



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

Staff Recommendation

January 31, 2018

**Sediment in the Sanctuaries: Regional Action Plan Development**

Chris Potter, Program Manager

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse up to \$85,000 to the Greater Farallones Association to complete a *Sediment Management Action Plan* for the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and the Northern Management Area of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (managed by GFNMS).

**LOCATION:** The coast of Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin and Sonoma counties

**STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE(S):** The proposed project addresses Ocean Protection Council Strategic Plan Objective 11.2 (Increase the availability of data and tools that can influence sediment-related planning decisions).

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**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit A: Project Location and Site Map

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**FINDINGS AND RESOLUTION:**

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibit(s), the Ocean Protection Council 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 the Ocean Protection Council's grant program funding guidelines (Interim Standards and Protocols, August 2013).
- 3) The proposed projects are not ‘legal projects’ that trigger the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21068 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 15304 and 15306.”

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

“The California Ocean Protection Council hereby approves the disbursement of up to \$85,000 to the Greater Farallones Association to complete a *Sediment Management Action Plan* for the GFNMS and the Northern Management Area of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.”

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, the Greater Farallones Association 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.”

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The Greater Farallones Association will complete a *Sediment Management Action Plan* for the GFNMS and the Northern Management Area of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). This will be achieved by examining data gaps and identifying solutions to obstacles for protecting habitats, ensuring public access, preparing for sea-level rise, and maintaining critical infrastructure. Existing and emerging efforts for planning would be combined into the action plan to create a holistic regional approach to have cumulative benefits. It is important to note that the action plan will build upon the soon to be completed Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plans (CRSMPs) for the Sonoma-Marine Coast and the San Francisco Open Coast and the already completed Santa Cruz Regional Sediment Management Plan by focusing on actions within GFNMS and the Northern Management Area of the MBNMS that can be implemented.

**Background:** Sea-level rise coupled with coastal development will increase the impacts from flooding and erosional hazards along the California coast. Beach habitats are especially threatened and with them, accompanying public access to the ocean. The significant investment by the state establishing 25 Marine Protected Areas and by the federal government designating two National Marine Sanctuaries in the study area provides a platform to take sediment-related management actions in protected regions. To that end, the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup<sup>1</sup> (CSMW) has partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the central and north-central portion of California to explore sediment management issues over the last decade. The efforts have culminated in four Coastal Regional Sediment Management Plans (CRSMPs) that span from Sonoma to Monterey and into the central portion of San Francisco Bay. All four plans cover extensive sections of the GFNMS and the MBNMS (the central San Francisco Bay plan assumes a connection to the sanctuaries through the Golden Gate).

Most recently, GFNMS has advanced the Sonoma-Marine CRSMP towards completion with a community- and technically-based group process. The community group desires additional engagement on sediment management actions to prepare the two counties’ coastline for sea-level rise impacts. This dovetails with current efforts by the counties to update their Local Coastal Plans and addresses one of the

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<sup>1</sup> The CSMW is a statewide workgroup co-chaired by USACE and CNRA/OPC that is dedicated to protecting, enhancing and restoring California’s coastal beaches and watersheds through federal, state and local cooperative efforts.

Sonoma-Marin CRSMP recommendations to establish a taskforce focused on sediment concerns in the region.

**Site Description:** The plan will cover the jurisdiction of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Northern Management Area of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This includes the coast along Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco, Marin, and Sonoma counties.

**Project Timeline:** Implementation of the project will begin in March 2018 and will take approximately 12 months to complete. The project will produce the initial draft of the action plan six months following the project initiation. The report will be finalized six months after the initial draft based on the NOAA approval process.

**PROJECT FINANCING:**

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council authorize disbursement of up to \$85,000 to the Greater Farallones Association to complete a Sediment Management Action Plan for the GFNMS and the Northern Management Area the of the MBNMS.

Ocean Protection Council	\$85,000
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Sanctuaries	\$100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$185,000</b>

The anticipated source of funds will be from the Ocean Protection Council’s appropriation of the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84). Proposition 84 authorizes the use of funds for purposes consistent with Section 35650 of the Public Resources Code, establishing the California Ocean Protection Trust Fund (Pub. Res. Code § 75060(g)). Under Section 35650(b), Ocean Protection

Trust Fund monies may be expended for projects authorized by the OPC that are identified as appropriate Trust Fund purposes, as specified. The project is consistent with the Trust Fund purposes as discussed in the following section.

