

Marine Protected Area Outreach and Education Small Grants Program, Round 3

Letters of Support

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December 14, 2021

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express ACORN Partners in Education's strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Our project was funded through the Small Grants Program Round 2 and allowed our organization to further develop our environmental stewardship program, Students Protecting the Coast, in the following ways:

- Provided field studies with elementary students, including select classes from all four of the local elementary schools, to the Point Arena-Stornetta Lands which serves as a gateway to the Point Arena MPAs.
- Facilitated a community art project with students at the Arena Cove to highlight the kelp forests.
- Developed a Naturalist Guide, Field Study Lesson Plans, and Field Journal to support marine education with local youth.
- Created a brochure highlighting the Naturalist Guide for public distribution at local trailheads.

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Our organization is very supportive of this important work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JK', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jennifer Ketring
ACORN Director

February 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

On behalf of the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, I would like to express our strong support to authorize funding for Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to disperse to Coastal Quest to administer the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By continuing to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs;
and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged,
including both traditional and non-traditional
audiences as well as underserved audiences
(i.e. recreational fishing community)

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation made incredible connections with the recreational angling community by:

- ❖ Creating a video series for recreational anglers, reaching 375,300 unique social media users. Videos were viewed more than 100,000 times in their entirety by anglers in California.
- ❖ Engaging over 15,000 anglers with the video series and associated MPA information
- ❖ Developing trusted relationships with recreational angling communications channels and ambassadors.

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

Results and lessons learned from the Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation is highly supportive of funding to support impactful projects. As recipients of the funding, CMSF has been able to actively engage in dialogue with the angling community, helping to clarify misinformation and strengthen critical relationships. California Marine Sanctuary Foundation videos on compelling fishing topics were viewed more than 100,000 times and continue to spur conversation on important fisheries management topics. We hope OPC continues to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,

Rikki Eriksen, Ph.D. Director of Marine Programs
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

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December 22, 2021

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education
Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members,

I am writing to express Crystal Cove Conservancy's strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program) and the organizations, businesses, and communities working alongside them.

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Crystal Cove Conservancy received funding to expand our flagship MPA Science Cruise, a program developed, iterated, and assessed in partnership with the University of California, Irvine and run in partnership with Newport Landing Sportfishing, a commercial fishing and whale watching enterprise. Our MPA Science Cruise engages middle and high school students first in the classroom developing an understanding of the issues affecting ocean health, then on the water in Crystal Cove's State Marine Conservation Area on a commercial fishing vessel outfitted for environmental monitoring (or because of the current state of the world, virtually). Nearly three-quarters of these students join us from lower-income communities, and for most it's their first opportunity to be on the water.

Coastal Quest recognized the impact such a program can have, not just on the thousands of students from lower income communities who participate, but on the way environmentally focused organizations can work together with industry and communities to improve understanding of Marine Protected Areas.

The Coastal Quest team is deeply invested not just in the success of the program but in learning together as we explore new ways to increase the care and stewardship of our oceans with diverse communities. The team at Coastal Quest worked with us to ensure our project would have significant and lasting impact beyond those who participated directly during a global pandemic that impacted

every part of our work and theirs. Together, we expanded our MPA Science Cruise program, adapted it for virtual learning, and developed a guide for other communities and organizations to replicate the success we've seen.

Beyond our work, the impact the projects funded through the Small Grants Programs to support outreach and education is already being felt and is sure to carry forward for years to come. We're excited to see the intended impacts already happening:

- + Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- + Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- + **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- + Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences like the recreational fishing community)

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- + Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- + Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- + Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned with Coastal Quest administering the Small Grants Program Rounds 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Their support of our project, their availability to support adaptations to address the current pandemic and virtual learning, and their commitment to creating engagement between and among their grantees sets Coastal Quest apart in the funders' landscape. Coastal Quest has brought their team's decades of experience working on California MPA management to bear as they've administered Rounds 1 and 2 by working with NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders to build MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, and importantly, Coastal Quest has strong governance, much-needed neutrality, and real accountability in administering funds effectively.

Crystal Cove Conservancy is very supportive of this important work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,



Kate Wheeler
President & CEO

Examples of impact from individual projects from the current Small Grants Program include

- **2,730** hours of in-school engagement with Title 1 students.
- Creation of a video about MPA regulations, viewed more the **140,000** by recreational boaters and anglers
- Distribution of MPA regulation reference cards to more than **5000** boaters statewide.





