

ATTACHMENT A - SUMMARY
Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant

Background:

The Ocean Protection Council, California Coastal Commission, and State Coastal Conservancy have announced the availability of grant funding through the “Local Coastal Program Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program.” to encourage local governments and other entities to develop plans that conserve and protect coastal resources from future impacts from sea-level rise and related climate change impacts. The grant program focuses on providing funding to local jurisdictions to update their Local Coastal Plans (LCPs) and other plans authorized under the Coastal Act to address sea level rise and climate change.

Monterey Bay portions of the Santa Cruz and Monterey County coastlines, described in the Pacific Institute report as the portion of the California coast most vulnerable to coastal flooding, include Elkhorn Slough, Moro Cojo Slough and Salinas River coastal watersheds in North Monterey County; and San Lorenzo and Pajaro River, and Soquel and Aptos Creek coastal watersheds in Santa Cruz County.

Grant Application Summary:

In order to address the issues related to sea-level rise and climate change on a more regional basis, a collaborative grant application is proposed. The County of Monterey would be the lead agency, partnering with the County of Santa Cruz and the City of Capitola. Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) has offered to be a partner and assume responsibility for grant administration, project management, and coordination of the collaborative partnership.

Project Description for Grant Application:

The primary goal of the project to be funded with the grant, if awarded, is to provide Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties with improved information regarding the threats from climate change to various coastal land uses and infrastructure. The project will allow decision makers to more accurately evaluate coastal vulnerabilities in their jurisdiction and develop adaptation and protection strategies that best protect multiple interests including but not limited to public infrastructure, public and private lands, the public’s access to the coast, and the protection of coastal ecosystems.

The grant will also fund the development of a comprehensive report outlining feasible short and long-term protection and adaptation response scenarios that can be employed by land owners and the jurisdictions in the region for various climate change impact scenarios. The report will evaluate the feasibility of various protection, avoidance and retreat strategies for both urban and agricultural areas that can then be used to develop specific policy language.

Project Approach:

The region has already formed valuable partnerships and begun work to identify coastal vulnerabilities and potential for adaptation and response strategies. The requested funding will continue and expand these efforts and implement a first phase of a regional climate adaptation

alternatives analysis that was a priority action of the Climate Change Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and documented within local Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs). The funding from this grant would specifically provide for detailed investigation of alternative climate response strategies (adaptation, protection, retreat) as recommended by state guidance documents. These strategies could then be considered for inclusion in future county and city land use planning documents. In addition the grant will fund a cost-benefit analysis to better inform counties, cities and the community as to the feasibility of the recommended adaptive and protective responses for various development and land use situations.

The project will use a community-based approach, leveraging existing Monterey and Santa Cruz County climate change initiatives, to evaluate multiple response strategies appropriate for Monterey and Carmel bays that emphasize health and human safety, economic prosperity and coastal resources. This project will evaluate and make recommendations as to the most appropriate and cost-effective protection, avoidance and retreat strategies for both urban and agricultural areas. Results will be reported to resource managers and land use planners in participating jurisdictions to help frame recommended policy language and assist decision makers to better recognize the true costs of various alternative response strategies. Results will also support the development of guidance materials to support updates to general plans, local coastal plans and FEMA local hazard mitigation plans. Furthermore, the information will help participating jurisdictions establish new programs which can employ strategies in partnership with land owners to reduce emergency response to future property loss.

Primary tasks that will be funded if the grant is awarded include the following:

- Perform sea-level rise modeling, mapping, and analysis to define coastal areas vulnerable to climate change (for 2030, 2050, and 2100) necessary to define adaptive capacity of existing infrastructure and risks to new development.
- Prepare an assessment of vulnerability to sea-level rise.
- Prepare an Evaluation of Adaptation Responses.
- Determine protection and adaptation strategies most appropriate for use in the Monterey Bay region and present costs, effectiveness, longevity, and secondary implications of these select approaches.
- Work with jurisdictions, resource agencies and organizations, and the private sector to identify how adaptation strategies could be feasibly implemented within the various planning horizons.
- Draft adaptation strategies for participating jurisdictions that present strategies that best protect coastal infrastructure and minimize response costs.
- Assist participating jurisdictions in developing appropriate updates to their Local Coastal Programs and other coastal plans.

Budget Summary:

The grant application will request funding up to \$500,000. The grant would fund the tasks summarized above in addition to administrative costs including eligible grant management, project management, and coordination costs.

Grant Award Process:

These grants are intended to provide assistance to local governments responsible for adopting and amending LCPs and to other entities with authority for adopting and amending other plans under the Coastal Act. The grant applicant must be one of these entities, but partnership and collaboration is encouraged. Partners could include public agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic researchers or private contractors. Grant applications are due on July 15, 2013. There are no established minimum or maximum grant amounts. The anticipated award (min-max) is approximately \$50,000 to \$250,000 for individual municipalities or joint applications could apply for more than \$250,000. Approximately ten to fifteen total awards are anticipated over two years. Coastal Commission, Coastal Conservancy and Ocean Protection Council Staff will work together to review all applications and develop consensus based recommendations for grant awards. The Ocean Protection Council will award grants at a public meeting of the Council.