed (where certification is not completed during the grant term); inclusion of tasks (or subtasks) related to public outreach and engagement, including among visitors/non-residents and disadvantaged communities; and use of best available science and related sea level rise adaptation planning recommendations from the Coastal Commission and other state agencies.

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

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I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

Motion:

I move that the Commission approve the seven grant awards identified in the “Recommended Award” 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 Recommendation of Approval:

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 of Approval:

The Commission hereby approves the seven grant awards identified in the “Recommended Award” 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. DISCUSSION

A. Program Summary

Since 2013, the California Coastal Commission has awarded approximately \$8.25 million to local governments through the Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance Grant Program to support LCP updates with a focus on climate change, sea level rise, and coastal resiliency planning.

To date, the LCP Grant Program has provided funds to 39 local jurisdictions. Grant-funded work has included the completion of sea level rise vulnerability assessments, technical studies, economic analyses, adaptation planning and reports, public outreach and engagement, and LCP policy development. Proposed LCP work has consisted of a variety of new LUPs or IPs; comprehensive LUP, IP, or full LCP updates; and targeted amendments to LUPs, IPs, or both to address specific issues, mainly including climate change and sea level rise. More information on the LCP Grant Program, including grant agreements and links to completed deliverables can found on the Commission’s [LCP Grant website](#).

The Budget Act of 2021 appropriates \$31 million to the Coastal Commission to support its LCP Local Assistance Grant Program for Climate Resiliency. The funding is to be awarded to local governments as well as to support Coastal Commission staff administering the program and working with local governments on climate resiliency. This new and expanded funding will play a critical role in helping local jurisdictions prepare for the impacts of climate change and sea level rise.

B. Review Process

On October 15, 2021, the Commission adopted revised priorities and evaluation 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 competitive grants awarded under this program.²

The application period for Round 7 grants opened on November 9, 2021 and closed on December 22, 2021. Commission staff received eight grant applications totaling a request of \$3,705,600 and is recommending full funding for seven projects (for a total award of \$3,405,600). Staff is not recommending funding for the City of Pismo Beach's proposal due to overlap with ongoing Round 6 funding, and the timing of the work. However, Commission staff has been in touch with Pismo Beach staff to discuss future funding opportunities.

C. Round 7 Award Recommendations

Commission staff recommends the Commission award seven grants for a total of \$3,405,600. [Table 1](#) on page 2 and the following section provide a summary of the 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.

For each application, this section includes a summary of the grant proposal, conditions of approval, and a brief discussion regarding the fulfillment of the grant priorities and evaluation criteria. Grant projects are listed geographically, starting from the northern-most proposal. Complete applications are available through the hyperlink in the Project Title.

1. CITY OF TRINIDAD

Project Title: [Trinidad Comprehensive LCP Update](#)

Project Location: Trinidad, CA

Proposed Timeline: 7/1/2022 – 12/31/2025

² <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2021/10/Th5d/Th5d-10-21-report.pdf>

Amount Requested: \$200,000 **Recommended Award:** \$200,000

Conditions of Approval: In addition to the general LCP grant requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on Trinidad's grant award:

By May 1, 2022, the grantee shall submit a revised work program, budget and schedule for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$200,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the grant requirements, terms, and conditions.

Grant Proposal Summary: Trinidad's LCP was the first to be certified in February 1980 and has not yet been updated. The City has been working on its LCP update for many years and was able to make substantial progress under two previous LCP update grants (Rounds 2 and 4 for \$80,000 and \$51,000 respectively), among other funding sources. However, substantial work is still needed to achieve certification. The purpose of this project is to complete the City of Trinidad's LCP update, including both the LUP and IP, resulting in a complete update ready to be submitted to the Coastal Commission for certification.

City staff will use this LCP grant funding to complete two outstanding land use plan/general plan elements – the Cultural and Historic Resources Element and the Safety Element. The City is also proposing to use the funding to complete two studies that Coastal Commission staff have identified as being necessary for the LCP update (a visitor serving facilities study and a build-out analysis). Funding will also be used to update previously completed studies that have become outdated based on development of new information, including new sea-level-rise projections and water supply and demand assessments. Minor updates to the LUP will also be completed to reflect this newer information. The grant supports tasks related to public hearings, consultation with Coastal Commission staff, and additional Tribal Consultation as needed on updated portions of the LUP.

