Brief summaries of projects under consideration by the Ocean Protection Council at the June 29, 2016 Council meeting

OPC 1st solicitation under the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Proposition 1)

Please refer to the staff recommendations posted to the OPC website for additional details about the projects: http://www.opc.ca.gov/2016/06/ocean-protection-council-meeting-wednesday-june-29th-2016/

Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation: Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Low Impact Development and Stormwater Outfall Improvement Project

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $974,000

Project Summary: The project will upgrade existing stormwater infrastructure to use best management practices and natural systems to reduce polluted runoff from entering the Pyramid Point Marine Conservation Area (20 miles north of Crescent City). The project will utilize inlet filters, infiltration chambers, permeable pavements, biofilters, vegetated bioswales, and improved stabilization of the outfall located on the bluff adjacent to the beach. The Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation participates in traditional fishing practices at the adjacent beaches, making pollution control critical.

City of Trinidad: Trinidad Citywide Low Impact and Development (LID) Planning and Construction Project

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $771,500

Project Summary: The proposed project seeks to implement a city-scale stormwater retrofitting that includes low impact developments (i.e. rain gardens, infiltration systems, bioswales, etc.) to capture run-off and reduce pollution more effectively. Another component of the project includes measures to encourage residential low impact development, including construction of a demonstration project. Other elements include development of an ocean-friendly gardening guide and an incentive program to cover the cost of LID supplies for homeowners. The Trinidad Head Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) is the eventual outfall for most of the city's runoff, and the project is expected to reduce the quantity of stormwater reaching the ASBS by about 3.2 cubic feet per second during a 50 year storm.

Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservation District: Shelter Cove Fish Cleaning Station Remediation

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $228,072

Project Summary: Currently the fish cleaning station in Shelter Cove is a simple table/sink feature with a gravity driven pipe to an adjacent cove (an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)). Fish waste has historically accumulated in the adjacent ASBS causing substantial problems to the water quality and wildlife (specifically brown pelicans).The proposal is for a substantial upgrade to the station to eliminate discharge into the ocean by 1) removing appropriate fish pieces to sell as bait, 2) using remaining fish byproduct to sell as fertilizer, 3) connecting the drain at the cleaning station to city wastewater line for treatment. The project includes the installation of freezer units and appropriate infrastructure to accomplish fish cleaning.

Humboldt County Resource Conservation District: Connecting a Tributary in the Salt River Coastal Watershed

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $372,000

Project Summary: Restoration of 2.5 miles of Salt River channel and riparian floodplain to connect Williams Creek tributary. Project will install 90 in-stream wood structures, plant riparian and wetland species over 47 acres, and build upon other work that has restored 4.2 miles of channel. Due to sedimentation in the channel, adjacent farmland regularly floods and prevents the passage of fish (including Coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout). This project would alleviate the flooding issues and provide habitat and passage for several fish species.

Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc: Completing Core Objectives of the Moro Coho Enhancement Plan

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $1,334,030

Project Summary: In 2014 a failed tidal gate at Moss Landing Marine Harbor drastically changed the saltwater mixing of the Moro Coho Slough area. This project will construct a tidal weir, purchase a final private parcel (35 acres), transfer it to the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, and restore the parcel with native plants. With the improved saltwater management and land agreements, this project seeks to provide substantial habitat and water quality improvements to a recently distressed ecosystem.

Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON): Santa Barbara County Debris Basin Removal

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $539,000

Project Summary: The project includes removal of two antiquated debris basins on Rattlesnake and San Ysidro Creeks (Santa Ynez Mountains, Santa Barbara). The debris basins no longer function and they prevent sediment supply and steelhead migration. After removal of the debris basins, restoration efforts will promote native riparian habitat and sustainable watershed management. There are plans to remove three other debris basins over the next 10 years to restore sediment transport and fish habitat in the area.

The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara: North Campus Open Space Coastal Wetlands Restoration

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $1,000,000

Project Summary: A component of a very large effort to restore 106 acres of the former Devereux Slough to a natural wetland and watershed setting. The proposal for OPC funded work is for 8 acres of estuarine and transitional wetland habitat. This includes removing fill from a golf course, seeding of native plants, and installation of appropriate bridges and boardwalks. The larger project already has substantial funding from CNRA Urban Greening, CDFW GHG sequestration, CDFW Prop 1, USFWS/SCC, and CalTrans.

State Coastal Conservancy: Cardiff Beach Living Shorelines Project

Amount of funding under consideration: up to $2,195,932

Project Summary: The project would restore 5 acres of dune habitat and widen the beach at Cardiff State Beach in Encinitas. Specifically, the current non-engineered revetment will be modified to appropriate specifications and buried with sand which will be seeded and planted. The project would provide protection to vulnerable segment of Pacific Coast Highway 101 while also providing habitat for native plants and birds. The project also provides benefits to the ongoing restoration work in the San Elijo Lagoon.