



Staff Recommendation

May 23, 2019

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Enforcement Projects

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$4,030,697 from Once-Through-Cooling Interim Mitigation Program funds to various grantees to increase marine life associated with MPAs as follows:

- 3.c.1: \$498,435 to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) to conduct outreach and education to increase the awareness and stewardship of California's MPA network;
- 3.c.2: \$2,532,262.00 to the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) to enhance efforts to improve compliance of MPA regulations statewide through community-based efforts; and
- 3.c.3: \$1,000,000 to Coastal Quest to administer a competitive small grants program to increase MPA outreach and education products statewide.

LOCATION: Statewide

STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE(S): 8.1: Support effective implementation of MPAs consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) through strategic partnerships. 8.2 Coordinate MLPA implementation with other ocean management agencies to improve management effectiveness.

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), 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 the adopted State Water Resource Control Board's Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling.
- 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, section 15378."

Staff further recommends that 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 the following amounts to the following grantees to increase marine life associated with MPAs:

- \$498,435 to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to conduct outreach and education to increase the awareness and stewardship of California's MPA network;
- \$2,532,262.00 to the Resources Legacy Fund to enhance efforts to improve compliance of MPA regulations statewide through community-based efforts; and
- \$1,000,000 to Coastal Quest to administer a competitive small grants program to increase MPA outreach and education products statewide.

This authorization is subject to the condition that prior to disbursement of funds, the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund, and Coastal Quest shall submit – for the review and approval by OPC's Executive Director – 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 SUMMARIES:

These outreach and compliance projects aim to offset the harmful effects to marine and estuarine life resulting from once-through cooling technology used by coastal power plants by increasing awareness of and compliance with MPA regulations and understanding of human uses inside and outside MPAs to inform law enforcement priorities, consistent with OPC's Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Interim Mitigation Program¹. The first project continues the momentum achieved from two previous grants with CMSF to increase awareness and stewardship of California's MPA network through outreach, the creation of educational materials, and promotion of available resources that highlight MPA boundaries and regulations. The second project utilizes RLF's coordinating role and matching funds to enhance compliance of MPA regulations statewide through community-based efforts and analyses of MPA human use data collected through community science efforts. The third project provides funding to Coastal Quest to administer a competitive small grants program, in coordination with OPC staff, to increase MPA outreach and education efforts statewide, with matching funds to assist projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

These projects and identified grantees were selected by OPC staff in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) based on statewide needs identified in the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan², the MPA Education and Outreach Needs Assessment Survey³ (MPA Needs Assessment), and years of partnership and successful collaboration with the proposed grantees and sub-grantees.

BACKGROUND:

Once-through cooling technology pulls water from the ocean to cool coastal power plants. Marine animals, seaweeds, and billions of eggs and larvae of fish and invertebrates are taken in with the seawater and killed as they are subjected to thermal, physical, and/or chemical stresses. Larger organisms may also be pinned against seawater intake screens, causing injury or death. These impacts contribute to the decline of fisheries and the degradation of marine habitats near power plants using once-through cooling. To address these damaging impacts, the State Water Resources Control Board established the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling Policy⁴ (Policy) in 2010 requiring power plants to stop using OTC technology. Until power plants transition to less harmful cooling systems, the policy requires power plant owners and operators to make mitigation payments to the state of California to support projects

¹ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20171101/Item6_OTC_November_1_FINAL.pdf

² http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20181025/Item4a_Exhibit%20A_MSLT-Work-Plan-Design-FINAL_10.15.18.pdf

³ <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-mpa-education-and-outreach-needs-assessment>

⁴ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/cwa316/docs/otcpolicy_2017.pdf

that will offset negative ecological effects and increase in marine life associated with MPAs in the geographic area of the facilities. OPC receives up to \$5.4 million annually from the payments made by the ten power plants still using OTC technology until they come into compliance with the policy.