Lastly, the City will use grant funding to finish updating the implementation plan portion of the LCP, which includes the zoning, grading, building, and subdivision ordinances. Portions of these ordinance updates have already been drafted, but the zoning ordinance, in particular, still needs a substantial amount of work. The tasks will include coordination with Coastal Commission staff as well as public outreach and public hearings.

The proposal includes the following key outcomes:

- Final Cultural and Historic Resources Element – Grant funding will be key for completing a cultural resources element of the LUP and facilitating informal and formal consultation with Tribes. In addition, the City is seeking to improve equity in the community and provide for underserved populations.
- Final Safety Element – Work on the Coastal Erosion Hazard and Management Plan task as part of a Round 4 LCP Planning Grant informed development of the safety element. The new task will finalize the safety element and also integrate and carry forward work that will be occurring under the Trinidad Community

Coastal Resilience Planning Project funded by the OPC, which is anticipated to start in early 2022.

- Visitor Serving Facilities Study - This study will allow the City to determine the adequacy of existing visitor accommodations and the potential demand for additional accommodations in and around the City.
- Build-out Analysis – This analysis will assess the build-out potential as well as realistic development trends and growth rates in the City to determine likely development scenarios over the anticipated life of the LUP. Development scenarios will be compared against existing resource studies and information (e.g., water and parking availability) to determine the adequacy of City services and potential impacts on coastal resources and public access from implementation of the proposed LUP.
- Final LUP - Once background reports and supporting documents are updated, City staff will review LUP text, policies, and figures, and update the LUP as needed based on the new information. A final draft of the LUP will be produced.
- Final IP - City staff will update the City's zoning, grading, building and subdivision ordinances for consistency with the updated LUP, Coastal Act, and other applicable regulations.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the adopted priorities and evaluation criteria in that it will support the finalization of a comprehensive update of the City's LCP, with a focus on addressing sea level rise adaptation planning. A key priority of the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program since its inception has been to support the update of LCPs to better address evolving statewide issues, particularly including climate change and sea level rise. The City of Trinidad has completed significant work over the past several years to comprehensively update its LCP, but additional funding is needed to finalize this process, and in particular to complete several technical studies requested by CCC staff to support the LCP update. The proposed work will also build off of past and ongoing sea level rise adaptation planning efforts and will ensure that policies are updated with new information to address these topics.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Trinidad's grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$200,000** to fund the completion of the City's comprehensive LCP update, including development (or updates) to a variety of technical studies and completion of the LUP and IP.

2. CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

Project Title: [Santa Cruz Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program Development](#)

Project Location: Santa Cruz, CA

Proposed Timeline: 7/1/2022 – 12/15/2024

Amount Requested: \$180,100 **Recommended Award:** \$180,100

Conditions of Approval: In addition to the general LCP grant requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on Santa Cruz's grant award:

By May 1, 2022, the grantee shall submit a revised work program, budget and schedule for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$180,100 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the grant requirements, terms, and conditions.

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Santa Cruz is proposing to use Round 7 grant funding to develop a coastal change monitoring program to aid in implementing the City's adaptation pathways approach to coastal management in the face of climate change. The proposed project will build off of past grant-funded work to initiate development of phased adaptation approaches and will identify social and geophysical triggers for guiding the implementation of priority adaptation projects.

Key objectives for the proposed grant project include developing city-wide monitoring of geophysical triggers. A variety of sensors and observational platforms already exist, but the project will identify options for these existing resources to be better coordinated, to identify new locations for observational equipment, and to leverage community science initiatives. Additionally, the proposed project will identify options for integrating social triggers (such as percentages of households spending a certain amount of money on flood repairs; increases in beach safety incidents associated with narrowing beaches and higher wave heights etc.). This aspect of the project will involve significant coordination with members of frontline communities in the City, which will build off of coordination with many of these groups through the past CCC and Caltrans funded planning projects. Lastly, the City will incorporate the monitoring program into the LCP through a targeted amendment.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Development of a Draft Geophysical Triggers Recommendations report, including a deployment plan and partnership agreements
- Inclusion of equitable community engagement focused on frontline groups. This engagement will include finalization of the geophysical triggers based on group input as well as the development of social triggers.
- Finalization of the phased adaptation triggers and overall monitoring plan to be incorporated into an LCP amendment.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the adopted priorities and evaluation criteria in that it will support development of a monitoring program that will support efforts to move forward with adaptation planning. In particular, the proposed project will aid the City's efforts to develop, codify, and initiate deployment of a coastal change monitoring program that will be critical for implementing the phased adaptation approach developed by the City through previously-funded grant work. Importantly, the City will build off of past work to engage with disadvantaged and other frontline communities in a deep and meaningful way to ensure that the special concerns of these

