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October 9, 2024

TO: California Coastal Commissioners and Interested Public

FROM: Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director
Erin Prahler, Statewide Planning Manager
Kelsey Ducklow, Statewide Coastal Resilience Coordinator

SUBJECT: **Recommended Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance Grant Awards to the City of Monterey and City of Morro Bay**

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission award Local Coastal Program (LCP) Local Assistance grant funds to the City of Monterey and the City of Morro Bay as follows:

- City of Monterey: \$1,640,000 for a sea level rise vulnerability assessment, adaptation plan, economic analysis, LCP amendment, and associated public outreach and engagement (full application details available in [Exhibit 1](#))
- City of Morro Bay: \$750,000 for a sea level rise vulnerability assessment update, adaptation report and feasibility study, and Waterfront Master Plan update to be submitted for certification as an LCP amendment, along with associated public outreach and engagement (full application details available in [Exhibit 2](#))

Funding is provided by the Budget Act of 2021, which appropriated \$31 million to the Coastal Commission to support its LCP Local Assistance Grant Program for Climate Resiliency.

In May 2023, the Coastal Commission approved an update to its procedures for reviewing and awarding grants, which allow all grant applications to be submitted on a rolling basis and for grant applications of \$500,000 or less to be reviewed and decided upon by the Executive Director. Applications for awards exceeding \$500,000 must be reviewed and decided upon by the Commission. The applications from the Cities of Monterey and Morro Bay, which are the subject of this staff report, fall into the latter category.

Grant Conditions

Consistent with overall program guidelines and processes, all projects recommended for LCP Local Assistance grant 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; describing the steps that will be taken to achieve certification of LCP work after the grant work is completed; 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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION 3

II. DISCUSSION..... 3

 A. Program Summary 3

 B. Review Process 4

 C. Award Recommendation..... 5

 1. City of Monterey 5

 2. City of Morro Bay 8

 D. Grant Requirements and Administration 11

 E. LCP Grant Program Updates 14

I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

Motion:

I move that the Commission award LCP Local Assistance grant funding of \$1,640,000 to the City of Monterey and \$750,000 to the City of Morro Bay and authorize the Executive Director or their 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 LCP Local Assistance grants of \$1,640,000 to the City of Monterey and \$750,000 to the City of Morro Bay and the Commission authorizing the Executive Director or their designee to enter into grant agreements with the respective cities 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 \$1,640,000 and \$750,000 LCP Local Assistance Grants to the Cities of Monterey and Morro Bay and authorizes the Executive Director or their designee to enter into a grant agreement with the respective cities 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 \$21.6 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 45 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 Land Use Plans (LUPs) or Implementation Plans (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 appropriated \$31 million for 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. Grants, such as the ones proposed here, will support local governments developing new or amending existing Local Coastal Programs pursuant to the [California Coastal Act](#). Funds are to 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. This new and expanded funding continues to 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.¹ At the same time, the Commission approved an update to procedures for reviewing and awarding *non-competitive* grants that allowed for the Executive Director to make award decisions for grant proposals up to \$100,000 on a rolling basis.

Following the success of this approach, the cap on individual, non-competitive proposals was raised from \$100,000 to \$500,000 in November 2022.² In May 2023,³ the Coastal Commission decided to allow all grant applications to be submitted on a rolling basis rather than making a distinction between competitive grant rounds and rolling, non-competitive grants. Most recently, in November 2023, the Commission removed an overall \$5 million cap on funds that can be awarded by the Executive Director.⁴ The rest of the grant review processes remain unchanged, with applications for awards exceeding \$500,000 to be reviewed and decided upon by the Commission and for grant applications of \$500,000 or less to be reviewed and decided upon by the Executive Director.

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

² <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2022/11/W6d/W6d-11-2022-report.pdf>

³ <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2023/5/W6a/W6a-5-2023-report.pdf>

⁴ <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2023/11/W6d/W6d-11-2023-report.pdf>

Commission staff have been coordinating with the Cities of Monterey and Morro Bay to ensure that the proposals meet all requirements and goals of the LCP Grant Program. Monterey's final application for \$1,640,000 was received on August 26, 2024. Morro Bay's final application for \$750,000 was received on September 3, 2024.