To offset the negative impacts of OTC on coastal environments, California's MPAs must be ecologically functioning as a network, which requires effective MPA management. OPC's Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (Program) prioritizes mitigation payment investment through four categories to ensure effective management of the MPA network: 1) enforcement, 2) outreach and education, 3) research and monitoring, and 4) restoration. The recommended projects address two of OPC's Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program priority investment categories to ensure effective management of the MPA network:

1) Enforcement of MPA regulations statewide.

Enforcement of relevant MPA regulations is specifically mentioned in the MLPA as essential to ensure a successful MPA network that has the best chance to achieve the ecological goals in the Marine Life Protection Act. Recurring poaching of marine life in MPAs decreases diversity, populations, and reproductive output, and can therefore affect an ecosystem's ability to recover from or mitigate negative impacts.⁵

2) Outreach and education to improve compliance of MPA regulations statewide.

Outreach and education to the public is a critical component of establishing and maintaining compliance with MPA regulations. Improved public awareness of MPA regulations can serve as OTC impact mitigation because it increases protection of marine life within MPAs, which in turn maximizes the expected ecological benefits from these areas.⁶

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

3.c.1: \$498,435 to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to conduct outreach and education to increase the awareness and stewardship of California's MPA network with the goal of increasing marine life associated with MPAs

⁵ IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) (2008). Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks—Making It Happen. Washington, D.C.: IUCN-WCPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy. 118 p.

<http://www.wwf.eu/?146682/Establishing-Marine-Protected-Area-Networks-Making-It-Happen>

⁶ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1657v5d.27>

CMSF proposes a three-year project to leverage the benefits gained from two previous OPC-funded grants related to MPA education efforts. This grant would represent Phase 3. This project will: (1) proactively engage, educate, and inform the recreational fishing community and charter fleet stakeholders about MPA boundaries and regulations to increase compliance and enforcement; (2) provide tourism and ocean business outlets with MPA stewardship and educational content; (3) amplify MPA messaging through coordinated social media campaigns; and (4) analyze and evaluate the success of OPC's investment in various MPA outreach efforts across the state.

CMSF completed Phase 1 of this project in February 2019. The deliverables from Phase 1, which included creating an MPA Outreach Resources Library⁷ and generating the MPA Needs Assessment⁸ to inform future outreach efforts, made great progress to advance the goals of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan.⁹ Phase 2 began in April 2019 to disseminate information about MPA boundaries and regulations to commercial and recreational fisherman before the 2019 summer fishing season through outreach efforts, advertisements, and content development for webpages and educational materials. Phase 3 – this project - will build on and advance the progress made in Phases 1 and 2, and continue the momentum achieved over the past several years in coordination with CDFW and OPC to increase the awareness and stewardship of California's MPA network. Phase 3 will focus on the gaps identified in the MPA Needs Assessment, which highlighted the need for additional outreach to the recreational fishing community and charter fleets. Through proactive outreach, collaboration, and distribution of MPA resources to anglers, harbors, marinas, and interpretive centers, CMSF has established a strong rapport with key partners in fishing communities. CMSF is well suited to continue addressing recommendations identified from the MPA Needs Assessment.

Specific objectives and deliverables of this project include:

- Address key challenges to inform and engage the recreational and charter fishing community to increase MPA compliance and enforcement.
 - CMSF will research and design effective displays, trainings, and informational materials to best communicate MPA regulations to fishing communities. These materials will be exhibited at priority locations which will be identified based on where these displays will have the largest impact on the intended audience. Along with these materials, CMSF will engage in

⁷ <http://bit.ly/MPAResourcesLibrary>

⁸ <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-mpa-education-and-outreach-needs-assessment>

⁹ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20181025/Item4a_Exhibit%20A_MSLT-Work-Plan-Design-FINAL_10.15.18.pdf

outreach at various events to communicate MPA regulations directly to the fishing communities.