populations related to climate change vulnerabilities will be appropriately and equitably addressed.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Santa Cruz's grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$180,100** to fund the development of the City's coastal change monitoring program and LCP amendment.

3. CITY OF PISMO BEACH

Project Title: [City of Pismo Beach Comprehensive LCP Update](#)

Project Location: Pismo Beach, CA

Proposed Timeline: 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2022

Amount Requested: \$300,000 **Recommended Award:** \$0

Conditions of Approval: None. The City of Pismo Beach is not recommended for Round 7 grant funding.

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Pismo Beach is proposing to use Round 7 grant funds to complete a comprehensive LCP/General Plan update, currently underway through the support of Round 6 grant funds. To date, the City has completed a draft LUP update and an administrative draft IP update. The proposed grant funding would support finalization of these updates and the related public hearings and local adoption process. The proposed project would also support the development of an EIR in support of the LCP/GP update.

Discussion: Although Commission staff supports the ongoing and proposed work to complete the comprehensive update of the City's LCP, the proposed work largely overlaps with the City's ongoing Round 6 grant project. In particular, the City was awarded \$170,000 in 2019 to complete the comprehensive LCP update and still has approximately half of the funds remaining and more than a year to complete this work. Because the grant program cannot fund duplicative work for an ongoing grant, Commission staff is not recommending funding this project. Commission staff discussed options with the City of Pismo Beach to fund only the EIR task of the proposed Round 7 project, however, due to concerns related to the timing of the work and the anticipated timing for executing the Round 7 grants, it was decided that funding the EIR portion would not be an appropriate fit. Instead, Commission staff is recommending that the City of Pismo Beach continue to work on the LCP update using existing funds, and consider requesting additional funds in the future to complete any necessary follow-up actions.

Recommendation: Commission staff does not recommend funding the City of Pismo Beach's grant request, but the City will remain eligible for future funding opportunities.

4. CITY OF CARPINTERIA

Project Title: [City of Carpinteria Local Coastal Program Update](#)

Project Location: Carpinteria, CA

Proposed Timeline: 5/1/2022 – 12/31/2023

Amount Requested: \$340,500 **Recommended Award:** \$340,500

Conditions of Approval: In addition to the general LCP grant requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on Carpinteria's grant award:

By May 1, 2022, the grantee shall submit a revised work program, budget and schedule for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$340,500 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the grant requirements, terms, and conditions.

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Carpinteria is undergoing a multi-year comprehensive update of their 2003 LCP to adopt policies that address broad issues of climate change, with a particular focus on the effects of sea level rise on various public sectors and coastal resources. To support this effort, the City has been awarded multiple grants from the Coastal Commission, Caltrans, and the Office of Emergency Services, and to date, has accomplished many of the tasks that serve to inform specific elements of the LCP Update. Specifically, a Coastal Commission Round 4 Grant provided funding to develop the City's Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan and develop draft GP/LCP policies and elements. The City's first Caltrans Adaptation Planning Grant, funded by SB 1, expanded upon the Coastal Commission Round 4 Grant adaptation planning to identify multi-modal transportation options to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions, with an emphasis on the needs of the City's most socially and economically vulnerable communities. The City later received additional funding from a Coastal Commission Round 6 grant, which provides for completion of a Final Draft GP/LCP Plan and implementation of the Coastal Adaptation Overlay Program.

The proposed Round 7 grant funding would support completion of the LCP Update Project. The City's grant request would continue to supplement the Community Development Department's ongoing preparation and development of a comprehensive LCP Update for the City of Carpinteria. Specifically, this project would support the LCP Update with public outreach, staff report preparation for adoption hearings, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, and amending the LCP Implementation Plan (IP) with Coastal Development Permit Procedures.

