

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of State Lands

Bay Watershed Education and Training Program

Analyst: Linda Gilbert

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Education for \$60,000 for Bay Watershed Education and Training Program Grant.

Recommendation: Authorize the agency to submit a federal grant application for \$60,000, with the understanding that if the grant is awarded the Department will request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation during the 2014 Legislative Session or from the Emergency Board.

Analysis: NOAA makes grant funding available for the Bay Watershed Education and Training program. The Department's South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR), is applying for funding to develop coastal education modules and provide training workshops for 60 teachers. In turn, this effort will support aquatic and marine engagement and education for 1,500 K-12 students. The costs cover a temporary coordinator, travel for teacher participants, and workshop supplies. In addition, SSNERR would contract for website updates, training workshops in two locations, and an independent program evaluator. The Department has received similar grants in three previous years.

The application request is for \$60,000. While no match is required, the Department would partner with the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon Sea Grant, and the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology to demonstrate to NOAA the support these efforts attract.

NOAA announced the competitive grant March 20, 2013 with an application deadline of April 23, 2013. NOAA expects to announce successful grantees by late summer. Should the Department be awarded funding, work would begin in October 2013 and end by September 30, 2014.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approving the request to apply for \$60,000 from NOAA with the understanding that if the grant is awarded the Department will request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation during the 2014 Legislative Session or from the Emergency Board.



Oregon

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April 8, 2013

State Land Board

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Legislative Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

John A. Kitzhaber, MD
Governor

Kate Brown
Secretary of State

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Ted Wheeler
State Treasurer

Letter of Request to Apply for a Federal Grant

The purpose of this letter is to seek authorization from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the Department of State Lands (DSL) and the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) to submit an application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Education for a one-year, \$60,000 NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program Grant. This is the fourth year of funding in the Pacific Northwest for this program. There are no match requirements for the B-WET grant.

Agency Action

The notice of federal funding availability was made on March 20, 2013. The department made a final decision to apply for the grant on April 4, 2013. The deadline to submit on-line applications for the grant is April 23, 2013.

Background

The SSNERR has been awarded funding through the B-WET program in three prior years; 2009, 2010, and 2012. Similar to past applications, the purpose of the grant is to provide funding for an educational project that promotes professional development for teachers that will result in a more meaningful watershed educational experience for children in grades K-12. This grant opportunity provides funding to support further development of the Oregon Coastal Education Program (OCEP), a partnership supported by the Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Oregon Sea Grant, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators to promote coastal and marine education in Oregon schools.

NOAA B-WET is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. Funded projects provide meaningful watershed educational experiences for students, related professional development for teachers, and will help support regional education and environmental priorities in the Pacific Northwest and other

regions of the country. These new geographic areas are intended to build upon the successes of existing B-WET programs in the Chesapeake Bay, California and Hawaii.

OCEP will work to disseminate a set of exemplary educational modules designed through previous B-WET grants to incorporate best teaching practices using a combination of classroom-based, distance learning, and coastal field experiences. The proposed project will build on previous work by the partnership to enhance use of coastal and marine education through connections with the recently developed Next Generation Science Standards that Oregon is in the process of adopting. Furthermore, OCEP will integrate coastal education modules developed by the project with the work of new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) centers throughout the state.

In addition to its role as the recipient of the grant funds that will be provided for this partnership, SSNERR will require position authority for a part-time Education Program Specialist for the period of the grant. All other FTE needs will be met through contractual arrangements with the partners.

When the final application is submitted, DSL will provide copies to the Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Fiscal Office. The award period for this grant is October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. If the grant application is successful, the agency will seek necessary limitation from the Emergency Board during the interim.

Legislation Affected

Chapter 412, Section 2(3), Oregon Laws 2011

Thank you for your interest and assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Wickham at 503-986-5227.

Sincerely,



Mary M. Abrams, Ph.D.
Director

- Cc: Richard Whitman, Governor's Office
Josh Goldberg, Secretary of State's Office
Michael Selvaggio, Treasurer's Office
Lisa Pearson, DAS CFO
Linda Gilbert, Legislative Fiscal Office
Cyndi Wickham, Finance and Administration