- Address strategic audience needs at ocean recreation businesses and high-impact interpretive centers.
 - Working with the California Department of Parks and Recreation, CMSF will research and design effective displays, educational materials, and information sessions to best communicate MPA conservation messaging with MPA maps, and to build MPA capacity statewide. CMSF will develop a schedule for potential interpretive outreach in each California county to be distributed to OPC's MPA partners for use.
- Develop and implement a statewide MPA social media campaign that will highlight success stories and provide context for the 2022 MPA management review.
 - CMSF will create social media content packets for Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter with information on the California MPA network in individualized posts that OPC's MPA partners can post throughout the year.
 - CMSF will spearhead this social media campaign by organizing and coordinating these efforts with OPC's partners.
- Implement a statewide evaluation plan to measure effectiveness, progress, and success of all MPA implementation activities identified in the MPA Needs Assessment.
 - This will include creating a database to track MPA education needs into the future, specifically needs for trainings and social media, as well as a written report on their findings.
- Finish the remaining MPA webpages intended for educational use and MPA outreach, which will be publicly available through CDFW's website.
 - During Phase 1 and 2, CMSF created content for webpages of select MPAs, to be uploaded to the CDFW website. During Phase 3, CMSF will research and devise content for webpages for the remaining MPAs, containing information such as MPA regulations, history, cultural significance, and leisure activities.

About the Grantee:

The California Marine Sanctuary Foundation is a non-profit organization that was established in 1995 to support the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries and California's statewide network of MPAs. CMSF works to advance the understanding and protection of coastal and ocean resources through community outreach and education on a statewide scale. OPC has partnered with CMSF on numerous MPA-related projects over the past several years including a complex effort to install over 300 interpretive signs for public use along the entire coast of California.

Project Timeline:

This is a two-year project expected to end by June 2021.

3.c.2: \$2,532,262.00 to the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) to enhance efforts to improve compliance of MPA regulations statewide through community-based efforts

Resources Legacy Fund proposes a three-year project, the MPA Compliance Initiative (Initiative), to enhance compliance of MPA regulations statewide through community-based efforts. This Initiative will support two sub-grantees as key partners to promote MPA compliance: MPA Watch¹⁰ and the MPA Collaborative Network¹¹. MPA Watch is a community science program that trains volunteers to collect scientific data on coastal and marine resource use, such as recreational activities, fishing, and other consumptive and non-consumptive activities in and around MPAs. The MPA Collaborative Network is made up of 14 regional Collaboratives along the California coast that helps ensure stakeholders have a voice in MPA management through a bottom-up, localized, and participatory approach to enhance understanding and compliance of MPA regulations and instill a sense of stewardship for California's MPAs.

Improved compliance statewide enhances the productivity of MPAs and increases marine life in the geographic region of OTC facilities and throughout the entire MPA network. This Initiative supports improved compliance through the following specific objectives and deliverables:

- Develop a statewide curriculum and complete 14 enforcement trainings for allied agencies over three years, and launch a pilot MPA patrol program with City of San Diego Lifeguards.
 - In close coordination with OPC and CDFW's Law Enforcement Division (LED), RLF will provide strategic direction and administer funding to the MPA Collaborative Network as a sub-grantee to carry out trainings to inform enforcement officers from allied agencies – such as city lifeguards, peace officers, and county officials – about MPA regulations and the cite authorities they may have, and to foster a closer collaboration with CDFW LED. Several published studies note the importance of robust enforcement to

¹⁰ <https://mpawatch.org/>

¹¹ <http://www.mpacollaborative.org/>

performance of MPAs^{12,13}. Studies also show the value of engaging allied agencies to help enforce MPAs.¹⁴