Thus, the proposal includes the following key components:

- **Public Outreach:** The City envisions ongoing efforts to reach out to all segments of the population during the Draft GP/LCP and CEQA public reviews (2-4 additional meetings), additional workshops before the GP/CLUP Advisory Committee (4-6 meetings), and continuous outreach to encourage community participation at plan adoption hearings, with the objective to engage both residents and visitors.

- Preparation for Adoption Hearings: The City has plans for a minimum of two Planning Commission and two City Council hearings for the LCP update and will direct consultants to prepare necessary staff reports and related exhibits and attachments for the adoption hearings.
- CEQA documentation: An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to CEQA for the comprehensive LCP update, including alternatives analyses, will be prepared by consultants under the direction of the City's Community Development Director.
- LCP IP procedures for Coastal Development Permits: City staff will coordinate with Coastal Commission staff as they develop an amendment for the City's Zoning Code with Coastal Development Permit procedures. This proposed amendment will also consider provisions to address state required permit streamlining, including the need to implement certain objective development standards for mixed-use, multi-family, and accessory dwelling unit development applications, as they relate to coastal resource protection policies both within and outside the Coastal Commission's appeals jurisdiction.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the adopted priorities and evaluation criteria in that it will support the finalization of a comprehensive update of the City's LCP, including incorporation of past sea level rise planning efforts. A key priority of the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program since its inception has been to support the update of LCPs to better address evolving statewide issues, particularly including climate change and sea level rise. The City of Carpinteria has completed significant work over the past several years to comprehensively update its LCP, but additional funding is needed to finalize this process. The proposed work will also build off of past and ongoing sea level rise adaptation planning efforts and will ensure that policies are updated with new information to address these topics.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Carpinteria's grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$340,500** to fund the completion of the City's comprehensive LCP update.

5. CITY OF SANTA BARBARA (AIRPORT)

Project Title: [Airport and Goleta Slough Climate Adaptation Plan](#)

Project Location: Santa Barbara, CA (Airport LCP Segment)

Proposed Timeline: 5/1/2022 – 5/1/2025

Amount Requested: \$245,000 **Recommended Award:** \$245,000

Conditions of Approval: In addition to the general LCP grant requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on Santa Barbara's grant award:

By May 1, 2022, the grantee shall submit a revised work program, budget and schedule for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of

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\$245,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the grant requirements, terms, and conditions. Additionally, the work program shall be revised to reflect that identified short- and intermediate-term adaptation strategies will be in the context of long-term vulnerabilities and planning needs.

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Santa Barbara is requesting Round 7 funds to aid development of an infrastructure vulnerability assessment, sea level rise adaptation plan, and Local Coastal Program (LCP) update for the Airport Segment of the City of Santa Barbara's Coastal Zone. The Airport Segment encompasses the approximately 600-acre Santa Barbara Airport facility and the approximately 300-acre Goleta Slough, both of which are anticipated to be vulnerable to sea level rise.

The Airport Segment LCP was last updated and certified by the Coastal Commission in 2003. Since then, the City has completed two major planning efforts utilizing federal and local grant funding: the 2015 [Goleta Slough Area Sea Level Rise and Management Plan](#) and the 2017 Santa Barbara Airport Master Plan. The proposed LCP Grant project is intended to build on the recommendations of the Management Plan and Master Plan with a primary goal of preparing the airport and associated infrastructure for the impacts of sea level rise while continuing to provide critical transportation services and coastal resource protection over the near and long term. This project is also intended to update the Airport Segment LCP to be consistent with the Coastal Commission's adopted "Critical Infrastructure at Risk" sea level rise planning guidance.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Develop draft and final Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Options Report to identify infrastructure and resources at risk.
- Conduct a Risk Evaluation to consider the consequences of various actions (or inaction) in light of the analysis prepared in the Vulnerability Assessment.
- Prepare an Adaptation Plan that identifies sea level rise adaptation projects and triggers to implement those projects. The Adaptation Plan will focus on near- and intermediate-term actions and priorities for addressing impacts
- Prepare and submit an LUP amendment for certification that incorporates the findings of the Adaptation Plan.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the adopted priorities and evaluation criteria in that it will support the City's efforts to plan for and address sea level rise impacts, including in particular for critical transportation infrastructure that is already regularly exposed to flooding. Further, the proposed project will help the City build on past planning work, aiding in the development of priority actions, projects, and policies that will help move forward with implementing adaptation efforts. Although the focus of this project will be on nearer term adaptation actions, the City has indicated (and the recommendation is conditioned to require) that these actions will recognize and be consistent with the long-term sea level rise vulnerabilities and planning needs for the area. The City will also ensure the proposed work is consistent with the Commission's

recently adopted Critical Infrastructure Adaptation Guidance, will evaluate alternatives for moving some infrastructure out of hazardous areas, will maximize preservation of habitat resources in Goleta Slough, and will consider strategies that also help to address flooding impacts to the neighboring City of Goleta (portions of which are highly vulnerable due to low-income, disadvantaged, and low-English proficiency populations).

