

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

455 Market Street, SUITE 228
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
FAX (415) 904-5400
TDD (415) 597-5885



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Date: January 19, 2024

To: Commissioners and Interested Parties

From: Kate Huckelbridge, Executive Director
Sarah Christie, Legislative Director
Christiane Parry, Public Education Program Manager
Annie Kohut Frankel, Grants and Education Manager

Subject: **Proposed Competitive WHALE TAIL® Grants for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 from the Commission's Public Education Program.**
The Executive Director recommends that the Commission approve the following competitive grants for Fiscal Year 2023/2024.

SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve 60 competitive grants totaling \$2,286,875 to the following organizations for projects engaging communities in the noted locations:

- Acta Non Verba, \$50,000 (East and West Oakland)
- Alpine Watershed Group, \$18,787 (Markleeville, Woodfords, and Bear Valley)
- Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education, \$19,998 (Statewide)
- Audubon Canyon Ranch, \$35,962 (West Marin County)
- Big Lagoon Union School District, \$37,729 (Northern Humboldt and southern Del Norte Counties)
- Blue Lake Union Elementary School District, \$8,000 (Blue Lake)
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marín, \$50,000 (Eastern Sonoma County)
- Boz Life Science Research and Teaching Institute, \$50,000 (Imperial Beach, National City, and the greater San Diego region)
- Bret Harte Preparatory Middle School/Los Angeles Unified School District, \$48,564 (South Central corridor of Los Angeles)
- Building Skills Partnership, \$30,000 (Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Orange Counties)
- Cabrillo High School Aquarium/Lompoc Unified School District, \$50,000 (Lompoc Valley, Vandenberg, Santa Maria Valley, Santa Ynez Valley)
- Canal Alliance, \$42,700 (Canal District of San Rafael)

- Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, \$11,666 (Santa Maria, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Ventura)
- Children's Lifesaving Foundation, \$50,000 (Los Angeles, Mar Vista, Palms, Culver City, Pacoima)
- Cigarette Surfboard LLC / International Documentary Association, \$20,000 (Northern California)
- City of Huntington Beach Fire Department, \$50,000 (Oak View neighborhood of Huntington Beach)
- City Surf Project, \$50,000 (San Francisco)
- Coalinga Huron Unified School District, \$33,300 (Huron and Coalinga)
- Coastside Land Trust, \$40,165 (Coastal San Mateo County between Half Moon Bay and Montara)
- Colusa Indian Community Council, \$50,000 (Colusa Rancheria)
- County Park Friends/Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks, \$42,959 (Santa Cruz County)
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, \$50,000 (Sonoma, Mendocino, and Lake Counties)
- Earth Equity, \$50,000 (San Quentin, Eureka, and Arcata)
- Elk Grove Unified School District/Monterey Trail High School, \$47,847 (Elk Grove and South Sacramento)
- Escondido Creek Conservancy, \$18,965 (Escondido)
- Explore Ecology, \$47,512 (South Santa Barbara County)
- Friends of the Dunes, \$20,000 (Humboldt County)
- Hanford Elementary School District/Jefferson Academy School, \$18,029 (Hanford, Kings County)
- Headwaters Science Institute, \$50,000 (Oakland and Richmond)
- Inland Empire Waterkeeper, \$45,863 (Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties)
- Kashia School District, \$36,097 (Kashia Rancheria Reservation, Stewarts Point)
- Kern Environmental Education Foundation, \$43,878 (Kern County)
- Kids for the Bay/Earth Island Institute, \$50,000 (Richmond and San Pablo)
- Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles, \$20,000 (Los Angeles)
- MeWater Foundation, \$40,600 (San Francisco Bay Area)
- Mission Science Workshop/Community Initiatives, \$15,000 (San Francisco)
- Monterey Bay Aquarium, \$45,000 (Monterey County)
- Mujeres de la Tierra, \$17,692 (Northeast Los Angeles)
- Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans Foundation, \$49,885 (Port Hueneme and Oxnard)
- Nature Collective, \$49,976 (Escondido)
- NatureBridge, \$50,000 (San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and the Central Valley)
- New Heights Charter School, \$48,400 (South Los Angeles)
- Northcoast Regional Land Trust, \$19,955 (Humboldt County)
- Ocean Foundation/Ocean Connectors, \$45,000 (National City)
- One Cool Earth, \$44,600 (San Miguel and Shandon, San Luis Obispo County)