**Leverage of OPC funds:** GFNMS will cost share project staffing and plan development with computers, IT support, and access to federal staff. In addition, several agencies, including the San Mateo County Harbor District, Marin County, and the California Coastal Commission, will continue to partner with GFNMS through cost-sharing to develop sediment-related activities for the region, which will enhance the efficacy of the OPC funding.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION ACT:**

The proposed project is consistent with the Ocean Protection Act, Division 26.5 of the Public Resources Code, because it is consistent with trust-fund allowable projects, defined in Public Resources Code

Section 35650(b)(2) as projects which:

- 1) Eliminate or reduce threats to coastal and ocean ecosystems, habitats, and species.
- 2) Improve management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.
- 3) Protect, conserve, and restore coastal waters and ocean ecosystems.
- 4) Fund adaptive management, planning, coordination, monitoring, research, and other necessary activities to minimize the adverse impacts of climate change on California's ocean ecosystem.

This project will promote the activities of the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup (CSMW). The CSMW is a state-federal collaborative co-chaired by the California Natural Resources Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Work group members collaborate on planning, funding, and implementation of projects that reduce shoreline erosion and coastal storm damage, restore and protect beaches, and other coastal environments. The CSMW also focuses restoring natural sediment supply to the coast (e.g., dam removal) and optimizing the beneficial reuse of sand (e.g., harbor deepening projects).

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S STRATEGIC PLAN:**

This project implements Focal Area "Coastal and Ocean Impact from Land", the goal of which is to reduce the negative impacts of land-based activities on marine ecosystems and the state's coastal and ocean economy. Continental shelf sand resources may be utilized to rebuild beaches and assist coastal recovery from acute events such as El Niño-related storms as well as chronic erosion from currents, wave activity, tides, sea-level rise and human interventions (e.g., dams and stream channelization) that have impeded natural sediment transport along the coast.

**CONSISTENCY WITH PROPOSITION 84 (The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006; Public Resources Code §75060(g))**

The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84) provides funding for the protection of beaches, bays, and coastal waters. This project will provide coastal managers and planners with information necessary to properly and effectively protect the coast consistent with the objectives of Proposition 84.

**CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project is consistent with the OPC's Grant Program Funding Guidelines for Proposition 84 funds, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. Directly relate to the ocean, coast, associated estuaries, or coastal-draining watersheds: This project would benefit coastal communities on the coast of Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties (Exhibit A).
2. Support of the public: This project is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

3. Greater-than-local interest is demonstrated by the fact that the plan will cover the coast and coastal watersheds of five counties and two National Marine Sanctuaries.

**Additional Criteria**

4. Improvements to management approaches or techniques: This project will lead to improvements in coastal sediment management in two counties and two National Marine Sanctuaries.
5. Resolution of more than one issue: This project will identify solutions to policy and technical obstacles for protecting habitats, ensuring public access, preparing for sea-level rise, and maintaining critical infrastructure within the boundaries of the GFNMS and the northern portion of the MBNMS. These obstacles can range from sourcing sediment inside the sanctuaries to detailing research plans for estuarine environments.
6. Leverage: This project is being leveraged with funding from NOAA (\$100,000).
7. Timeliness: Timely funding of this project would sustain the momentum of the community-based working groups and emerging projects at Surfers Beach, Stinson Beach, Estero Americano, Estero de San Antonio, Gleason Beach, Bolinas graben/Duxbury Reef, and coastal watersheds along Sonoma and Marin counties. This proposal would also capitalize on the current capacity of GFNMS to be a lead partner and convene agencies and community members. Development of the plan in early 2018 would ensure consistency with the intentions of stakeholders and current state of science knowledge used to develop the CRSMPs.
8. Coordination: The primary outlet for project coordination will be GFNMS. The CSMW, which is co-chaired by the OPC/CNRA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, would be a secondary outlet.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

The proposed project is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("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.