

Department of State Lands
Bay Watershed Education and Training Program

Reported out of Subcommittee on 4/16/2013

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval of the submission of a federal grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the amount of \$60,000 for a Bay Watershed Education and Training Program grant.

Grant funds are designed to develop coastal education modules and training workshops for teachers. In turn, this effort supports aquatic and marine education and engagement for 1,500 K-12 students. The Department has received similar grants in three previous years.

The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve would administer the grant. There is no match required. No new positions are needed. The grant covers one temporary, part-time coordinator. If South Slough is awarded the grant, the Department will return to the 2014 Legislative Session for federal funds expenditure limitation.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval.

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.