- RLF will provide a sub-award to the City of San Diego Lifeguards for a two-year pilot program to add patrols of MPAs, as able within its authority, and receive and share data from these patrols with OPC and CDFW LED. The pilot program will help identify other local government agencies that can authorize new or additional MPA patrols, addressing a goal identified in the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan.
- Develop and distribute a statewide curriculum for judicial and prosecutor training about MPAs.
 - RLF will oversee work by and administer funds to the MPA Collaborative Network and the California District Attorneys Association. Deliverables will include the production of a single statewide training video, as well as a distribution plan for the training curriculum and the video. The development of all materials will incorporate CDFW LED review and approval and addresses a significant need in the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan. All materials will be shared and uploaded onto CNRA's Open Data Platform to be widely accessible and used.
- Host workshops statewide to recommend ways to identify gaps in MPA compliance and then fund projects that address the issues to improve compliance.
 - Each workshop will convene collaborative members, local representatives of enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and relevant education, scientific, fishing, and tribal organizations to discuss compliance issues in local MPAs and recommend ways to address the issues including but not limited to targeted enforcement efforts and development and distribution of focused outreach materials and programs. In consultation with OPC, CDFW LED, and CDFW's Outreach and Education Department, RLF will administer grants of \$10,000-\$30,000 to select participating organizations or collaboratives to carry out actions or projects identified in workshop recommendations. OPC funds will support projects within the geographic region of the OTC facilities from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, and RLF's matching funds will support projects north of San Luis Obispo to ensure statewide coverage.

¹² Di Franco, Antonio & Thiriet, Pierre & Di Carlo, Giuseppe & Dimitriadis, Charalampos & Francour, Patrice & Gutierrez, Nicolas & Jeudy De Grissac, Alain & Koutsoubas, Drosos & Milazzo, Marco & Del Mar Otero, María & Piante, Catherine & Plass-Johnson, Jeremiah & Sainz-Trapaga, Susana & Santarossa, Luca & Tudela, Sergi & Guidetti, Paolo. (2016). Five key attributes can increase marine protected areas performance for small-scale fisheries management. *Scientific Reports*. 6:38135.

¹³ Graham J. Edgar, et al, (2014). Global Conservation Outcomes Depend on Marine Protected Areas with Five Key Features, 506 *Nature* 216.

¹⁴ Maxwell, Sara, Ban, Natalie, & Morgan, Lance. (2014). Pragmatic approaches for effective management of pelagic marine protected areas. *Endang. Species Res.* 26: 59-74.

- Support shore and boat-based MPA Watch programs to conduct community science data collection efforts on human uses inside and outside MPAs, and fund a postdoctoral fellow at UC Davis to analyze 10 years of MPA Watch data.
 - OPC funds will support five existing MPA Watch programs from San Diego to Santa Barbara, and RLF's matching funds will support four existing programs from Marin to Del Norte and two new programs in the Central Coast to establish data collection statewide.
 - RLF will coordinate with the MPA Watch Statewide Coordination, OPC, and the UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science to develop a scope of work and funding for an 18-month postdoctoral fellow to analyze 10 years of MPA Watch data and prepare a report to inform the MPA network review presented to the Fish and Game Commission in 2022.

These projects will lead to increased public awareness and compliance with MPA regulations, resulting in enhanced marine life associated with MPAs in the geographic region of the OTC facilities. RLF will significantly increase the impact of OTC program funds by matching subgrants for this project with philanthropic funds. RLF will also donate all staff time to this effort as an in-kind contribution so that OTC funds can be directed to support strategic subgrants to partner organizations, including nonprofit organizations, tribes, and local agencies. RLF will coordinate, convene, advise, and administer grants to these organizations and will share relevant information with OPC, CDFW, and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team.

The geographic scope of this project is statewide. OPC funding will support geographically targeted activities from San Luis Obispo to San Diego, including locally-based MPA Watch programs and outreach projects designed to address compliance issues in the geographic vicinity of OTC facilities. To help ensure statewide impact of the entire compliance initiative, RLF will provide its own philanthropic funds to support specific activities included in this proposal that are locally-based and occurring north of San Luis Obispo, including MPA Watch programs, workshops designed to identify specific local compliance issues, and targeted implementation grants for outreach projects outside the geographic region to achieve statewide coverage.

About the Grantee:

Resources Legacy Fund is a non-profit organization that works closely with philanthropists to achieve conservation outcomes related to land, ocean, and water resources as well as climate change resilience. RLF has been a close partner with OPC for several years and its team has brought their deep experience, expertise, and connections to make significant advancements in MPA management through the MPA Statewide Leadership Team. RLF

has invested more than \$17 million of philanthropic funding to strengthen implementation of California's MPA network, support creation of the statewide MPA Watch and MPA Collaborative networks, and bolster key monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement projects and programs. Past RLF grants have also supported creation of extensive statewide outreach and educational materials, including brochures for harbors and marinas, videos, docent trainings, and a range of MPA education programs including those focused on disadvantaged communities, tribes, and youth at organizations.