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- Outdoor Outreach, \$50,000 (South San Diego Bay)
- Pacific Environmental Education Center, \$24,756 (Fort Bragg)
- Paddle for Peace, \$50,000 (City Heights, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley, National City, Southeast San Diego)
- Queer Surf/Green Cities Fund, \$50,000 (Los Angeles County)
- Roosevelt Middle School/Oakland Unified School District, \$46,744 (Oakland)
- Rosie the Riveter Trust, \$20,000 (Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo)
- Rural California Broadcasting Corporation, \$20,000 (Statewide)
- Scott River Watershed Council, \$20,000 (Etna, Siskiyou County)
- South Yuba River Citizens League, \$26,763 (Nevada and Sutter Counties)
- Stockton Unified Native American Indian Center/Stockton Unified School District, \$49,943 (Stockton)
- Sunday Friends Foundation, \$45,237 (San Jose and Santa Clara County)
- Tolowa Dunes Stewards/ Friends of the Dunes, \$49,700 (Del Norte County)
- TreePeople, \$49,604 (Wilmington)
- University Corporation at Monterey Bay/Habitat Stewardship Project, \$50,000 (Salinas)
- Weekend-Adventures/ San Francisco Study Center, \$19,999 (Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco)

I. MOTION AND RESOLUTION

Motion:

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

Staff Recommendation of Approval:

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

Resolution:

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

II. INTRODUCTION

The Commission's WHALE TAIL® Grants support experiential education and stewardship of the California coast and its watersheds, with an emphasis on projects engaging communities that have historically had few such opportunities. Grant projects can engage youth or adults and can take place anywhere in California. Funding sources for the WHALE TAIL® Grants Program have historically been limited to WHALE TAIL® License Plate sales and renewal fees (into the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account) and voluntary contributions to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund on the State tax form.

The FY2021/2022 State budget allocated \$10 million of General Fund local assistance funding to the Commission for WHALE TAIL® Grants, which must be encumbered by the end of FY2025. Due to the time limit on the use of these funds, the staff recommendation is that the bulk of the funding for this competitive grant cycle be from this allocation, along with a smaller allocation from the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund.

Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund

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

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

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

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

In January 2014, California taxpayers began making voluntary contributions to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund while completing their state tax returns. As of December 31, 2023, \$3,320,749 has been donated to the Protect our Coast and Oceans Fund.

Public Education Grantmaking Budget

The Commission's Public Education budget for FY2023/24 includes a total of \$2,728,073 for local assistance grants from three funds: \$2,425,369 from the General Fund allocation, \$97,000 from the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account,

WHALE TAIL® Grants

and \$205,704 from the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund. At its September 2023 meeting, the Commission voted to allocate \$441,070 to six targeted grant projects, funded with \$344,070 from the General Fund allocation and \$97,000 from the California Beach and Coastal Enhancement Account, as well as a temporary reserve of \$50,000. The remaining funds (\$2,286,875) are allocated to the competitive grants program.

The Competitive Grants Program for FY2023/2024

The WHALE TAIL® Competitive Grants Program funds projects that relate to the coast and ocean and fall into one or more of the following five funding categories:

- Youth education programs
- General public or adult programs
- Climate change education and stewardship
- Shoreline cleanup and enhancement programs (such as Adopt-A-Beach®)

Staff began publicizing the grant opportunity in August 2023. The deadline for submittal of proposals was November 6, 2023.

Competitive Grants Applicant Pool

Staff received 219 eligible grant proposals requesting a combined total of \$8,337,787. See [appendix](#) for a list of the applicants and amounts requested. Staff is recommending 60 grants totaling \$2,286,875. With a maximum grant of \$50,000 and a small grants category of \$20,000 or less, 26.7% of this year's recommended grants are small grants.