C. Award Recommendation

Commission staff recommends the Commission award a grant to the City of Monterey for \$1,640,000 and a grant to the City of Morro Bay for \$750,000. Both proposed projects are consistent with the purpose of the LCP grant program and the Commission's adopted priorities and criteria. They are supported by adopted resolutions from the respective City Councils, indicating support for completion of the LCP planning work.

Below is a summary of each grant proposal and a brief discussion regarding the fulfillment of the grant priorities and evaluation criteria. The complete applications are included as [Exhibit 1](#) (City of Monterey) and [Exhibit 2](#) (City of Morro Bay)

1. CITY OF MONTEREY

Project Title: City of Monterey SLR Vulnerability Assessment, Adaptation Plan, and Economic Analysis

Project Location: City of Monterey, CA

Proposed Timeline: 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2026

Amount Requested: \$1,640,000 **Recommended Award:** \$1,640,000

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Monterey is seeking \$1,640,000 to complete a sea level rise vulnerability assessment, adaptation plan, economic analysis, and LCP amendment. The proposed project will include two phases, the first to include a variety of data gathering, technical and policy analysis, and public outreach and engagement to inform development of draft documents, and the second to include finalization of an adaptation plan, including an adaptation pathways approach with identification of actionable next steps, and development and adoption of an LCP amendment informed by the project.

The overall goal of the proposed project is to identify strategies and solutions designed to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and climate change. The project will help the City create a roadmap to allocate resources to the right projects and programs at the appropriate time based on observed conditions and to navigate the challenges posed by sea level rise and climate change. It will focus on preserving and enhancing coastal habitat, protecting coastal-dependent development and resources, as well as providing and enhancing lower-cost visitor and recreational opportunities while ensuring public access for all. The work will also align with the Coastal Act goals of protecting coastal resources without creating new environmental burdens or exacerbating existing ones

related to environmental justice. More specifically, the proposed project includes the following tasks/deliverables:

- **Background Report** – A variety of sea level rise studies and analyses have already been completed for the City and wider Monterey Bay area. The City/consultant will evaluate and synthesize existing studies and develop a background report that compiles information on sea level rise vulnerabilities, assets that have been evaluated, and adaptation strategies that have been proposed or considered. The report will also identify current data gaps or information that needs to be updated to reflect newer science and best practices. This information will inform subsequent tasks so that work is not duplicated but rather integrated and expanded upon.
- **Vulnerability Assessment** – The City/consultant will complete a draft and final vulnerability assessment that considers risks that the City, its assets, and its coastal resources are likely to encounter as the impacts of sea level rise and coastal hazards worsen over time. The assessment will address relevant gaps identified in the background report, will include assessment of impacts of sea level rise on historically marginalized communities, and be consistent with the 2024 State Sea Level Rise Guidance. The assessment will divide the City coastline into transects/subareas based on similarities in land uses and coastal form to provide a clear framework for assessing localized impacts within each defined area.
- **Adaptation Plan** – The City/consultant will develop an Adaptation Plan through a phased approach that includes:
 - **Potential Adaptation Responses** – The team will consider a wide array of possible adaptation options, including those already assessed (included in the Background Report), examples from around California and abroad, and innovative options. Up to three responses will be developed for each subarea. Potential adaptation strategies will include near, mid, and long-term implementation projects for various adaptation strategies (accommodation, protection, retreat, hybrid), and it is assumed that strategies will differ for each of the City’s subareas. Strategies will be evaluated in terms of factors such as environmental impacts, recreational opportunities, flood reduction, habitat creation, and costs. Feasible alternatives will be further evaluated and refined.
 - **Economic Analysis** – An economic analysis will be prepared for the identified adaptation strategies. This will include assessment of the benefits, impacts, and costs (including estimated capital and maintenance) for each adaptation type (i.e., accommodate, protect, hybrid, or retreat) along the entire City’s coastline, including the option of taking no action. This assessment will include a detailed evaluation of the status of all the City’s coastal assets, both protected and unprotected, as well as coastal resources, coastal habitats, public access, and recreational resources.
 - **Final Adaptation Plan** – Based on findings from the economic analysis and public feedback (discussed below) on the potential adaptation

