



LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM PLANNING GRANTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

REVISED APRIL 29, 2014

This document contains frequently asked questions for both the Coastal Commission Local Coastal Program (LCP) Grant Program and the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) LCP Sea-Level Rise grant program. Coastal Commission grant questions are listed below, and OPC grant questions are on page 3.

Coastal Commission Local Coastal Program Grant Program

How does the California Coastal Commission (CCC) LCP grant program differ from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) LCP Sea-Level Rise grant program?

The OPC grant program is specifically for LCP updates related to sea-level rise, and multiple types of projects are eligible for funding under the program: sea-level rise modeling, vulnerability assessments, adaptation policy development, and LCP updates.

The CCC LCP grant program has a broader focus than the OPC grant program. The goal of the CCC grant program is to support the development or update of LCPs for certification by the Commission, with special consideration given to proposals that address climate change and sea-level rise. Applications for the CCC grant program should include a proposal to develop a new LCP for certification in areas that are not currently certified, or to update an existing certified LCP to reflect new information and changed conditions. See list of eligible projects on page 5 of the LCP Grant Announcement, available: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/lcp/lcpgrantprogram.html>.

How are the criteria weighted?

All of the criteria are weighted equally.

I would like to submit an application for my jurisdiction to complete and certify a LUP but not an Implementation Plan. Would this be considered an acceptable proposal according to the grant criteria?

Yes, proposals to complete and certify a Land Use Plan, and not an Implementation plan will be considered under the grant criteria, as long as the proposal clearly outlines the jurisdiction's commitment to and plan for completing and certifying the Implementation Plan in order to achieve certification. A proposal for just a LUP without such a plan to achieve certification may not be as competitive under the adopted evaluation criteria. The proposal should include an anticipated timeline and work plan for the certification of the full LCP.

When will announcements be made about the awards?

The Commission will make decisions about the grant awards at a Commission hearing in fall 2014. The hearing is set tentatively for October.

Can I discuss my draft application with Commission staff?

Yes, Coastal Commission staff recommends that you discuss your application with the relevant district staff. See pages 11-12 of the application form for contact information.

Is there a local match requirement?

There is not a local match requirement, but be sure to review the Project Integration/Leverage/Matching Funds criteria. Proposals with no matching funds and no hardship explanation could be less competitive.

Do in-kind funds count as matching funds?

Yes, in-kind funds do count as matching funds.

Can the Grant be used for Environmental Review (an EIR)?

Given that LCPs do not require an EIR, funding such work would not likely be a priority under the grant criteria. Work to conduct environmental analyses required for the LCP update could be considered priority for funding, as long as the work is clearly linked to certification of the LCP.

Can we be reimbursed for staff time, whether or not we hire a consultant?

Yes, you can be reimbursed for staff costs, regardless of whether you hire a consultant. However, the work program and budget should be clear on what tasks and costs are being requested.

Can grant funds be dedicated to fund technical studies in support of development of the LCP?

Yes, funds can be used to fund technical studies. If completed by a consultant, put this under "other" in the budget as an external contract. Be sure to be clear in the work program and budget what tasks and costs are being requested. Also, the proposal should include information on how the technical studies advance progress toward certification of the LCP.

How much focus should be on scientific analysis or technical studies as opposed to policy development?

The amount of grant funds allocated for scientific analysis and for policy development will vary depending on the individual needs of the jurisdiction, the extent to which existing analyses already have been completed, and the complexity of issues. Scientific analyses needed to support the development of a LCP or comprehensive LCP amendment can be included in grant proposals. Proposals including only scientific analyses and no focus on LCP work will not be considered a priority for funding.

What is the difference between the benchmark schedule and the work program?

The benchmark schedule is a summary schedule of the major milestones that are included in your work program. Also, if awarded a grant, the contract may use the specified benchmarks to identify deliverables or completion of work tasks for contract management.

Can jurisdictions apply for funds if they have applied for funds in previous grant rounds (assuming funds are available)?

Yes, jurisdictions can apply for funds even if they have applied for funds in previous grant rounds.

I heard that there is a 20% matching funds requirement. Is this correct?

NO, this is not correct. There is not a specific percentage requirement for matching funds. See question "Is there a local match requirement?" above for more information.

Ocean Protection Council Local Coastal Program Sea-Level Rise Grant Program

Can multiple eligible entities submit an application for a regional project?

Yes, multi-jurisdictional applications are acceptable (i.e., one entity submitting on behalf of several for a project that benefits them all). The application requires a resolution passed by the applicant (e.g., City Council, BOS) and we would at least need this for the submitting entity. For a regional application, we would also want a resolution from each of the entities who are part of the collaboration; if there is not time to get a resolution from each prior to the application due date, then send a letter signed by the Council/Board Chair with a draft resolution attached, indicating that such resolution will be provided in final form at the entity's subsequent meeting. Letters of support from other partnering entities are not required but may be submitted and could help demonstrate support and utility of a proposal.

Can joint applications for regional projects request more than the \$250K?

Multiple eligible entities could apply multiple times for the same project (for a collective cap that exceeds \$250k), or joint applications could apply for more than \$250K, but we anticipate that these grants will be very competitive and we reserve the right to award less funding than is requested based on all the applications we receive. We encourage entities to submit a joint application as described above.

Can an entity apply for more than one grant?

An eligible entity could apply multiple times for the different projects, if for example one application was on behalf of a regional effort and the second was for that city or counties specific LCP needs.

How should applications handle incorporating a regional assistance partner or private contractors?

These grants recognize that sea-level rise adaptation will require collaboration and partnership with a variety of entities. Applicants may include partners in the project proposal as long as the applicant is not violating its own contracting/grant-making authorities.

Is there a certain time period in which the grant product must be completed?

Given the funding source we are using, ideally projects would be completed by June 30, 2017.

Could the grant funds be used to purchase equipment that would allow for the further implementation of a climate change adaptation plan such as a tide gauge?

This grant program is focused on updating Local Coastal Programs (LCPs), and other plans authorized under the Coastal Act such as Port Master Plans, Long Range Development Plans and Public Works Plans (other Coastal Act authorized plans) to address sea-level rise and climate change impacts. The purpose of the grants is to deliver updated LCPs. There is nothing in the grant guidance that would prohibit a jurisdiction for applying for funds to purchase equipment but the applicant would have to make a very compelling case about how that purchase will lead to a change in an adopted LCP.

Can Caltrans or other state agencies (i.e. State Parks) be the grant applicant?

State entities could only be an applicant if they have a plan authorized under the Coastal Act (like a University Long Range Development Plan or a Public Works Plan) that they want to update or for the climate change component of a new comprehensive LRDP or PWP.

Can a jurisdiction without a certified LCP apply for the grant funds?

Proposals related to areas without a certified LCP must demonstrate that the process to complete the LCP is committed to or underway.

Does the LCP Sea-Level Rise Grant Program cover the SF Bay?

The purpose of this grant is to assist local governments and other entities responsible for planning under the California Coastal Act. Grants are limited to areas within the Coastal Commission's jurisdiction.

Are there reporting requirements and if so what is the format/process?

Progress reports will be required as will a final report. Details of the reporting requirements will be finalized in the grant agreement and its work program and will be tailored to fit the project.

Are harbor districts, as distinguished from port districts (as per Harbors and Navigation Code), also eligible to apply for SLR grant funds to update their harbor plans?

Project specific amendments are not eligible, but if a Harbor District is updating or completing a comprehensive Public Works Plan that covers an entire harbor area and not a project-specific amendment or public works project it would be eligible for these grants. If the harbor is covered in a local jurisdiction's LCP then that entity would be the applicant.