Selection Criteria

Staff evaluated proposals using the follow criteria, approved by the Commission in 2021:

1. Educational Impact and/or Environmental Improvement (25 points):

Strong proposals will demonstrate educational impact featuring the marine or coastal environment and/or improvement of coastal or marine habitats through community involvement. Strong proposals may include multiple methods and pathways for achieving positive outcomes. Examples include experiential, hands-on learning and stewardship; positive nature experiences; longer and/or repeated experiences with opportunities for reflection; age-appropriate content and delivery; strategies for long-term positive impact (which might stem from educational outcomes, or aspects such as leadership development opportunities or family involvement); and/or strong evidence for ecological need and projected improvement.

2. Purpose and Audience (25 points): Projects will be assessed on the degree to which they are connected to a specific issue, interest, and/or need (which might be educational, ecological, social, cultural, etc.). Proposals should explain the issue, interest, and/or need, and how it was identified for the project audience. Strong proposals will engage communities that have historically

received fewer marine education and stewardship opportunities, such as communities with low incomes; Black communities; Indigenous communities; communities of color; speakers of languages other than English/dual language learners; people with disabilities; foster and transition age youth; LGBTQ2S+ communities; and residents of under-resourced rural and/or inland areas.

3. Project Concept (20 points): Strong proposals will demonstrate that the project is relevant and appropriately designed for the project audience or participants and will have a reasonable budget that is clearly connected to the project goals. Projects should be ecologically responsible. The degree to which a project could potentially be continued after the grant ends, build organizational capacity, build lasting collaborations, and/or create useful tools for others in the field will be considered, as will whether it uses new or creative approaches.

4. Proposal Content and Project Implementation (30 points): Proposals should demonstrate that the concept has been fully thought out and developed into a feasible project with clear, realistic goals and objectives; a plan for reaching the intended audience; a workable project design; a clear plan for implementation; and appropriate staffing. The proposal should explain how the organization and staff is particularly suited to carrying out the project and working with the audience. A plan for tracking and assessing the project's success should be included, as should detailed and accurate cost information. A strong proposal will demonstrate how the project objectives and goals will be successfully achieved. All requested elements of the application packet, as applicable, should be included in the proposal.

III. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE WHALE TAIL® GRANT AWARDS FOR FY2023/2024

The staff recommends that the Commission fund the 60 projects described below, totaling \$2,286,875, as follows:

Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund - \$205,704 to the following five organizations:

- Elk Grove Unified School District \$47,847
- Coastside Land Trust \$40,165
- University Corporation at Monterey Bay \$50,000
- Mujeres de la Tierra \$17,692
- City of Huntington Beach Fire Department \$50,000

General Fund Allocation - \$2,081,171 to the remaining 55 organizations.

60 Project Recommendations:

1. **Acta Non Verba, \$50,000**

Project Title: Coastal Education at Camp ANV: Ocean Week & Water Safety
Engaging Communities in: East and West Oakland

Youth aged 5-11 will enjoy weekly swim lessons, coastal art projects, marine science lessons, and a field trip to the coast during a six-week summer camp in 2024 and 2025.

2. **Alpine Watershed Group, \$18,787**

Project Title: Enhancing Environmental Education in Alpine County
Engaging Communities in: Markleeville, Woodfords, and Bear Valley

K-8 students will experience classroom lessons about watersheds and their connection to the coast, climate change, and wildfire, and take two local field trips for nature exploration and stewardship activities. In partnership with Alpine County Library, a summer reading program will focus on coastal issues, and a nature investigation kit lending program will be established.

3. **Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education, \$19,998**

Project Title: Diversifying Environmental Leadership in California
Engaging Communities: Statewide

A diverse group of early career environmental educators will complete California's Environmental Educator Certification Program, receive training on water and climate science education, and design and conduct meaningful environmental action projects in their communities as part of the program.

4. **Audubon Canyon Ranch, \$35,962**

Project Title: Hugging the Shoreline - Connecting Tomales youth to the Bay in their backyard

Engaging Communities in: West Marin County

Rural elementary and high school students will enjoy day and overnight trips to the coast to learn about coastal species, geography, history, and stewardship during the 2024 and 2025 school years. High school students will collect geospatial data and work with scientists on GIS applications and present their own research during a coastal watershed science symposium.