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Santa Barbara’s Airport and Goleta Slough project grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$245,000** to fund the development of a vulnerability assessment, risk evaluation, adaptation plan, and related LUP policies to help the City address risks to the Airport and Goleta Slough.

6. CITY OF SANTA BARBARA (REGIONAL MONITORING)

Project Title: [Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program](#)

Project Location: Santa Barbara, CA (and Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties)

Proposed Timeline: 3/1/2022 – 11/30/2025

Amount Requested: \$630,000 **Recommended Award:** \$630,000

Conditions of Approval: In addition to the general LCP grant requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on Santa Barbara’s grant award:

By May 1, 2022, the grantee shall submit a revised work program, budget and schedule for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$630,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the grant requirements, terms, and conditions.

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Santa Barbara is requesting Round 7 funds to aid development of a Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Plan (“Monitoring Plan”). The project will be managed by the City in partnership with the BEACON (Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment) Joint Powers Authority, which includes the Counties of Santa Barbara and Ventura as well as the coastal cities of Santa Barbara, Goleta, Carpinteria, Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme. The intent of this project is to take a regional approach to monitoring environmental and social conditions that could trigger a phased, coordinated response to sea level rise adaptation.

The project will build on three significant past efforts that were supported by both Coastal Commission and Coastal Conservancy grant funding: the 2018 [City of Santa Barbara Sea-Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment](#); the 2019 comprehensive update to the [City of Santa Barbara Coastal Land Use Plan](#); and the 2021 [City of Santa Barbara Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan](#). The Adaptation Plan recommends a phased approach to planning for sea level rise based on monitoring of changing conditions and actions to reduce vulnerabilities once defined thresholds are reached. Development of the subject monitoring program is the highest priority action item identified in the Adaptation Plan. The program will be developed through a robust stakeholder and public outreach

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process and may serve as an example for other regions to implement throughout the state.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Develop a public draft and final draft Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Plan.
- Implement pilot monitoring for approximately two years, then revise and finalize the Monitoring Plan as needed based on the pilot monitoring report.
- Amend the City's Land Use Plan to incorporate the Monitoring Plan.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the adopted priorities and evaluation criteria in that it will support development of a monitoring program that will help the City, and broader region, develop and identify triggers for when to implement various phased adaptation actions. This information is critical for helping the City move forward with implementing a phased adaptation approach. The monitoring program will identify a variety of physical and social triggers, which will help to ensure protection of the many structural, environmental, and social resources along the coastline. The City will coordinate with BEACON to support this regionally-focused project, and information developed through this project may help support other jurisdictions statewide which are similarly working to identify and implement phased adaptation approaches to address sea level rise impacts that change over time.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Santa Barbara's Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Program project grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$630,000** to fund the development of a Regional Coastal Adaptation Monitoring Plan, in coordination with BEACON, and related LUP policy updates.

7. CITY OF SANTA BARBARA (WATERFRONT)

Project Title: [Waterfront Adaptation Planning](#)

Project Location: Santa Barbara, CA

Proposed Timeline: 5/1/2022 – 5/1/2025

Amount Requested: \$1,240,000 **Recommended Award:** \$1,240,000

Conditions of Approval: In addition to the general LCP grant requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on Santa Barbara's grant award:

By May 1, 2022, the grantee shall submit a revised work program, budget and schedule for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$1,240,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the grant requirements, terms, and conditions. Additionally, the work program shall be revised to reflect that adaptation strategies identified for the 30-year waterfront adaptation plan will be in the context of long-term vulnerabilities and planning needs.