January 4th, 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express the MPA Collaborative Network's strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences (i.e. recreational fishing community)

The past portfolio of Small Grant Program funded projects awarded to MPA collaboratives and managed by Coastal Quest resulted in a diverse array of locally driven MPA outreach and education projects including but not limited to videos, brochures, kids coloring and activity books, online training modules, educator toolkits and standards-aligned curriculum. These MPA Collaborative projects are unique in that they are volunteer-led and are collaborative by design, engaging a diverse array of stakeholders and partners in all phases of the project. This approach maximizes the potency and effectiveness of small grant funding by sharing and leveraging resources across Collaborative members. For example, the current Small Grants Program funded a joint project by the San Luis Obispo and Monterey MPA Collaboratives to update, print, and distribute bilingual MPA coloring and activity books. Through the power of the Collaborative Network, at least 49 people contributed to the development of the resources while all 14 collaboratives and at least 141 additional partners have assisted in distributing over 78,000 printed hard-copy books across the state.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Statewide Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged



communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Collaborative Co-Chairs and project leads have noted how well Coastal Quest has run the Small Grants Program in the past and our organization is very supportive of this important work. We hope that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program so that volunteer stakeholders, Tribal representatives, and other partners can continue to engage with MPA management at the local level through these funded projects.

Sincerely,

Calla Allison

Calla Allison

Director, MPA Collaborative Network

calla@mpacollaborative.org

(858) 735-5945



January 5, 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Our organization was fortunate enough to receive an OPC Small Grant for which we started a program that brought Elkhorn Slough and local kelp forests in Monterey Bay to 2,311 students and teachers in Monterey Bay, Santa Cruz, Alameda and Sacramento Counties. A staggering 83% of students reached through our program, Team OCEAN Tours, were from Title 1 schools. Our project, like other projects funded through the Small Grants Programs, conducted outreach and education to our future decision-makers that will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences (i.e. recreational fishing community)

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of students (like our project's 2,311 students), community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Our organization is very supportive of this important work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,

Ginaia Kelly

Chapter Director

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Foundation**

P.O. Box 1182, Santa Cruz 95061

(831) 359-7071

ginaia@marinesanctuary.org

www.montereybayfoundation.org



January 5, 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express Nature Collective's support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **volunteer and ambassador capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences (i.e. students who attend Title 1 schools).

Examples of impacts from current Small Grants Program include:

- **2,730 hours** of engagement with Title 1 students

PO Box 230634 Encinitas, CA 92023-0634 | T 760.436.3944 | naturecollective.org

501(c)(3) Tax ID: 33-0358660 | Printed on recycled paper.

- Creation of a video about MPA regulations, viewed more than **140,000** recreational boaters and anglers.

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, low-income communities that are traditionally left out of the conversation, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Our organization is very supportive of this important work and hopes that Ocean Protection Council chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,



Doug Gibson, Executive Director
Nature Collective

February 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express Ocean Discovery Institute's strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences (i.e. recreational fishing community)

Specifically, through the support of the Small Grant Program managed by Coastal Quest, Ocean Discovery Institute was able to teach 995 students, from the low-income urban community of City Heights in central San Diego, about MPA's. We successfully provided 4,850 hours of 100% tuition-free MPA-related curriculum to students who would have little to no exposure to these topics if it were not for this grant program.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Working with Coastal Quest, especially in the midst of a pandemic that has ravaged the community we serve, was critical in Ocean Discovery's ability to meet our students' escalating needs. Even before COVID-19, young people from low-income communities were being excluded from experiences to build ocean literacy, stewardship, and leadership. The pandemic has only exacerbated these challenges. Because of the commitment and flexibility provided by Coastal Quest, we were able to provide tuition-free opportunities our students so desperately needed.



Our organization is very supportive of this important work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SF", followed by a horizontal line.

