



MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council
FROM: Cyndi Dawson, MPA Policy Advisor
DATE: April 26, 2017
RE: Update on MPA Collaborative Network Charter Workshop and Small Grants Program

1. Status update on MPA Collaborative Network Charter Workshop

At the October 17, 2016 OPC meeting, the Council approved a \$299,663.70 grant to Coastal Quest to plan and facilitate, in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and OPC staff, a Marine Protection Area (MPA) Collaborative Network Charter Workshop to create a charter that formalizes the partnership with the state and to administer a small grants program for the Collaborative Network. Since the inception of the statewide Collaborative Network in 2013, the ability of the Collaboratives to aggregate local expertise to inform and support the management of the MPA network has been critical to the success of the [MPA Management Program](#)¹. The MPA Collaborative Network is made up of 14 individual Collaboratives generally associated with California’s coastal counties. The [MPA Statewide Leadership Team](#)² has recognized that as the partnership between the MPA Collaborative Network and the state has grown, there was a need to more clearly define the shared purpose, roles, and responsibilities of the partnership. The charter will allow the partnership to continue to grow and formally recognizes the MPA Collaborative Network’s significant contributions to the management of the state’s MPA network.

The MPA Collaborative Network Charter Workshop was held March 27 – 28 in Sacramento, with 42 attendees from across the state including Collaborative co-chairs and MPA Statewide Leadership Team representatives from the Ocean Protection Council, the State Lands Commission, the California Coastal Commission, CDFW, the California Ocean Science Trust, and the Fish and Game Commission, as well as the Director of the MPA Collaborative Network. The meeting resulted in the creation of a shared statement of purpose and additional language that describes the commitment of all parties to continue to work together to implement outreach and education, research and monitoring, and enforcement and compliance projects that advance the adaptive management of the MPA network. The language is currently being reviewed by agency leadership and Collaborative members and a finalized document is expected to be completed by July 2017.

2. Status update on MPA Small Grants Program

Guidelines for the small grants program have been created collaboratively with CDFW. A grant review committee is being formed and the call for proposals is on track to be released to the Collaborative Network in June 2017. Projects will be required to align with the [MPA Statewide Leadership Work Plan](#)³ and each of the 14 Collaboratives will be eligible for a \$15,000 grant. OPC is providing \$140,000 of

¹ <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/programs-marine-protected-areas/>

² <http://www.opc.ca.gov/programs-summary/marine-protected-areas/partnerships/>

³ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20150922/Item5_Attach2_MPALeadershipTeam_Workplan_FINALv2.pdf

funding and Coastal Quest secured an additional \$70,000 of matching funds from an anonymous foundation. Ongoing discussions with CDFW staff are in progress to identify opportunities, such as the California State Wildlife Grants Program, to potentially increase resources available for the small grants program.

Small Grants Program Timeline

- *June 1, 2017* – Request For Proposal (RFP) is released
- *September 1, 2017* – Proposals are due
- *November 2017* – Awards are announced