5. **Big Lagoon Union School District, \$37,729**

Project Title: Big Lagoon Coastal Camp

Engaging Communities in: Northern Humboldt and southern Del Norte Counties

Native students will enjoy an immersive three-day coastal summer camp that celebrates the connection between the Yurok people and the surrounding land and ocean, by exploring a coastal sitka spruce forest, visiting Sue-meg Village, paddling lagoons, and learning from indigenous interpreters about Yurok life.

6. Blue Lake Union Elementary School District, \$8,000

Project Title: Environmental Stewardship & Indigenous Education Program
Engaging Communities in: Blue Lake

Sixth and seventh graders will take part in kayaking, camping, hiking, and lessons in Traditional Ecological Knowledge from local interpretive rangers and Indigenous leaders during the 2024 and 2025 school years.

7. Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marin, \$50,000

Project Title: Under the Sea Program
Engaging Communities in: Eastern Sonoma County

At eight summer camps in both 2024 and 2025, a five-day program will include fun, ocean-related activities and a field trip to the Sonoma Coast.

8. Boz Life Science Research and Teaching Institute, \$50,000

Project Title: Tijuana River Estuary Environmental Protection Student Ambassador Program
Engaging Communities in: Imperial Beach, National City, greater San Diego region

High school and college students will engage in an 11-week scientific research immersion project centered on environmental health risk assessment of Tijuana River Estuary water quality, including a formal presentation of their findings and recommendations for solutions.

9. Bret Harte Preparatory Middle School/Los Angeles Unified School District, \$48,564

Project Title: Fostering Awareness in Sustainability among Underserved Urban Corridor Youth
Engaging Communities in: South Central corridor of Los Angeles

Middle school teachers will plan and lead lessons in climate science and coastal stewardship in their classrooms, followed by their students taking part in a local beach cleanup and visiting Catalina Island for a three-day coastal science program during the 2024 school year.

10. Building Skills Partnership, \$30,000

Project Title: Environment, Exploration, and Wellness Project
Engaging Communities in: Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Orange Counties

Two community coastal stewardship events and six bilingual interpretive outings, including aquarium visits and nature walks, will engage the mostly immigrant communities of property service workers in both northern and southern California.

11. Cabrillo High School Aquarium/Lompoc Unified School District, \$50,000

Project Title: Coastal Gallery Expansion – Phase 2 Gallery Annex
Engaging Communities in: Lompoc Valley, Vandenberg, Santa Maria Valley, Santa Ynez Valley

The student-run aquarium will expand exhibit space by nearly 50% and add eight new displays focusing on climate change impacts, as they lead programming for schools throughout the region and half of the Lompoc USD student body every year, as well as for the broader community during monthly open house events.

12. Canal Alliance, \$42,700

Project Title: Canal Alliance Whale Tail
Engaging Communities in: San Rafael's Canal District

In partnership with One Tam, middle and high school students in Canal Alliance's college-readiness program will engage in seven coastal field trips, including facilitated personal storytelling and education on conservation, climate change, and outdoor access equity, with the final trip including a family celebration.

13. Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy, \$11,666

Project Title: CAUSE Building Coastal Stewardship of Youth
Engaging Communities in: Santa Maria, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Ventura

Three trips to Ormond Beach wetlands and Guadalupe Dunes will engage high school-aged youth in cultural history, natural systems, and ecological restoration, and a day-trip to the Channel Islands will offer learning in island history and Chumash and Limu traditions while enjoying a boat ride and island hike.

14. Children's Lifesaving Foundation, \$50,000

Project Title: Coastal Eco-Mariners Surf Camp Program
Engaging Communities in: Los Angeles, Mar Vista, Palms, Culver City, Pacoima

A day camp at the beach during summer 2024 will engage youth aged 8-12 years in guided surf therapy, art projects, boogie-boarding, and ocean education. LAUSD students will take part in school-year field trips to Malibu Lagoon State Beach in partnership with Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains to explore coastal habitats and marine science.

15. Cigarette Surfboard LLC / International Documentary Association, \$20,000

Project Title: From Waste to Waves: The Cigarette Surfboard Educational Outreach Program

Engaging Communities in: Northern California

An educational outreach program for a new documentary about cigarette litter, ocean mindfulness, stewardship, and surfing will visit 15 universities and community colleges for screenings and discussion.