W6d (LCP Grant Program Recommendation)

responses, a final adaptation plan will be developed. This will include a pathways approach that identifies near-term (1-5 years) and mid-term (6-15 years) strategies along with triggers and thresholds for changing adaptation options. Long-term options will also be identified, though with less detail. The Plan will identify Implementation Actions, including, as feasible, conceptual design plans (10% design for the mid and long-term strategies, and 30% for near-term strategies) and cost estimates. The Plan will also evaluate and identify funding strategies and will include a monitoring and reporting plan.

- **Public Outreach and Community Engagement** – The City/consultant will develop a comprehensive community engagement strategy. To effectively engage the community, the team will identify a variety of participatory methods to ensure inclusive and equitable participation, actively involving community members in the planning process. Engagement strategies will prioritize marginalized communities and perspectives and will include stipends for EJ groups, focus group meetings, virtual reality storytelling, workshops, surveys, and pop-ups. This outreach will heavily inform the adaptation strategies and final adaptation plan as well as the subsequent LCP amendment.
- **LCP Amendment** – Separate from the proposed project, the City of Monterey is currently working on fully certifying its LCP for the first time, and expects to do so concurrently with the early phases of this project. As part of the proposed grant work, the City will develop what it expects to be an amendment to, at that point, the recently certified LCP to incorporate the project findings. This will build on more general baseline sea level rise policies that are likely to be in the initial LCP certification, to more specifically address, allow for, and implement adaptation strategies identified in the Final Adaptation Plan.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program’s [adopted priorities and evaluation criteria](#) in that it will address climate change and sea level rise resiliency by supporting development of updated sea level rise vulnerability information and a detailed adaptation plan, and subsequently incorporating resiliency information into an LCP amendment. The proposed project will reflect key LCP grant program priorities and broader statewide planning goals including supporting development of phased approaches to address sea level rise impacts.

There is significant need for the proposed work. The City of Monterey does not currently have a certified LCP, as LUPs were prepared and certified for several subareas in the 1980s, but no IP was ever certified. However, the City has recently been engaged on updating past work and fully certifying its LCP. This work is ongoing outside of the proposed grant work, and the City expects to complete a comprehensive update of the LUP and development of the IP for full LCP certification concurrently with the initial phases of the proposed grant work. The City anticipates incorporating general, baseline sea level rise policy language in the initial LCP certification, with the proposed grant work informing more detailed adaptation approaches that would be incorporated into an LCP amendment as the final grant project deliverable. This type of phased LCP update approach has been recommended by the Coastal Commission Local Government

Working Group (LGWG) as a way to improve efficiency and success for LCP updates. Specifically, the LGWG has recognized that developing new LCPs (or comprehensively updating LCPs) is a complex and challenging process, but taking a multi-step approach by first incorporating foundational sea level rise policies, followed by additional planning and LCP refinements can help to make incremental improvements and avoid stalled or failed LCP updates.

The proposed project is also aligned with and will implement the requirements of SB 272. Specifically, the project includes identification of short-, medium-, and longer-term sea level rise adaptation strategies, along with thresholds and triggers for when actions should be taken. More detailed planning and design will be completed for near-term priority strategies, resulting in actionable approaches that can be implemented in the coming years, and fulfilling SB 272 requirements for identification of specific adaptation projects. The City also intends to develop a monitoring and reporting program to provide City staff with a tool to track key variables, bring updates to the City Council in a timely fashion, and to implement adaptation projects as conditions change, consistent with SB 272 requirements to develop a timeline for updates based on locally relevant factors. Lastly, the City will complete an economic analysis as part of its adaptation planning effort, including consideration of critical public infrastructure as required by SB 272.

Finally, the City is committing to extensive public outreach and engagement with a focus on including historically marginalized communities. As outlined above, the City will host a variety of participatory methods to ensure inclusive and equitable participation, actively involving community members in the planning process.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Monterey’s grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$1,640,000** to fund the development of a sea level rise vulnerability assessment, adaptation plan, economic analysis, and LCP amendment, along with associated public outreach and engagement.

