



CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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MEMORANDUM

TO: California Ocean Protection Council

FROM: Drew Bohan, Executive Policy Officer, Ocean Protection Council

DATE: June 14, 2007

RE: OPC Funding Guidelines Update

ATTACHMENTS: [Revised Ocean Protection Council Funding Guidelines](#)

REQUESTED ACTION

Staff recommends that the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) amend the OPC Funding Guidelines to require applicants to evaluate what steps can be taken to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their projects, amend language regarding OPC's competitive grantmaking process, and clarify application requirements.

SUMMARY

On November 28, 2006, the OPC adopted the Ocean Protection Council Funding Guidelines that set forth the process by which interested parties can apply for OPC funding. Staff proposes the following four changes to the guidelines for the reasons stated below.

1. Climate change – On Page 3, staff proposes that the OPC add the following application requirement, consistent with the June 14 OPC resolution on climate change:

Climate change: Describe your efforts to consider the potential for your project to generate greenhouse gas emissions, and what steps you have taken to reduce those emissions.

Applicants will be required to identify efforts they are making to reduce climate impacts. Those applicants who are unable to eliminate or reduce greenhouse gas emissions will not be penalized. Rather, this proposal is designed simply to require applicants to think about how they can reduce impacts and to tell the OPC about any reductions they are able to make.

2. Competitive grants – The section on Page 2 of the guidelines has caused some confusion among applicants for OPC funding. The guidelines state that OPC will attempt to follow a particular schedule (beginning in September) when allocating funding through competitive grants. This schedule is not needed. Rather, staff can establish a schedule for any given competitive grant round and so indicate on the OPC's Web site.

3. Project Budget – On Page 3, applicants are required to submit a project budget. The proposed amendment would make it clearer that applicants must provide a detailed budget.

4. Non-Profits – On Page 3, non-profit applicants are required to submit articles of incorporation, evidence of charitable status, a list of board members, and a recent financial statement. The proposed amendment would delete this requirement and instead indicate to applicants that they should be prepared to share this information but they need not do so when they submit their application.