

WEST COAST GOVERNORS'  
AGREEMENT on OCEAN HEALTH  
CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

October 5, 2010

***RE: West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health guidance regarding the competitive National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Regional Ocean Partnership federal funding opportunity.***

Dear Colleagues:

In June of 2010, the national Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (OPTF) issued their final recommendations ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF\\_FinalRecs.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf)). One of the nine priority recommendations is focused on implementing comprehensive, integrated, ecosystem-based coastal and marine spatial planning (CMSP) and management in the United States.

On September 15, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a federal funding opportunity (FFO), which is posted at (<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=57212>). This announcement was largely in response to extensive efforts by the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health (WCGA) and other Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROPs), as well as the Coastal States Organization, to secure a common source of funds for ROPs. NOAA has developed a vision for how those dollars, subject to Congressional appropriation and direction, could be competitively distributed. These funds would implement ROP priorities, advance CMSP, and provide support for existing ROPs. The deadline to submit proposals for funding is December 10, 2010.

The NOAA FFO designates the WCGA, a regional partnership recognized by the federal government, as the existing ROP for California, Oregon, and Washington. The WCGA was created by Governors Schwarzenegger, Kulongoski, and Gregoire in 2006 to identify and take action to address environmental and economic concerns along the West Coast. The Governors, joined by federal partners (Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, and Environmental Protection Agency), developed a comprehensive action plan in 2008 to address these concerns. This summer, the WCGA released a series of on-the-ground implementation work plans, developed by Action Coordination Teams comprised of tribal governments, agency representatives, and stakeholders (non-governmental organizations, community groups, etc.) from throughout the region, to implement the 2008 action plan.

The FFO is "intended to support development or implementation of regional ocean governance priorities that also advance the objectives detailed in the OPTF's national CMSP Framework" and states that "each proposal must directly involve or include a letter of support or endorsement from the lead ROP for each region."

The timeline to respond to the FFO is short. The WCGA, building on our experience within the region, and working closely with West Coast tribes and the Pacific Fishery Management Council, intends to submit a proposal to NOAA. This will be accomplished by:

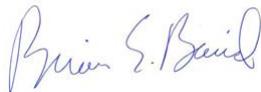
- reviewing our existing priorities and Action Coordination Team work plans;
- engaging stakeholders on *region-wide* priorities;
- identifying critical CMSP authorities and capacity needs that help address gaps for advancing region-wide planning;
- fostering dialogue; and
- hosting a workshop in each state to begin creation of a coordinated CMS Plan for the West Coast.

An additional key task will be to discuss how to structure a representative planning body to coordinate our work on CMSP. We will provide status updates for all tasks on the WCGA web page at [www.westcoastoceans.gov](http://www.westcoastoceans.gov).

In the next several weeks, please contact WCGA Coordinator Lisa DeBruyckere at [lisad@createstrat.com](mailto:lisad@createstrat.com) if your entity is interested in participating in a November workshop to identify region-wide priorities that link to CMSP. Our goal is to keep you informed and engage you as an active participant throughout this process.

We look forward to all of us working together to sustain healthy oceans and coastal communities along the West Coast. Thank you for your interest in this opportunity.

Sincerely,



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Jessica Hamilton Keys  
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