Project Timeline:

This is a three-year project expected to end by June 2022.

3.c.3: \$1,000,000 to Coastal Quest to administer a competitive small grants program to increase MPA outreach and education products statewide

OPC staff recommend funding Coastal Quest to administer a competitive small grants program to increase MPA outreach and education products statewide. The competitive grant program will last two years, and Coastal Quest will administer small grants ranging from \$25,000 - \$100,000, for a total of \$1 million and up to 18-25 individual grants. Funds can be awarded to public agencies (including local, state, and federal), public or private universities, nonprofit organizations, private entities, federally recognized tribes, and California Native American tribes listed on the Native American Heritage Commission's California Tribal Consultation List. The small grants projects, which will be 18 months in duration, will support efforts to increase marine life associated with the state's MPAs in the geographic region of the OTC facilities by increasing outreach and education efforts to improve compliance with MPA regulations statewide, in alignment with OTC Interim Mitigation Program.

The grant program will target small projects that have significant value for the state, by developing replicable methods and increasing local capacity through project implementation. Coastal Quest has secured \$300,000 of matching funding to prioritize grants that support disadvantaged communities across the state and could provide capacity-building support to those communities. Funded projects will align with the MPA Needs Assessment, the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan, and the OTC Program's Award Guidelines.¹⁵ Grant program funding will be directed toward projects that obtain desired outcomes that could include, but are not limited to:

- Additional, consistent signage and messaging installed at key entry points to MPA beaches.

¹⁵ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2018/10/OTCAwardGuidelines_OceanProtectionCouncil_FINAL.pdf

- Trainings for docents at visitor and interpretive centers in or near MPAs.
- Physical and electronic outreach materials in multiple languages such as brochures, pamphlets, posters, and websites that provide information about fishing regulations and interesting ecological and cultural history facts.
- Videos for websites, local hotels, and visitor centers with a high production value and beautiful imagery to inspire and educate the public about MPAs and what is and is not allowed inside them.
- Activity booklets, field trips, and class curriculum about MPAs for K-12 school programming.
- Shore-based, pier-based, and open ocean-based programs to reach the fishing community in the field with compact and waterproof outreach materials in several languages.
- Projects created by and for the benefit of traditionally marginalized or underserved communities that utilize and enjoy California's MPA network.

Coastal Quest, in close coordination with OPC and CDFW's Outreach and Education Department, will prioritize projects that could bring about the following outcomes: 1) increased public understanding of MPA regulations resulting in increased ocean stewardship, engagement, compliance, and leadership, 2) reduced illegal take of marine life in MPAs, and 3) increased diversity of stakeholders engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences such as the recreational fishing community.¹⁶

Coastal Quest is uniquely positioned to help OPC achieve impact through the OTC small grants program with its deep experience working with the MPA collaboratives, disadvantaged communities, and other organizations addressing MPA and coastal issues in California. Coastal Quest administered OPC's pilot MPA small grants program in 2018-2019, which awarded \$10,000 of OPC funding plus an additional \$5,000 of matching funds secured by Coastal Quest for a total of \$15,000 awarded to each MPA collaborative to produce MPA outreach products.¹⁷ The program was hugely successful with dozens of valuable deliverables such as children's activity books, fishing guides, and tribal history products now available. This grant program will scale up the funding available and expand the eligibility by making this a competitive call, and not limiting it only to the MPA collaboratives. Coastal Quest will provide administrative assistance to OPC staff including but not limited to:

- Drafting the call for proposals and scoring guidelines.
- Facilitating meetings with the grant review committee.