16. City of Huntington Beach Fire Department, \$50,000

Project Title: Beach Ranger Coastal Education Program

Engaging Communities in: Oak View neighborhood of Huntington Beach

A four-week program will engage youth ages 9-17 in beach and ocean education, safety, and recreation in a version of Huntington Beach Junior Lifeguards program without a swimming skill prerequisite.

17. City Surf Project, \$50,000

Project Title: Youth Surfing

Engaging Communities in: San Francisco

Youth will enjoy one-day introductory surf experiences, week-long summer surf camps, and semester-long surf courses while developing a sense of belonging and responsibility for the coast, practicing social-emotional skills, and improving physical fitness.

18. Coalinga Huron Unified School District, \$33,300

Project Title: Oceans are for Everyone

Engaging Communities in: Huron and Coalinga

Coalinga High School students will engage in classroom learning about the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and then travel to the Islands for three days to camp, hike, snorkel, kayak, and learn about the islands' history and ecology, and then create a visual presentation on their experience.

19. Coastside Land Trust, \$40,165

Project Title: Junior Land Stewards

Engaging Communities in: Coastal San Mateo County between Half Moon Bay and Montara

An outdoor education and stewardship program will engage all 4th graders in the Cabrillo Unified School District during the 2024 school year with weekly in-class lessons and four walking field trips to coastal bluffs for habitat restoration and nature journaling. Educators will receive training in nature journaling and two high school classes will be trained to assist in field trip instruction for the 4th graders.

20. Colusa Indian Community Council, \$50,000

Project Title: Wintun Waves

Engaging Communities in: Colusa Rancheria

Students in the Council's afterschool program will enjoy three field trips from the Sacramento River to the California Coast, including a three-day camping trip in Point Reyes National Seashore, with multiple interdisciplinary learning opportunities both in the classroom and during outings to understand the importance of the river and watershed and how to be stewards of their land.

21. County Park Friends/Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks, \$42,959

Project Title: BIPOC on the BEACH!

Engaging Communities in: Santa Cruz County

Twelve bonfire events and four “coastal adventures” will build community alongside Monterey Bay while participants connect to coastal systems and watersheds, build outdoor skills, and learn cultural history from local community leaders.

22. Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians, \$50,000

Project Title: Pomo Indigenous Food Sovereignty Alliance

Engaging Communities in: Sonoma, Mendocino, and Lake Counties

Youth in Pomo and other California Native American communities will learn about coastal stewardship from an indigenous perspective through interpretive events focused on traditional harvesting, wetland restoration, ecology, and sea level rise, and through community film screenings and discussions.

23. Earth Equity, \$50,000

Project Title: Kelp Restoration from the Inside Out

Engaging Communities in: San Quentin, Eureka, and Arcata

Incarcerated adults will have weekly ocean stewardship lessons over a six-month period while a Humboldt County cohort of formerly incarcerated adults will engage in a year of weekly meetings about kelp restoration, including engaging in stewardship work, learning sustainable kelp farming job skills, and creating a business plan for an environmental justice and ocean stewardship co-op. Monthly educational workshops will engage the cohort and a wider audience of carceral system-impacted community members.

24. Elk Grove Unified School District/Monterey Trail High School, \$47,847

Project Title: Catalina Island Marine Institute Field Trips

Engaging Communities in: Elk Grove and South Sacramento

During two school years, upper division high school biology and environmental science students will attend a three-day program on Catalina Island to learn about marine ecosystems through labs, hikes, and snorkeling, followed by presentations to freshman biology classes to inspire them to continue their science education and care of the coast and ocean.

25. Escondido Creek Conservancy, \$18,965

Project Title: Interactive Watershed Model

Engaging Communities in: Escondido

An interactive model of the Escondido Creek watershed will be used during field trip programs with all 3rd grade students in Escondido USD and by other grade levels participating in Trout in the Classroom programming, by elementary-age summer camp attendees, and by the broader community while on exhibit at the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center year-round.