2. CITY OF MORRO BAY

Project Title: City of Morro Bay Waterfront Master Plan Update

Project Location: City of Moro Bay, CA

Proposed Timeline: 10/1/2024 – 9/30/2026

Amount Requested: \$750,000 **Recommended Award:** \$750,000

Grant Proposal Summary: The City of Morro Bay is seeking \$750,000 to update its Waterfront Master Plan (WMP) – a part of the City’s LCP – to better address sea level rise. The proposed project will also include updates to a previously completed sea level rise Vulnerability Assessment to ensure consistency with current best available science and development of an Adaptation Report and Feasibility Study, both with a focus on the waterfront planning area (from Little Morro Creek, along the Embarcadero, south to Tidelands Park). The update of the WMP would be submitted to the Coastal Commission as an IP amendment.

W6d (LCP Grant Program Recommendation)

The overall goal of the proposed project is to build on the recently certified comprehensive updates to the City's LUP and IP by incorporating additional sea level rise considerations into the WMP, which has not been updated since 1997. The age of the existing WMP has resulted in difficulty for planning along the waterfront and the City's current IP creates a Waterfront Master Plan overlay which recognizes the need to update this document to incorporate climate change and sea level rise adaptation options. Several LUP policies and goals also call for developing Embarcadero/Harbor area coastal hazards standards and requirements related to implementing various adaptation strategies. Specific grant project tasks/deliverables include the following:

- **Vulnerability Assessment Update** – The proposed project will include updates to the sea level rise technical studies that were completed in 2018-2019 as part of the comprehensive LCP update effort. Updates will incorporate current best available science from the 2024 State Sea Level Rise Guidance.
- **Adaptation Report and Feasibility Study** – The City will develop a feasibility and adaptation study to address commercial and waterfront industrial development in the Embarcadero/Harbor area. The study will identify triggers for implementing sea level rise adaptation strategies, such as raising infrastructure along the waterfront or relocating critical water and wastewater infrastructure to protect services from the impacts of sea level rise and coastal hazards. This is consistent with LUP policies that call for developing information on the effects of coastal hazards with a goal to increase funding for improvements related to vulnerabilities and impacts to infrastructure.
- **Community Engagement** – Similar to the approach utilized in the LCP update, the City will form a WMP Advisory Committee (WMPAC) consisting of community members and local stakeholders to act in an advisory capacity and provide recommendations to the Planning Commission and City Council. Community engagement would also include two community workshops and online surveys to solicit community and stakeholder feedback and input. The City will also take proactive steps to involve underserved communities, such as the AB 1550 low-income area, in its public engagement efforts. This may include placing additional focus on low-income areas when advertising public meetings and workshop for the WMP update, providing a wide range of options for public participation, and establishing a focus group to represent the interests of underserved neighborhoods.
- **Waterfront Master Plan Update** – The City will update the current WMP (certified in 1997) to better address sea level rise and climate change, incorporating the findings from the vulnerability assessment, adaptation report and feasibility study, and community engagement. It will include updated design and development standards for the planning areas and will also expand the current planning area to include both sides of the Embarcadero as well as the old wastewater treatment plan property. The updated WMP will be submitted to the Coastal Commission for certification as an LCP amendment.

Discussion: The proposed grant project is consistent with the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program's [adopted priorities and evaluation criteria](#) in that it will address climate

change and sea level rise resiliency by supporting development of more detailed sea level rise adaptation options for the City's Harbor/Embarcadero area and incorporation of design standards, phased approaches, triggers for action, and other planning information into an updated Waterfront Master Plan.

The proposed project will build on the recent successful comprehensive updates to both the City's LUP and IP (both certified as submitted to the Coastal Commission). Moreover, updating the WMP fulfills goals called out in the updated LCP, specifically including Policy LU-8.1 which states the City will update the WMP with a focus on addressing issues of sea level rise and future planning for Morro Rock. This type of phased approach to LCP updates is specifically aligned with the Coastal Commission and Local Government Working Group recommendations, and fits into broader statewide adaptation planning best practices. For example, SB 272 calls for development of both general adaptation strategies and more specific adaptation projects, and the Commission's draft update to the Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance recognizes that this type of adaptation planning is likely to occur iteratively, with increasing levels of detail with more study, and the need for additional LCP updates to refine approaches.