Shara Fisler, Founder & Executive Director,
Ocean Discovery Institute



Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express Save Our Shores' strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program). Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences (i.e. recreational fishing community)

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Examples of impact from individual projects from the current Small Grants Program includes:

- **2,730** hours of in-school engagement with Title 1 students.
- Creation of a video about MPA regulations, viewed more the **140,000** by recreational boaters and anglers
- Distribution of MPA regulation reference cards to more than **5000** boaters statewide.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Our organization is very supportive of this important work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Emily Pomeroy – Program Manager
Save Our Shores





January 1, 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express my organization's Shark Stewards in behalf of the Golden Gate Marine Protected Area Collaborative strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences (i.e. recreational fishing community)

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Examples of impact from individual projects from the current Small Grants Program includes:

- **2,730** hours of in-school engagement with Title 1 students.
- Creation of a video about MPA regulations, viewed more the **140,000** by recreational boaters and anglers
- Distribution of MPA regulation reference cards to more than **5000** boaters statewide.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually



through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Our organization is very supportive of this important work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,

David McGuire, Director Shark Stewards, Earth Island Institute
Co-chair Golden Gate MPA Collaborative
2150 Allston Way, Suite 460
Berkeley CA 94704



February 2022

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express The Bay Foundation's (TBF) strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences (i.e. recreational fishing community).

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program-funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of community members, recreational fisherman, recreational boaters, and youth throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways. For example, as a recipient of the Small Grants Program in 2020, TBF created an animated video about MPA regulations viewed more than 140,000 times by recreational boaters and anglers. Additional highlights to our project were the distribution of MPA regulation reference cards and educational materials to more than 5,000 boaters statewide, and the incorporation of MPA information in southern California Dockwalker Trainings for the Dockwalker Program's foreseeable future, among others.

Coastal Quest's communicative, supportive, and professional demeanor made for an impactful and successful project from beginning to end. The dynamic results from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic.

The Bay Foundation is very supportive of this valuable work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,

Tom Ford
Chief Executive Officer
The Bay Foundation

December 13, 2021

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary for Natural Resources
Chair, Ocean Protection Council
California Natural Resources Agency

RE: Support Coastal Quest for Administration of the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3

Dear Chair Crowfoot and Council Members:

I am writing to express WILDCOAST's strong support of the authorization of funding by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) to Coastal Quest for the administration of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program Round 3 (Small Grants Program). By supporting Coastal Quest to continue to administer the Small Grants Program, OPC will help further the goals of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program (the OTC Program).

WILDCOAST, founded in 2000, conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and addresses climate change through natural solutions. Through the establishment and management of protected areas, the advancement of conservation policy, and the direct engagement of local communities in stewardship projects, WILDCOAST is helping to conserve more than 38 million acres of some of the most ecologically important coastline, wetlands, islands, and marine wilderness in the world. With the support of Coastal Quest, WILDCOAST has been able to reach hundreds of students and community members, primarily from Indigenous and underserved communities, through hands-on, MPA programming. This included training over 50 members from Tribes as MPA Watch volunteers, to collect valuable human use data in and around MPAs in California.

Projects funded through the Small Grants Programs support outreach and education that have and will:

- Increase **ocean stewardship**, engagement, compliance, and leadership;
- Increase **docent and educator capacity**;
- **Reduce illegal take** of marine life in MPAs; and,
- Increase **diversity of stakeholders** engaged, including both traditional and non-traditional audiences as well as underserved audiences (i.e. recreational fishing community)

The past portfolio of the Small Grant Program funded projects managed by Coastal Quest engaged tens of thousands of students, community members, and recreational fisherman throughout the state to support the goals of the OTC Program in fun, innovative, and impactful ways.

Examples of impact from individual projects from the current Small Grants Program includes:

- **2,730** hours of in-school engagement with Title 1 students.
- Creation of a video about MPA regulations, viewed more the **140,000** by recreational boaters and anglers
- Distribution of MPA regulation reference cards to more than **5000** boaters statewide.

Coastal Quest's proposal for the Small Grants Program Round 3 proposes to continue with the following successful approaches:

- Identifying and securing private matching funds;
- Designing and administering a grant-making process (solicitation, review and selection, fund allocation, and reporting) that meets shared grantee and MPA Leadership Team goals; and
- Providing technical assistance and capacity building support to nonprofit organizations and disadvantaged communities to apply for, match funds, and complete successful projects.

The results and lessons learned from Coastal Quest administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, informs how to administer a large-scale Small Grants Program, including reaching target audiences effectively and virtually through a global pandemic. Coastal Quest's team has decades of experience working on California MPA management, administering Small Grants Program Round 1 and 2, working with NGOs, disadvantaged communities, California Tribes, and key stakeholders building MPA stewardship and compliance. In addition, Coastal Quest possesses strong governance, neutrality, and accountability in administering funds effectively.

Our organization is very supportive of this important work and hopes that OPC chooses to support Coastal Quest as the administrator of the Small Grants Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AKemsley', with a stylized, flowing script.

Angela Kemsley
Conservation Director
WILDCOAST