**CA Ocean Protection Council**

**MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program**

**Webinar #2: *RFP Informational Overview***

**7/20/17 from 10:00-11:00am PDT**

**7/25/17 from 5:00-6:00pm PDT**

**Attendees:** Calla Allison, Brian Baird, Haylee Bautista, Heather Burdick, Julie Bursek, Patricia Clark-Gray, Linda Chilton, John W. Corbett, Rikki Eriksen, Jenny Foca, Kaitlin Gaffney, Armand Gonzales, Phyllis Grifman, Tova Handelman, Kristen Hislop, Hilary Holt, Isabelle Kay, Cristaine Livsey, Leandra Lopez, Michele Luna, Cara O’Brien, Lauren Oudin, Cory Pukini, Michael Quill, Joe Tyburczy, Kathy Weldon, Theo Whitehurtst, Tegan Hoffmann, Jennifer Lam, Alyssa Dykman

**7/21 Webinar Recording** - Please visit the following link to download and view the recording of the webinar (note: viewing on the browser will only show a 15 minute preview of the recording): <https://www.dropbox.com/s/fkyru0jxk2t50li/OPC_Webinar2_RFPOverview_072117.mp4?dl=0>

MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program Overview

* Using funds from Proposition 84 (the Safe Drinking Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act, passed in 2006), California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is funding the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative Network Small Grants Program. The focus on the MPA Collaborative Network Small Grant Program is addressing the four focal areas of the State’s [MPA Management Program:](http://www.mpacollaborative.org/) outreach and education; research and monitoring; enforcement and compliance; and policy and permitting. Projects need to fit into at least one of the focal areas listed above, have a strong MPA focus, and show direct benefit to the MPA Management Program; the [MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan FY 15/16-17/18](http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20150922/Item5_Attach2_MPALeadershipTeam_Workplan_FINALv2.pdf) is an excellent resource for Collaboratives to look at priority MPA projects for the State. Each Collaborative is eligible to receive a grant of up to $15,000. Collaboratives may choose to partner on projects and jointly apply for single grants larger than $15,000 (e.g., Collaboratives A, B, and C apply to complete a single, coordinated project for up to $45,000). A total of $210,000 dollars will be distributed under the grant program over two rounds of funding (more information on this to follow). Grantees will be awarded a one-year grant (starting on 12/1/2017 and ending on 12/31/2018). Applications must be submitted by a Collaborative Co-Chair, however, any Collaborative member can work on the application. Up to 25% may be built into the grant budget to cover administrative overhead expenses (i.e., expenses related to the operations of the Collaborative as a whole and administration of the grant for the project, and which are not directly tied to specific program goals, objectives, or outcomes).
	+ A participant asked for clarification about administrative overhead – Coastal Quest clarified Collaboratives cannot charge ‘double overhead’ if they choose to provide sub-awards from their grant from the MPA Small Grants Program.
* Applications must be submitted on the provided application forms and with all requested attachments via email to Coastal Quest (info@coastal-quest.org) by 11:59pm (PDT) on September 1. Collaboratives are encouraged to contact Coastal Quest and OPC for any project inquiries throughout the proposal process, including preliminary concepts, draft applications, etc. Collaboratives can send Coastal Quest preliminary concepts and draft proposals for feedback up to August 14. [Coastal Quest](http://www.coastal-quest.org/) is a non-profit organization that is the grant recipient from OPC. As the implementing partner of Coastal Quest, Blue Earth Consultants, a Division of ERG, is assisting OPC with building capacity of the California MPA Network, including developing a network Memorandum of Understanding and coordinating the MPA Small Grants Program.
* **Link to the RFP:** <http://www.coastal-quest.org/?page_id=1071>

State Wildlife Grant Program: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW)