There is also significant need for the proposed work. As previously stated, the current WMP was certified in 1997, and does not address sea level rise or climate change issues, nor does it adequately reflect a variety of other current planning issues. An updated WMP that is incorporated as an LCP amendment to the IP/Zoning Code will enhance safe, extensive, and resilient planning for the Morro Bay waterfront and Morro Rock area. The City depends heavily on the waterfront as a regional economic driver, supporting ecotourism, recreational activities, and commercial fishing. The proposed project would include transportation and circulation enhancements and would enable the City to establish a plan for when and how to modify current design and maintenance practices which will be essential to preventing infrastructure damage in the long term.

Lastly, the City will continue to build on successful outreach efforts that were initiated during the comprehensive LCP update. Multiple forms of community engagement were utilized during that process, including community-wide workshops, online surveys, telephone surveys to reach underrepresented populations, stakeholder and focus group interviews, as well as the City Council convening of the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) which was a cross-section of the community appointed to act as liaisons between the community and the Planning Commission. The City seeks to utilize the same strategy with the Waterfront Master Plan Update project to ensure that community voices are heard throughout the process with an emphasis on understanding marginalized community and environmental justice concerns.

Recommendation: Commission staff recommends fully funding the City of Morro Bay's grant request. **Staff recommends the Commission authorize a grant of \$750,000** to fund the development of a sea level rise vulnerability assessment update, adaptation report and feasibility study, and Waterfront Mater Plan update to be submitted for certification as an LCP amendment, along with associated public outreach and engagement.

D. Grant Requirements and Administration

Coastal Commission staff will work with the 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 governments with a draft grant agreement for execution by both parties. During this process, Commission staff will work with the grantee 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.
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

W6d (LCP Grant Program Recommendation)

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 the most recently adopted update to the State Sea Level Rise Guidance. These scenarios and topics should be modeled or quantitatively analyzed where feasible and applicable, or at a minimum thoroughly discussed in a qualitative manner. Scenarios analyzed should include Intermediate, Intermediate-High and High scenarios per the Ocean Protection Council's [2024 State Sea Level Rise Guidance](#) and the Coastal Commission's draft [Sea Level Rise Policy Guidance Update](#) currently anticipated for adoption in Fall 2024, 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.

E. LCP Grant Program Updates

As described above, in October 2021 the Coastal Commission approved updates to the management details and evaluation criteria of the LCP Local Assistance Grant Program, including to specifically allow for a rolling, non-competitive application process by which the Executive Director could award grants up to \$100,000. In November 2022 this cap was increased to \$500,000 and in May 2023, the Coastal Commission revised the grant processes to allow all grant applications to be submitted on a rolling basis.

To date, the Executive Director has approved 15 grants totaling \$4,709,755, as summarized below, with multiple other jurisdictions currently in talks with staff to develop grant proposals. Grants awarded by the Executive Director are described in applicable monthly Executive Director's Reports at Coastal Commission hearings.

