



**INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**TO:** California Ocean Protection Council

**FROM:** Tova Handelman, Sea Grant Fellow

**DATE:** January 31, 2018

**RE:** Update on Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network Memorandum of Understanding and Small Grants Program

**1. Update on MPA Collaborative Network Memorandum of Understanding**

At the October 17, 2016 meeting, the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) approved a \$299,664 grant to Coastal Quest to develop and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the [Marine Protected Area \(MPA\) Statewide Leadership Team](#)<sup>1</sup> (Leadership Team) and the MPA Collaborative Network. The grant also required Coastal Quest, under the direction of the Leadership Team, to administer a Small Grants Program to the Collaborative Network that specifically addresses priorities in the Leadership Team Work Plan (see Section 2). The Collaborative Network is made up of 14 Collaboratives associated with coastal counties that aggregate local experts and stakeholders to encourage participation, collaboration, and information exchange that supports the success of the [MPA Management Program](#)<sup>2</sup>. As the partnership between the Collaborative Network and the State has grown, there was a need to more clearly define the shared purpose, roles, and responsibilities of the partnership through an MOU. The MOU formalizes the partnership between state entities with significant authority or mandates associated with California’s MPA network and the Collaborative Network. The MOU formally recognizes the Collaborative Network’s significant contributions to the management of the MPA network and will strengthen this partnership.

The MPA Collaborative Network MOU Workshop was held on March 27 – 28, 2017 in Sacramento, with 42 attendees from across the state including Collaborative Network co-chairs and Leadership Team representatives from the Ocean Protection Council, State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Ocean Science Trust, and the Fish and Game Commission, as well as the Director of the Collaborative Network. The meeting resulted in the creation of a shared statement of purpose and additional language that describes the commitment of all parties to continue to work together to implement outreach and education, research and monitoring, and enforcement and compliance projects that advance the adaptive management of California’s MPA network. The final MOU was signed by all Collaborative Network co-chairs and Leadership Team member agencies and organizations in July 2017. The West Coast Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.opc.ca.gov/programs-summary/marine-protected-areas/partnerships/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/programs-marine-protected-areas/>

has not yet been able to secure clearance for a signature on the MOU due to current federal priorities; however, its leadership and staff have written a letter of support and will continue to pursue a final signature for the MOU while working under the intent of the MOU in the interim.

## 2. Update on MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program

With the executed MOU in place, the MPA Statewide Leadership Team launched its first ever Small Grants Program for the Collaborative Network. An expert grant review committee made up of Leadership Team representatives was formed and the call for proposals was released to the Collaborative Network in June 2017. Projects were required to align with the [MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan](#)<sup>3</sup> and each of the 14 Collaboratives was eligible to receive a \$15,000 grant. OPC provided \$140,000 of funding and Coastal Quest secured \$70,000 of additional funds from an anonymous foundation.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Collaborative Network co-chairs and staff, OPC, and Coastal Quest, all 14 Collaboratives submitted successful proposals over two rounds of review and all projects were accepted. The Del Norte, Humboldt, and Mendocino Collaboratives, as well as the Catalina and Los Angeles Collaboratives, took the opportunity to work together to share financial resources, volunteer time, and ultimately, the finished products that will come from their projects. Several projects from other Collaboratives have strong potential to be shared widely beyond their individual counties and further their impact along the coast. Projects range in scope and topic, including children's activity books, educational brochures on fishing regulations within MPA boundaries, MPA educational events, and training and outreach to state and local partners. Some projects incorporate the knowledge and leadership of local tribes, and many projects have multi-lingual components. A short summary of each Collaborative's projects is listed below.

The Small Grants Program runs for one year and all projects will be completed by the end of February 2019. OPC and Coastal Quest will be working closely with the Collaborative Network staff and co-chairs throughout the year to support their needs and assist in the success of the projects. The Small Grants Program will further strengthen the relationship between the State and the Collaborative Network, and demonstrate the unrivaled contribution and value of the Collaboratives' expertise and efforts to support California's MPA network in achieving the goals of the MPA Management Program.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda\\_items/20150922/Item5\\_Attach2\\_MPALeadershipTeam\\_Workplan\\_FINALv2.pdf](http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20150922/Item5_Attach2_MPALeadershipTeam_Workplan_FINALv2.pdf)

**MPA Collaborative Network Small Grants Program Summary**

*Del Norte:*

Establish the MPA Watch program in Del Norte and Humboldt counties; develop a classroom curriculum focused on tribal knowledge of ocean management and stewardship to be incorporated in the Humboldt and Mendocino Collaboratives' MPA Teaching Boxes.

*Humboldt:*

Create MPA Teaching Boxes together with the Mendocino Collaborative and incorporate tribal curriculum developed by the Del Norte Collaborative; incorporate MPA curriculum into Kids' Ocean Day (a statewide marine debris education program); integrate MPA education into existing local docent programs.

*Mendocino:*

Create MPA Teaching Boxes together with the Humboldt Collaborative and incorporate tribal curriculum developed by the Del Norte Collaborative; increase awareness of local MPAs through a training for Mendocino County State Park kiosk workers.

*Sonoma:*

Produce a video about how the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians are uniquely positioned through their long history and traditional practices to be an important participant in the recovery of Sonoma's coastal resources.

*Golden Gate:*

Develop and implement an online training and certification for MPA Ambassador Specialist Program through MPA Watch and iNaturalist programs.

*San Mateo:*

Develop brief video messages and temporary changeable signage; create multi-lingual and culturally relevant posters and postcards.

*Santa Cruz:*

Produce MPA outreach and educational tools including MPA harbor brochures, interpretive brochures, and teaching materials; host training and outreach events with local partners.

*Monterey:*

Produce a new bilingual MPA coloring book; update Monterey and Point Lobos MPA brochures; reprint posters for teachers, NGOs, museums, aquaria, Monterey Bay harbor, and businesses.

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*San Luis Obispo:*

Develop and distribute a Coastal and Marine Conservation Children's Activity Booklet.

*Santa Barbara:*

Update and improve an interactive online map of Channel Islands MPAs; complete a boundary marker survey; share UCSB algae research; communicate MPA monitoring in a poster exhibit.

*Los Angeles:*

Print bilingual fishing guides; develop a joint Speaker Training program with the Catalina Island Collaborative; produce a public event to celebrate indigenous maritime peoples and MPAs.

*Catalina Island:*

Develop a joint Speaker Training program with the Los Angeles Collaborative; hold an MPA training for educators at camps and institutions on the island; distribute outreach materials.

*Orange County:*

Reprint interpretive and compliance brochures previously approved by CDFW.

*San Diego:*

Develop and distribute San Diego County MPA Outreach Toolkits to 3,000 students, teachers, and docents.