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Santa Barbara is proposing to conduct shoreline master planning for the City's low-lying public Waterfront and Harbor area south of Cabrillo Boulevard and related major technical studies needed to relocate and/or flood proof critical public and utility infrastructure located along the Waterfront. The City is proposing to conduct these studies as a continuation of the initial sea level rise planning efforts previously completed by the City. The studies are a part of the recommended near-term actions identified in the City's Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Plan, and include a Wastewater and Water Systems Vulnerability and Adaptation Options Report and a 30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan.

The Wastewater and Water Systems Vulnerability and Adaptation Options Report will be a comprehensive study of adaptation options for threatened portions of the El Estero Water Resources Center and its connecting water systems located under the beach, including relocation and redesign of portions of the systems, adaptation options for El Estero Water Resource Center (including partial relocation), and possible service point improvements. A detailed evaluation of alternatives, feasibility, and cost estimates for all options to address impacted water and wastewater infrastructure south of Cabrillo Boulevard will be provided. Additionally, the report will consider triggers for decision making on future adaptation options for the systems.

The 30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan will strive to continue coastal dependent, recreational, and beach access along the City's Waterfront, which is located south of Cabrillo Boulevard and spans from Leadbetter Beach to East Beach. The Adaptation Plan aims to prepare the Waterfront for increased hazards and moving critical infrastructure out of hazard prone areas to the extent feasible, as well as establish specific triggers or thresholds for additional adaptation actions and planning along the Waterfront and Harbor. This task will also include a Harbor Breakwater Feasibility Study and Conceptual Plan that will be incorporated into the Final 30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan. The 30-year period considered in this plan will be the first phase of adaptation for the Waterfront and Harbor, with subsequent phases requiring significant changes that require additional study.

This specific funding proposal includes the following key components:

- Wastewater and Water Systems Vulnerability and Adaptation Options Report
- Harbor Breakwater Feasibility Study and Conceptual Plan
- 30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan
- Local Coastal Program Amendment to incorporate the findings of the 30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Plan and associated studies into the Coastal Land Use Plan

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the adopted priorities and evaluation criteria in that it will support the development of a variety of detailed technical, feasibility, and adaptation planning reports that will help the City move forward with focused adaptation planning. Like other jurisdictions throughout the State, Santa Barbara has completed some initial adaptation planning, but needs additional

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detailed information for specific sites and assets to identify and implement specific adaptation projects. The proposed project will support the development of adaptation strategies to address vulnerabilities to critical infrastructure as well as important recreational and coastal-dependent uses. The City has indicated a priority for identifying options for relocating certain infrastructure components, as feasible, and ensuring the long-term protection of environmental and recreational resources, consistent with the Commission's recently adopted Critical Infrastructure Adaptation Guidance. Additionally, although the focus of the Waterfront Adaptation Plan will be on a 30-year planning horizon, the City has indicated (and the recommendation is conditioned to require) that identified actions will recognize and be consistent with the long-term sea level rise vulnerabilities and planning needs for the area.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Adaptation Planning project grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$1,240,000** to fund the development a water infrastructure vulnerability and adaptation report, a harbor breakwater feasibility study, and waterfront adaptation plan, and associated LUP policy updates.

8. CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

Project Title: [San Clemente LCP Nature Based Coastal Resiliency Pilot Project](#)

Project Location: San Clemente, CA

Proposed Timeline: 1/3/2022 – 12/31/2025

Amount Requested: \$570,000 **Recommended Award:** \$570,000

Conditions of Approval: In addition to the general LCP grant requirements, staff recommends the following specific conditions on Santa Barbara's grant award:

By May 1, 2022, the grantee shall submit a revised work program, budget and schedule for review and approval by the Executive Director that reflects an award of \$570,000 and includes the necessary detail to complete execution of the grant agreement consistent with the grant requirements, terms, and conditions.

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of San Clemente has been awarded LCP grants on three prior occasions to support the update of its Local Coastal Program (LCP) as it is currently without a certified LCP. In 2018, the Commission certified the City's Land Use Plan (LUP) and reviewed the City's Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment (SLRVA). The City plans to submit its LCP Implementation Plan (IP) to the Commission by April 30, 2022.

The City's current grant application seeks funding to implement two key recommendations from its Coastal Resiliency Plan. The first is to develop and implement a shoreline monitoring program and the second is to conduct a feasibility study for a nature-based pilot project to address coastal erosion. The proposed grant would also support the preparation of a focused LCP update to incorporate the findings and recommendations from these two projects.