26. Explore Ecology, \$47,512

Project Title: Flows to the Ocean Project

Engaging Communities in: South Santa Barbara County

Fifth graders in Goleta and Santa Barbara Unified School Districts will participate in in-class lessons, beach and campus cleanups, action projects, and immersive field experiences about watershed issues, including a boat trip through Santa Barbara Channel.

27. Friends of the Dunes, \$20,000

Project Title: Inspiring Coastal Connections

Engaging Communities in: Humboldt County

Classroom presentations and field trips to coastal wetlands and dunes will teach students about coastal biodiversity, natural history, and Wiyot language and stories.

28. Hanford Elementary School District/Jefferson Academy School, \$18,029

Project Title: Be the Author of the Change You Wish to See in the World

Engaging Communities in: Hanford, Kings County

Third graders will conduct research, visit the coast on two field trips, and collectively publish a bilingual book about animal and plant life on the California coast. Students will host a publishing event to inspire the local community to care for the coast and its inhabitants.

29. Headwaters Science Institute, \$50,000

Project Title: Hands-On Marine Research Experience for East Bay Students

Engaging Communities in: Oakland and Richmond

Ninth grade classes will take part in supported, self-directed marine research projects, including a three-day research trip to Monterey Bay.

30. Inland Empire Waterkeeper, \$45,863

Project Title: Santa Ana River Watershed Education Program

Engaging Communities in: Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties

Junior high and high school students will take part in in-class workshops and a series of three field trips to explore natural spaces within the Santa Ana River watershed, including guided hikes, scientific research, and restoration activities.

31. Kashia School District, \$36,097

Project Title: World and Wilderness Youth Leadership Development Project

Engaging Communities in: Kashia Rancheria Reservation, Stewarts Point

In collaboration with the Kashia Tribal Office, a year-round environmental education and service-learning program will connect K-8 students to the coast and Kashia lands, including three multi-day outdoor education trips. Fifth through 12th graders will take part in a five-day summer camping program on the coast.

32. Kern Environmental Education Foundation, \$43,878

Project Title: Camp KEEP Sustainability & Climate Justice Project
Engaging Communities in: Kern County

This outdoor school program serving 35 districts in Kern County will integrate climate change, environmental justice, human impact on natural cycles, trauma-informed and culturally sustaining practices into existing programming, including teacher training. Learning stations and interpretive signs will be created on the Los Osos campus to model watershed health, sustainable agriculture practices, and climate connections.

33. Kids for the Bay/Earth Island Institute, \$50,000

Project Title: Watershed Action - Ocean Stewards Program
Engaging Communities in: Richmond and San Pablo

In-class lessons, community cleanups, field trips to local habitats and the ocean, and a student-led family presentation will engage 3rd through 5th graders in watershed stewardship and ocean ecology.

34. Marine Mammal Care Center Los Angeles, \$20,000

Project Title: Marine Mammal Food Chain Discovery
Engaging Communities in: Los Angeles

Development and implementation of pre- and post-trip lessons will enhance a field trip program for Los Angeles USD students to learn about marine mammals and related ecology at the Care Center.

35. MeWater Foundation, \$40,600

Project Title: Surf and Outdoor Education Camps
Engaging Communities in: San Francisco Bay Area

Over a two-year period, 50 surf and outdoor education camps will engage youth and their families in surfing, ocean safety, mindfulness, beach cleanups, storytelling, and structured discussions.

36. Mission Science Workshop/Community Initiatives, \$15,000

Project Title: Whale on Wheels
Engaging Communities in: San Francisco

In-school programs will bring an interactive whale skeleton to elementary schools to teach about whale anatomy, evolution, and conservation, allowing the students to handle and assemble the skeleton themselves.

37. Monterey Bay Aquarium, \$45,000

Project Title: Ocean Learning Adventures
Engaging Communities in: Monterey County

A five-day camp experience will connect middle school youth to Monterey Bay through kayaking, journaling, labs, and engineering projects.

38. Mujeres de la Tierra, \$17,692

Project Title: Vamos a la Playa

Engaging Communities in: Northeast Los Angeles

Platicas (conversations) will engage participants in topics related to coastal access and ocean health, followed by a fun trip to the beach including surf lessons and environmental education activities.

39. Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans Foundation, \$49,885

Project Title: ¡Vamos a la playa!

Engaging Communities in: Port Hueneme and Oxnard

Elementary and middle school students will take field trips to the coast to learn about water quality, intertidal species monitoring, and sea level rise impacts; middle school students will receive in-class presentations, participate in an outdoor leadership camp, and complete coastal volunteer work; and teachers and after-school instructors will take part in a series of professional development workshops to integrate climate, ocean, and environmental literacy into their instruction.

40. Nature Collective, \$49,976

Project Title: Student + Family Coastal Learning

Engaging Communities in: Escondido

All Escondido USD 5th graders and their teachers will engage in in-class lessons, a field trip to San Elijo Lagoon, and a conservation action project relating to their watershed and local environmental topics. Four schools will take part in additional field opportunities for students and their families to observe coastal wildlife, restore dune habitat, and explore slot canyons.

41. NatureBridge, \$50,000

Project Title: Youth Marine Science Education in the Marin Headlands

Engaging Communities in: San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Central Valley

Repairs and improvements will be made to this outdoor school's Intertidal Lab, and scholarships will support classes to attend a multi-day experience in the Marin Headlands including intertidal education, wildlife observation, and hiking.

42. New Heights Charter School, \$48,400

Project Title: Experiential Learning and Environmental Literacy

Engaging Communities in: South Los Angeles

Across two school years, 3rd through 8th graders will have multiple ocean experiences aligned with in-class learning, including kayaking, a plankton trawl, ocean sailing, a beach cleanup; and plan two ocean-based family events each year.

43. Northcoast Regional Land Trust, \$19,955

Project Title: ¡Exploremos juntos! Let's Explore Together!

Engaging Communities in: Humboldt County

Community members will enjoy structured and unstructured opportunities for hands-on restoration, interpretive tours, recreation, and cultural exchange in an event series with a focus on coastal wetlands, habitat protection, and sea level rise. The Land Trust will partner with other local community organizations and Cal Poly Humboldt students as part of 20 events.

44. Ocean Foundation/Ocean Connectors, \$45,000

Project Title: Connecting Youth for Conservation

Engaging Communities in: National City

Every National City School District school will participate in ocean programming, with classroom presentations and field trips such as whale watching, habitat restoration, and aquarium visits depending on grade. The program will expand into 8th grade for an ocean acidification unit including a kayak trip, and into high school exploring the blue economy and ocean science career pathways.

45. One Cool Earth, \$44,600

Project Title: San Luis Obispo County Watershed Education Program

Engaging Communities in: San Miguel and Shandon

K-8 students will experience year-round, watershed-focused educational opportunities including outdoor lessons, field trips to the coast, school waste audits, and sustainability leadership training. Teachers will take part in marine debris education workshops, and families and the wider community will be invited to community workdays.

46. Outdoor Outreach, \$50,000

Project Title: Coastal Education, Access, and Health Promotion for South Bay San Diego Youth

Engaging Communities in: South San Diego Bay

Middle and high school students will take part in a series of 40 coastal recreation experiences, such as biking, camping, and fishing, each with an environmental health component to prepare participants to safely repeat the experience on their own. Staff will be trained to use environmental health tools to support programs in coastal areas impacted by transboundary pollution.

47. Pacific Environmental Education Center, \$24,756

Project Title: Connecting Students to Their Local Ecosystems

Engaging Communities in: Fort Bragg

Fort Bragg Middle School 8th graders will attend a four-day overnight environmental education camp to explore their local coastal ecosystems and engage in hands-on comparative ecology.

48. Paddle for Peace, \$50,000

Project Title: Diversify Our Coast

Engaging Communities in: City Heights, Lemon Grove, Spring Valley, National City, Southeast San Diego

In-class lessons and field trips will engage elementary-age students in environmental education and equitable coastal access. Valencia Park Elementary students will take part in a four-week weekend program of surfing and beach activities. High school students will receive mentorship for leadership and surf skill development. A Juneteenth community event will welcome the public for surf lessons, games, and a beach cleanup.