Executive Director-Approved Grants

1. **Pacific Grove, \$100,000:** The City of Pacific Grove will build on past grant work by completing an updated vulnerability assessment. In particular, the City will fill a data gap by including new SLR modeling for the Asilomar Dunes area (which was not included in previous modeling work) and updating older, now out of date SLR modeling for other parts of the City. Minor updates to the recently certified LCP based on these studies will also be completed, most likely including an updated coastal hazards map overlay. (May 2022)
2. **Point Arena, \$100,000:** The City of Point Arena will develop a Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment (SLRVA) for the Point Arena Cove area of the City, and update the Community Health and Safety Element (CHSE) of its LCP. The SLRVA will analyze the impacts of storms and extreme events, changing shorelines, and trends in relative local sea level on vulnerable natural and built resources and facilities, including public access, commerce, recreation, coastal habitats, and navigability. The CHSE update will use information developed in the SLRVA to update coastal hazard LCP policies. (July 2022)
3. **Marina, \$100,000:** The City of Marina will build off of previous grant-funded work to assess SLR vulnerabilities and update their LCP. Specifically, the City will update its 2019 vulnerability assessment, including by updating the technical report, adding a social vulnerability assessment, and updating hazard mapping to include in the City's GIS database. The City will also complete its update to the coastal hazards policies of its LCP (both IP and LUP). (August 2022)
4. **Arcata, \$100,000:** The City of Arcata will complete a comprehensive update to its LUP and IP. The project will build off of past grant work and includes conducting environmental impact and special studies necessary for certification, revising and submitting a proposed LUP, finishing and submitting a proposed IP, public outreach and tribal coordination on the LCP update, and submission of proposed LUP and IP updates to the Commission. The proposed LCP update will include climate-resilience and sea level rise policies, including potentially a neighborhood-based sea level rise adaptation approach. (November 2022)

W6d (LCP Grant Program Recommendation)

5. **National City, \$100,000:** The City of National City will complete targeted amendments to the Local Coastal Program (LCP) to update General Plan and Zoning Code references, strengthen coastal resilience and support environmental justice, and lay the groundwork for a later comprehensive LCP update. This will include review of completed and in-process technical, environmental, and planning studies to identify technical study gaps needed to prepare for sea level rise and increase coastal resiliency, as well as to improve coastal access and achieve other Coastal Act goals. Coastal resiliency policies will include (at a minimum) baseline sea level rise policies of the type described by the Local Government Sea Level Rise Working Group. (December 2022)
6. **Santa Barbara, \$243,000:** The City of Santa Barbara will complete an amendment to the Airport segment LCP LUP to incorporate sea level rise adaptation policies. This project is considered Phase C of the City's larger sea level rise and LCP update project and will build off of other grant-funded work. The overarching goal of the project is to prepare the Airport and the public for increased storm surges, erosion, and flooding while continuing to provide critical transportation services and coastal resource protection for the next 30 years. This specific grant will incorporate the adaptation options assessed in earlier phases into an Adaptation Plan report and Final LCP update and include continued community engagement. Sea level rise LCP policies will ensure consistency with the Commission's Critical Infrastructure Guidance. (April 2023)
7. **Arcata, \$178,000:** The City of Arcata will complete an updated sea level rise vulnerability assessment (SLRVA) and an adaptation plan concept for planned capital improvement projects. The SLRVA will include new analysis to build on the 2018 SLRVA, including in particular more detailed hydrological modeling. The City will also create an adaptation plan for capital improvement projects such as the next phase of improvements to the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility. Lastly, the City will update its LCP with the data and adaptation concepts it develops, which will inform implementation of the hazards and sea level rise related LCP policies and concepts that are part of the City's forthcoming comprehensive LCP update, providing, for example, more detailed thresholds and triggers for specific adaptation actions. (May 2023)
8. **Humboldt County: \$499,746:** Humboldt County will finalize an LCP update that builds on earlier grant work to address sea level rise, tsunami safety, ESHA, coastal-dependent industrial lands, and considerations for facilities to support future offshore wind development. This update will also set the foundation for other ongoing grant work led by the County related to regional coordination options for addressing sea level rise Bay-wide in conjunction with Arcata, Eureka, and other key stakeholders. (June 2023)
9. **Capitola, \$450,000:** The City of Capitola will perform targeted adaptation planning for Cliff Drive, which is important transportation infrastructure and a key coastal access amenity currently threatened by episodic erosion. The purpose of this project is to identify a preferred alternative to improve the road structure and

configuration, which will then be incorporated as an amendment to the LCP. The project will include community and stakeholder engagement throughout; geotechnical studies on SLR, wave runup, and sand supply as well as a survey of topography and utilities; a Biological Resources Assessment and Cultural Resources Assessment to be conducted in coordination with Tribes; an alternatives analysis; and the drafting and submittal of a targeted LCP amendment that frame the goals for the adaptation of Cliff Drive to lay the foundation for the implementation of a future project/CDP. (July 2023)