¹⁶ *California MPA Education and Outreach Needs Assessment* (September 2018), California Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

¹⁷ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20161017/4k_Collaboratives_CoastalQuest/Item4k_OPC_MPA%20CollaborativesGrantsProgram.pdf

- Conducting outreach to and providing technical assistance for potential disadvantaged community applicants.
- Executing grant agreements and managing grantee reporting.
- Managing fund disbursement.

About the Grantee:

Coastal Quest is a non-profit organization that was established in 1999 to efficiently and effectively deploy expertise and knowledge from around the world to enhance sustainable coastal resource management. Coastal Quest's approach is solution-oriented and strives to promote innovation and partnership to create vibrant and resilient coastal communities and ecosystems. Coastal Quest also serves as a clearinghouse for data, research, and analysis, much of which is available for public use. In addition to administering OPC's first round of small grants last year, Coastal Quest played an integral role in the creation of a MOU¹⁸ to formalize the working relationship between the MPA Collaborative Network and the MPA Statewide Leadership Team to better reflect local knowledge related to MPA management to inform advice given by the Leadership Team.

PROJECT FINANCING

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council authorize encumbrance of up to \$4,030,697 in total to the three organizations listed below to support projects that enhance outreach and enforcement efforts to increase compliance of MPA regulations statewide:

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation	
Ocean Protection Council	\$498,435.00
Resources Legacy Fund	
Ocean Protection Council	\$2,532,262.00
Matching funds	\$1,602,269
Coastal Quest	
Ocean Protection Council	\$1,000,000.00
Matching funds	\$300,000.00
OPC FUNDS TOTAL	\$4,030,697.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$5,932,966.00

¹⁸ http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2018/01/Final_MPA_CN_MOU_AllSignatures.pdf

The anticipated source of funds will be from Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program funds that are deposited into the Ocean Protection Trust Fund. These funds are derived from payments made by power plants still using OTC technology until they come into compliance as mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling.

Leverage of OPC Funds

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation: This project leverages information and expertise as well as advances momentum garnered from two previous OPC-funded grants to CMSF to develop OPC's MPA Outreach and Education Improvement Program (MOEIP). CMSF completed Phase 1 of MOEIP in February 2019. Phase 2, funded through the delegated authority of OPC's Executive Director, began in April 2019 to effectively disseminate important MPA information ahead of the 2019 summer fishing season. The deliverables from Phase 1 and 2 made great progress to advance the outreach and education goals of the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan. The projects proposed in Phase 3 would leverage the total of \$395,573 of OPC funding that was previously awarded to CMSF for Phases 1 and 2.

Resources Legacy Fund: RLF secured a 60% match in additional funding and staff time to ensure that OPC's once-through cooling funds could be leveraged statewide. RLF's matching funds allow for projects to be expanded in the northern half of the state above Big Sur, which is beyond the geographic region of the power plant facilities. Matching funds also cover necessary staff time, travel, and meeting costs that are critical for a comprehensive program but would have otherwise been unfunded.

Coastal Quest: Coastal Quest secured a 30% match in additional funding to ensure that OPC's once-through cooling funds could be leveraged statewide and that adequate assistance could be provided to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

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:

- Improve management, conservation, and protection of coastal waters and ocean ecosystems
- Provide monitoring and scientific data to improve state efforts to protect and conserve ocean resources

CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S STRATEGIC PLAN:

These projects implement Focal Area C: Sustainable Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems. Specifically, these projects will support effective management and implementation of MPAs consistent with the Marine Life Protection Act through partnerships between State agencies and their stakeholders.

CONSISTENCY WITH THE OPC'S GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING GUIDELINES:

The proposed projects are consistent with the program plan as presented at the November 1, 2017 OPC meeting. The projects are also consistent with the priorities that are identified on the OTC Interim Mitigation Program Award Guidelines which were approved by the Council at the October 25, 2018 OPC meeting.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):

The proposed project is not a 'legal project' that triggers the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21068 and Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, section 15378. If it were determined to be a 'legal project' under CEQA, the proposed project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15306 because the project involves only public outreach and education activities associated with California's MPA network and does not have the potential for resulting in a physical change in the environment. Staff will file a Notice of Exemption upon approval by the OPC.