



Staff Recommendation  
February 16, 2021

## Consideration of Authorization to Disburse Proposition 68 Funds for Projects Advancing Statewide Coastal Resilience

Michaela Miller, Climate Change Sea Grant Fellow

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Staff recommends that OPC approve the disbursement of \$8,056,761 to various grantees for projects advancing statewide coastal resilience through implementation, planning and design, adaptation planning and coordination, and research, as follows:

### **\$2,957,901 for Implementation Projects:**

- 5a. \$1,667,000 to the Port of San Francisco for "Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience"
- 5b. \$1,290,901 to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for "Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration: Phase III"

### **\$784,000 for Planning and Design Projects:**

- 5c. \$339,000 to Marin County Parks for "Bollinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Project"
- 5d. \$445,000 to the City of Imperial Beach for "Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach"

### **\$3,275,170 for Adaptation Planning and Coordination Projects:**

- 5e. \$250,000 to the Wiyot Tribe for "Wiyot Climate Change Adaptation Plan Phase 1".
- 5f. \$214,500 to Orange County Parks for "South Orange County Regional Coastal Resilience Strategic Plan"
- 5g. \$607,376 to Coastal Quest for "Planning Regional Coastal Resiliency for California State Parks and Piloting in San Diego Coast District"
- 5h. \$591,813 to San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative for "Establishing a San Diego Regional Coastal Resilience Roadmap to Enable Project-Based Action and Investment"
- 5i. \$396,000 to the County of Marin Community Development Agency for "Stinson Beach ARC: Adaptation and Resilience Collaboration".
- 5j. \$440,000 to the City of Trinidad for "Trinidad Community Coastal Resiliency Planning Project"
- 5k. \$450,800 to Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) for "BEACON Regional Coastal Resilience Sediment Pilot Program"

- 5l. \$324,681 to Richardson’s Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) for “Richardson’s Bay Eelgrass Protection & Management Plan – Phase 1 Implementation”

**\$1,039,690 for Research Projects:**

- 5m. \$346,290 to University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) for “Quantifying the social and economic benefits of nature-based adaptation solutions to protect San Mateo County from storms and sea-level rise”
- 5n. \$294,798 to Audubon California for “Eelgrass Habitat Suitability Model Update for Targeted, Climate-Smart Eelgrass Restoration in San Francisco Bay”
- 5o. \$398,602 to University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) for “Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California”

**LOCATION:** Statewide; see Exhibits for more detailed project specific locations.

**STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE(S):** 1.1: Build Resiliency to Sea-Level Rise, Coastal Storms, Erosion, and Flooding; 2.1: Enhance Engagement with Tribes; 2.2: Enhance Engagement with Underserved Communities; 2.3: Improve Coastal Access; and 3.1: Protect and Restore Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.

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**EXHIBITS:**

**Item 5a: Heron’s Head Park Shoreline Resilience**

- 5a1 Project Location Map and Project Area Map
- 5a2 Notice of Exemption
- 5a3 Draft Design Plans
- 5a4 Letters of Support

**Item 5b: Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration: Phase III**

- 5b1 Project Location Map and Project Area Map
- 5b2 Notice of Determination
- 5b3 Letters of Support

**Item 5c: Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Project**

- 5c1 Project Location Map and Project Area Map
- 5c2 Letters of Support

**Item 5d: Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach**

- 5d1 Project Location Map and Project Area Map
- 5d2 Letters of Support

**Item 5e: Wiyot Climate Change Adaptation Plan Phase I**

- 5e1 Project Location Map
- 5e2 Letters of Support

## **FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION:**

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopt the following findings and direct it to file relevant notices of determination or exemption:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibit(s), OPC hereby finds that:

- 1) The proposed projects are consistent with the purposes of Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, the Ocean Protection Act.
- 2) The proposed projects are consistent with OPC's Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines, adopted May 2019.
- 3) The proposed projects address the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as follows:

**Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience:** OPC has determined that this project is a small habitat restoration project which is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to Public Resources Code section, section 15333. A Notice of Exemption (Categorical Exemption 15333) was filed with the State CEQA Clearinghouse on November 12, 2020 (Case number 2019-003714ENV). OPC has reviewed and considered this exemption and agrees that the exemption satisfies CEQA requirements.

**Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration: Phase III:** OPC has reviewed CEQA documents as follows: A Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project was prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which is the lead agency for CEQA compliance, and it was certified in August 2015. OPC staff recommends that the mitigation and avoidance measures identified in the MND (Exhibit 2b3) be adopted as a condition of OPC's approval.

**Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Project:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.”

**Wiyot Climate Change Adaptation Plan: Phase I:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**South Orange County Regional Coastal Resilience Strategic Plan:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Planning Regional Coastal Resiliency for California State Parks and Piloting in San Diego Coast District:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Establishing a San Diego Regional Coastal Resilience Roadmap to Enable Project-Based Action and Investment:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Stinson Beach ARC: Adaptation and Resilience Collaboration:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Trinidad Community Coastal Resiliency Planning Project:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**BEACON Regional Coastal Resilience Sediment Pilot Program:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Richardson’s Bay Eelgrass Protection and Management Plan: Phase I Implementation:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Quantifying the social and economic benefits of nature-based adaptation solutions to protect San Mateo County from storms and sea-level rise:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Eelgrass Habitat Suitability Model Update for Targeted, Climate-Smart Eelgrass Restoration in San Francisco Bay:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

**Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California:** This project does not trigger CEQA, pursuant to CEQA guidelines section 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies are statutorily exempt from CEQA.

Staff further recommends that OPC adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 35500 *et seq.* of the Public Resources Code:

“OPC hereby approves the disbursement of \$8,056,761 up to the following amounts to the following grantees:

- \$1,667,000 to the Port of San Francisco for “Heron’s Head Park Shoreline Resilience”
- \$1,290,901 to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation for “Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration: Phase III”
- \$339,000 to Marin County Parks for “Bollinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Project”.
- \$445,000 to the City of Imperial Beach for “Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach”
- \$250,000 to the Wiyot Tribe for “Wiyot Climate Change Adaptation Plan Phase 1”
- \$214,500 to Orange County Parks for “South Orange County Regional Coastal Resilience Strategic Plan”
- \$607,376 to Coastal Quest for “Planning Regional Coastal Resiliency for California State Parks and Piloting in San Diego Coast District”
- \$591,813 to San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative for “Establishing a San Diego Regional Coastal Resilience Roadmap to Enable Project-Based Action and Investment”
- \$396,000 to the County of Marin Community Development Agency for “Stinson Beach ARC: Adaptation and Resilience Collaboration”
- \$440,000 to the City of Trinidad for “Trinidad Community Coastal Resiliency Planning Project”
- \$450,800 to Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON) for “BEACON Regional Coastal Resilience Sediment Pilot Program”
- \$324,681 to Richardson’s Bay Regional Agency (RBRA) for “Richardson’s Bay Eelgrass Protection & Management Plan – Phase 1 Implementation”
- \$346,290 to University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) for “Quantifying the social and economic benefits of nature-based adaptation solutions to protect San Mateo County from storms and sea-level rise”
- \$294,798 to Audubon California for “Eelgrass Habitat Suitability Model Update for Targeted, Climate-Smart Eelgrass Restoration in San Francisco Bay”
- \$398,602 to University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) for “Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California”

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, all of the above-referenced grantees shall submit for the review and approval of the Executive Director of the OPC detailed work plans, schedules, staff requirements, budgets, and the names of any contractors intended to be used to complete the projects, as well as discrete deliverables that can be produced in intervals to ensure the projects are on target for successful completion. All projects will be developed under a shared understanding of process, management and delivery.”

with the Pacific Flyway”. The proposed projects are an appropriate use of Proposition 68 funds because they each will improve coastal resiliency and adaptation to climate change.