* [The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) Program](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Grants/State-Wildlife-Grants), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provides federal grant funds to state fish and wildlife agencies for developing and implementing programs that benefit wildlife and their habitats, including species that are not hunted or fished. Congress appropriates SWG funds on an annual basis. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) uses SWG grants to develop and implements its’ [State Wildlife Action Plan](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/SWAP), which identifies wildlife “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” and prescribes actions to conserve these species and their habitats before they become more rare and costly to conserve. SWAP is a comprehensive, statewide plan for conserving the state’s fish and wildlife and their vital natural habitats. [California’s SWAP](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/SWAP/Final) was recently updated in 2015 and includes a chapter on the State’s [Marine Province](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=109215&inline) (volume 1, chapter 5.7). The Marine Province chapter provides specific conservation goals, strategies, and actions for addressing potential pressures that affect the State’s embayments, estuaries, and lagoons. More-detailed coordination plans in line with and beyond the recommendations identified in SWAP are presented in nine sector-specific (e.g., energy, forest and rangelands, marine resources) [Companion Plans](https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/SWAP/Final/Companion-Plans). The [Marine Resources Companion Plan](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=136127&inline) provides an overview of California’s marine resources sector, as well as prioritized pressures, strategies, and collaboration opportunities specific to the sector. Marine resources priority strategy categories include: data collection and analysis; law and policy; and management planning. Collaboratives may choose to align their project(s) with the SWG Program and SWAP Marine Resources Companion Plan priorities, and potentially apply for matching funds through the SWG Program. In conjunction with the SWG Program, the MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program is a potential opportunity for Collaboratives’ to leverage more funds and have a greater impact. In the past several years, the SWG program has provided California between $2-3 million per year, of which a portion is allotted for the publicly solicited grant program. While there is not a per-project funding limit, the highest project awarded was around $600,000. As a note, matching funds of at least 35% of the project costs are required for SWG grants, and must be from a non-federal fund source. SWG Program funds are administered according to the federal fiscal year (i.e., begin in October and end in September). While the 2018 SWG Proposal Solicitation Notice (PSN) it not yet publicly available, it is likely to follow the same format and timeline as past years (proposal deadline of October 31). Accordingly, Collaborative members can reference the [2017 SWG PSN](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=132275&inline).

Opportunities for Collaboration

* The webinars allotted time for Collaboratives to discuss potential collaboration opportunities. Discussion points from both webinars included:
	+ Calla Allison shared the [MPA Collaborative Network website](http://www.mpacollaborative.org/) could develop and add a high-level summary of potential Collaborative projects for the MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program, in order to help facilitate communication among Collaboratives, increase awareness and understanding of potential projects, and to avoid potential duplication of efforts.
	+ Tova Handelman offered to assist Collaboratives with facilitating communications with other state agencies (e.g., California Fish and Game Commission), if needed for Collaborative projects. Feel free to contact Tova by phone (916.653.6598) or email (Tova.Handelman@resources.ca.gov).
	+ The San Luis Obispo MPA Collaborative is considering submitting a proposal with one of their partners, the Morro Bay National Marine Estuary. This project may include the production of materials that can be used by other Collaboratives, such as a children’s activity guide and restaurant placeholder.
	+ The Monterey MPA Collaborative shared they may want to develop outreach materials for the general public (e.g., brochure). Tegan Hoffmann noted that Collaboratives should think strategically about what the MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program proposal outlines (e.g., the purpose and outcomes of potential project products) and build upon existing education and outreach materials produced by Collaboratives (rather than duplicating work). For more information, please reference the [MPA Collaborative Network website](http://www.mpacollaborative.org/resources/) and the [California MPAs website](http://californiampas.org/).
	+ The San Diego MPA Collaborative is thinking about incorporating [MPA Watch](http://www.mpawatch.org/) into their project, as well as beach-ready training cards for tide pools and teacher tool kits.
	+ Rikki Eriksen shared there are already several great resources on mobile cart sources and that other Collaboratives are considering developing teacher tool kits. Calla noted she hopes to organize a statewide Collaborative call in the near future to discuss projects of statewide interest (e.g., teachers kit and children’s activities). Leandra Lopez will follow up with Phyllis Grifman and Michael Quill regarding more information about these calls.

Wrap-up and Next Steps

* Fall Workshop Topic: Funding and Financing Streams
	+ During the last webinar in June on Lessons Learned, participants prioritized “funding (and financing streams)” as a top priority for the Fall Workshop. This includes “out of the box” funding streams, as well as utilizing traditional grant funding. Blue Earth will follow up with Collaboratives shortly to gather input on the desired format and content of future workshops.
* August 14: Send preliminary project concepts and draft proposals to Coastal Quest for feedback. Coastal Quest will try to provide a week turn-around time for feedback.
	+ Collaboratives should feel free to contact Coastal Quest via email (info@coastal-quest.org) or telephone(510.268.8207).
* September 1: Proposals due

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