49. Queer Surf/Green Cities Fund, \$50,000

Project Title: Project Ocean Access

Engaging Communities in: Los Angeles County

Scholarships will subsidize low-income adults to participate in single day and overnight surf lessons and beach programs designed for LGBTQ+ sustained ocean belonging and connection.

50. Roosevelt Middle School/Oakland Unified School District, \$46,744

Project Title: Rising Tides, Different Shores

Engaging Communities in: Oakland

Through in-class lessons, guest speaker assemblies, staff workshops, and a field trip to the coast, the entire middle school will learn about sea level rise and impacts on the local community and on international Pacific Islander communities.

51. Rosie the Riveter Trust, \$20,000

Project Title: Open Outdoors for Kids - Protecting our Waters

Engaging Communities in: Richmond, North Richmond, San Pablo

Fourth grade classes will be visited by National Park rangers, followed by a field trip to the Rosie the Riveter WWII/Home Front Historical Park to learn local history, watershed and habitat connects, and impacts on the Bay and its inhabitants caused by the proliferation of plastics during and after the war.

52. Rural California Broadcasting Corporation, \$20,000

Project Title: AWE: Awesome Women Environmentalists

Engaging Communities: Statewide

A short documentary celebrating Alcatraz Island bird biologist Lydia D'Amico will be produced and then aired on California PBS stations.

53. Scott River Watershed Council, \$20,000

Project Title: Creek to Coast: Salmonid Life History Understanding for Scott Valley Youth

Engaging Communities in: Etna, Siskiyou County

In two summer programs, participants aged 15-18 years will learn about the salmonid life cycle and local riparian restoration, and travel down their watershed to the Klamath estuary to analyze fisheries and wetland habitats.

54. South Yuba River Citizens League, \$26,763

Project Title: Salmon Expeditions

Engaging Communities in: Nevada and Sutter Counties

Third through 5th graders will experience river rafting trips during salmon spawning to learn about salmon lifecycle, watershed science, and impacts of the Gold Rush, with pre- and post-trip in-class lessons.

55. Stockton Unified Native American Indian Center/Stockton Unified School District, \$49,943

Project Title: Sovereignty, Stewardship, and Water

Engaging Communities in: Stockton

A four-week summer learning program will engage Native American students in cultural knowledge, water issues, and the interdependence of the Delta and the California coast through guest speakers, hands-on science and art, cultural practices, and field trips around the Delta and to the coast.

56. Sunday Friends Foundation, \$45,237

Project Title: Wellness in Bloom

Engaging Communities in: San Jose and Santa Clara County

A nine-month program will engage participants in predominantly Latino and Vietnamese neighborhoods in monthly education sessions featuring local government and community partners working on environmental conservation topics, a watershed cleanup event, and a family field trip to the coast.

57. Tolowa Dunes Stewards/ Friends of the Dunes, \$49,700

Project Title: Reconnection and Stewardship on the Tolowa Coast

Engaging Communities in: Del Norte County

In partnership with Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, tribal youth will participate in education, restoration, and cleanup activities along the Tolowa coast. Summer programs will engage youth and adult volunteers from multiple communities in biodiversity education and removal of European beachgrass and English ivy, and in conservation activities for special status plants and animals.

58. TreePeople, \$49,604

Project Title: Natural Connections for Kids: From Mountains to Sea
Engaging Communities in: Wilmington

A series of three field trips will take middle and high school students from local mountains to the ocean to understand watershed functions, local wildlife, and accessible stewardship actions.

59. University Corporation at Monterey Bay/Habitat Stewardship Project, \$50,000

Project Title: 4th grade - Flows to the Bay
Engaging Communities in: Salinas

Over two years, 4th graders in the Alisal School District will engage in a three-part program of hands-on watershed experiences in their schoolyard, at local creek parks, and on a beach field trip, including nature journaling, neighborhood cleanups, and wildlife observation.

60. Weekend-Adventures/ San Francisco Study Center, \$19,999

Project Title: Summer by the Sea
Engaging Communities in: Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco

Eight full-day weekend trips for youth in grades 3-8 will connect them to the coast with environmental education, outdoor skill building, physical activity, and social emotional support.