<b>Summary of Recommended Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Projects:</b>	<b>Prop 68 Funding:</b>
<b>Heron’s Head Park Shoreline Resilience</b>	<b>\$1,667,000</b>
Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration: Phase III	\$1,290,901
Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Project	\$339,000
Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project - Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach	\$445,000
Wiyot Climate Change Adaptation Plan Phase 1	\$250,000
South Orange County Regional Coastal Resilience Strategic Plan	\$214,500
Planning Regional Coastal Resiliency for California State Parks	\$607,376
Establishing a San Diego Regional Coastal Resilience Roadmap to Enable Project-Based Action and Investment	\$591,813
Stinson Beach ARC: Adaption and Resilience Collaboration	\$396,000
Trinidad Community Coastal Resilience Planning Project	\$440,000
BEACON Regional Coastal Resilience Sediment Pilot Program	\$450,800
Richardson’s Bay Eelgrass Protection & Management Plan– Phase 1 Implementation	\$324,681
Quantifying the social and economic benefits of nature-based adaptation solutions to protect San Mateo County from storms and sea level rise	\$346,290
Eelgrass Habitat Suitability Model Update for Targeted, Climate-Smart Eelgrass Restoration in San Francisco Bay	\$294,798
Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California	\$398,602
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,056,761</b>

The recommended projects were selected through a competitive process under OPC’s Proposition 68 Grant Guidelines, which were adopted in May 2019. OPC staff assembled a Proposition 68 Coastal Resilience Review Committee that consisted of OPC staff. The Review Committee scored complete eligible applications for this Proposition 68 funding round according to Scoring Criteria for Chapter 10 provided on page 16 of the Proposition

68 Grant Guidelines. After all proposals were scored and ranked, the Review Committee recommended which projects should be selected for funding. Final staff recommendation funding decisions were made by OPC's Executive Director.

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

The proposed projects have different statuses under CEQA as follows:

**5a: Heron's Head Park Shoreline Resilience:**

This project is a small habitat restoration project which is categorically exempt the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section, section 15333. A Notice of Exemption (Categorical Exemption 15333) was filed with the State CEQA Clearinghouse on November 12, 2020 (Case number 2019-003714ENV).

**5b: Elkhorn Slough Tidal Marsh Restoration: Phase III**

A Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project was prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which is the lead agency for CEQA compliance, and it was certified in August 2015.

**5c: Bolinas Lagoon Wye Wetlands Project:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA but will include preparation of CEQA documents.

**5d: Bayshore Bikeway Resiliency Project – Creation of a Coastal Resilience Corridor in Imperial Beach:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA but will include preparation of CEQA documents.

**5e: Wiyot Climate Change Adaptation Plan Phase I:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5f: South Orange County Regional Coastal Resilience Strategic Plan:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5g: Planning Regional Coastal Resiliency for California State Parks and Piloting in San Diego Coast District:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5h: Establishing a San Diego Regional Coastal Resilience Roadmap to Enable Project-Based Action and Investment:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5i: Stinson Beach ARC: Adaptation and Resilience Collaboration:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5j: Trinidad Community Coastal Resiliency Planning Project:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5k: BEACON Regional Coastal Resilience Sediment Pilot Program:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5l: Richardson’s Bay Eelgrass Protection & Management Plan – Phase I Implementation:**

This planning-only project does not trigger CEQA.

**5m: Quantifying the social and economic benefits of nature-based adaptation solutions to protect San Mateo County from storms and sea-level rise:**

The proposed project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15306 because the project involves only data collection, research and resource evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval by the OPC.

**5n: Eelgrass Habitat Suitability Model Update for Targeted, Climate-Smart Eelgrass Restoration in San Francisco Bay:**

The proposed project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15306 because the project involves only data collection, research and resource evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval by the OPC.

**5o: Evaluating Adaptation Planning in Coastal California:**

The proposed project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15306 because the project involves only data collection, research and resource evaluation activities that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval by the OPC.