10. **Pismo Beach, \$500,000:** The City of Pismo Beach will continue work on comprehensive updates to its LUP and IP. The City received two previous grants from the CCC to complete a Short-Term Rental Ordinance, Draft Low-Cost Visitor Serving Accommodation Study, Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment, a Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, and the initial stages of work on the LCP amendment. The proposed grant would fund continued work on the comprehensive LCP amendment, including local workshops and coordination with CCC staff on both the LUP and IP and submittal of the full, comprehensive LCP amendment. In addition to addressing sea level rise and coastal hazards, the amendment will include strategies to increase housing supply to comply with the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, primarily through mixed use zoning and intensification in the core downtown, as well as a multi-modal plan to reduce traffic and congestion through pedestrian and bicycle improvements. (August 2023)
11. **Mendocino County, \$342,736:** Mendocino County will develop a coordinated and organized Sea Level Rise Resilience Strategy (SLRRS) for the County's coastal zone, which will be incorporated into the LCP in two phases: an initial baseline SLR policy LCP update based on the County's previous grant-funded work, and subsequently, a targeted update to the LCP's Hazard Management Element, Geotechnical Evaluation Requirements, and relevant Zoning Code sections (in coordination with the County's Round 8 grant). This project includes development of a SLR vulnerability and risk assessment, public outreach, and coordination with the cities of Fort Bragg and Point Arena. The overall goal is to develop a roadmap for future project development in the County by establishing baseline conditions, forecasting potential impacts from SLR in multiple scenarios and timescales, and developing a list of priority resilience or mitigation projects for which future funding can be pursued. (September 2023)
12. **City of San Diego, \$499,153:** The City of San Diego will complete a vulnerability assessment to lay the foundation for the development of a Citywide Trails Master Plan (TMP) that will inform future community planning to ensure sustainable and equitable access to the City's expansive network of trails and open space. The project will include development of technical information, including with respect to projected climate change and sea level rise impacts to the trail system; significant community outreach with a focus on environmental justice; coordination with CCC staff during the TMP development; and development of policy language to implement the TMP. Upon completion of the project, the City

W6d (LCP Grant Program Recommendation)

of San Diego will propose amendments to community plans and LCP documents to update policies related to equitable multi-modal access to the coast and other open spaces throughout the City, which will highlight the new goals and vision encompassed by the TMP and other City of San Diego equitable planning initiatives. (October 2023)

13. **Marina, \$497,120:** The City of Marina will complete a comprehensive LCP update (LUP and IP) which will address climate change resiliency throughout the LCP, including by adding environmental justice policy language. The grant will build on previous grant-funded updates to the City's SLR Vulnerability Assessment and a Social Vulnerability Assessment which is still underway. Project tasks and deliverables include public outreach, preparation of a comprehensive LCP cleanup to reconcile uncertified language, site rezoning and mapping updates, integration of the Monterey Bay Opportunistic Beach Nourishment Program, updates to the City's Housing Ordinance, and preparation and submittal of a final LCP update that encapsulates all of the foregoing. (October 2023)
14. **Carmel-by-the-Sea, \$500,000:** The City of Carmel-by-the-Sea will complete an LCP update that identifies areas of coastal vulnerability, addresses environmental justice needs, and plans for coastal resiliency and climate adaptation projects. This project builds off of a City-funded Coastal Engineering and Hazard Assessment study currently underway and will include public outreach, a social vulnerability assessment (including an assessment of non-market beach value as well as visitorship using cell phone data), analysis of adaptation strategy options and development of adaptation pathways, updates to the LCP hazard policies, and an update to the City's coastal hazard mapping. (November 2023)
15. **Seal Beach, \$500,000:** The City of Seal Beach will use grant funding to finalize the City's LCP, including both finalization of a draft LUP and development of an IP. The City and Commission staff have already been coordinating on review of a draft LUP, and finalization of the LUP will include incorporating the City's various Specific Plans and including additional baseline Vehicle Miles Traveled, circulation, and sustainability policies. The project will also build on a previously completed IP outline, including the development of sea level rise policies, a floodplain ordinance, and other hazards-related sections, and result in full LCP certification for the first time. (September 2024)