The shoreline monitoring program would include the re-establishment of an ongoing, annual shoreline monitoring program consisting of fall and spring beach/shoreline profile transect surveys to document the condition of the City's public beaches and to establish baseline conditions now, against which future sea level rise effects can be quantified. The program is scheduled to commence in March 2022 and run continuously, with the City finding alternative funding for the program to continue after 2025. The City's shoreline monitoring program will document coastal changes in the broader region on longer time scales (seasonal, annual and long-term); document the condition of the full extent of the City's shoreline; and will offer regional and long-term context for site-specific findings and provide ground-truthing. The program will build upon other shoreline monitoring projects in the region and the City is in discussions to establish a regional shoreline management working group.

The nature-based adaptation feasibility study will include the preparation of a feasibility study focused on critical erosion hot spots and opportunities to develop nature-based pilot project(s) that provide multiple benefits (e.g., sand retention and ecosystem benefits) such as a living shoreline or coastal dune system. The nature-based feasibility study is scheduled to commence in January 2022 and be completed before the end of 2025. The study will build on, and utilize, the information collected by the City's shoreline monitoring program to identify critical erosion hot spots in the City and develop one or more pilot projects that provide multiple benefits (e.g., sand retention and ecosystem benefits) such as a living shoreline, coastal dune system or cobble berm structure. After public review, the feasibility study will result in preliminary designs for pilot projects and a final report.

The proposal includes the following key components:

- Re-establishment of an ongoing, annual shoreline monitoring program
- Draft and final nature-based adaptation strategy feasibility study
- Preparation of a focused LCP amendment that incorporates findings and recommendations from the information collected in the shoreline monitoring program and feasibility study.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the adopted priorities and evaluation criteria in that it will support development of actionable information and technical feasibility studies that will support the City's efforts to address sea level rise. The proposed project builds off of past work, specifically by providing funding for two priority actions that were identified in the earlier Coastal Resiliency Plan. The proposed monitoring program will help provide actionable information on the current condition of the shoreline as well as developing methods for understanding how conditions change over time. The City will use the initial information collected over the grant term to develop updated LCP policies to support the longer-term management of the monitoring program. Additionally, the nature-based adaptation strategy feasibility study will provide needed information for understanding what types of strategies can be used on the City's shoreline to address erosion concern while supporting ecosystem benefits. The City will use this information to move forward with LCP policy updates to support identified strategies and to implement pilot projects.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of San Clemente's grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$570,000** to fund the development of a monitoring program, a nature-based adaptation strategy feasibility study, and associated LCP policy updates.

D. Grant Requirements and Administration

Coastal Commission staff will work with grantees to finalize the grant agreements consistent with general grant requirements and specific requirements associated with the LCP Grant Program. Key requirements are described below. The full terms and conditions cover a variety of additional administrative requirements (e.g., prompt payment clauses, non-discrimination clauses) and the detailed language will be finalized as part of the grant agreement execution process.

Coastal Commission staff will provide the local government with a draft grant agreement for execution by both parties. 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. Commission staff will also review, process, and approve invoices and progress reports under the grant agreements and ensure grantees are making appropriate progress.

General Grant 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 (e.g., consultants) to perform grant-related tasks and services shall select all subcontractors pursuant to a bidding and procurement process that complies with all applicable laws.
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.
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.

LCP Grant Program Requirements

1. 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. To the extent feasible, such coordination shall take place prior to public release of the deliverable.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Grantees shall use the Commission's [Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance document](#) to inform the development of sea level rise impact assessments, vulnerability assessments, and LCP Land Use Plan and Implementation Plan completion or updates.

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5. 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, 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) 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) the latest reports on sea level rise science and recommendations from the state of California, including [Rising Seas in California](#) (Griggs et al. 2017) 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. Scenarios analyzed should include Medium-high Risk Aversion and Extreme Risk Aversion scenarios per the [2018 Ocean Protection Council Guidance](#) and the Coastal Commission's [Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance Update](#) adopted November 2018, which both provide recommendations to aid in planning and understanding the worst-case scenario for projected time horizons.
6. 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, but are not limited to, 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.
7. Public outreach shall target all interested members of the public, including visitors and other non-residents to the maximum extent feasible for the purpose of meaningful engagement 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.