



FEDERAL EVALUATION OF THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 2005 – DECEMBER 2008

Purpose of the Evaluation

California receives funding under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, for its federally approved California Coastal Management Program (CCMP). The CCMP is implemented by three state entities: the California Coastal Commission (CCC), the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the California Coastal Conservancy. The Coastal Zone Management Act requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to review California's implementation of its approved coastal management program and its adherence to the terms of its federal financial assistance awards. A review of the CCMP will be conducted by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The review will assess whether the CCC, the BCDC, and the State Coastal Conservancy are: (1) implementing and enforcing the essential elements of the approved CCMP; (2) playing a leadership role in coastal issues; (3) monitoring the actions of state agencies and local governments in the coastal zone; (4) basing decisions on the enforceable policies of the program; (5) assuring the opportunity for full public participation; (6) addressing the coastal management needs identified in §303(2)(A) through (K) of the CZMA; and (7) adhering to the terms and conditions of financial assistance awards. The evaluation will also review the manner in which the CCMP implements federal consistency and determine whether changes have occurred in the approved program during the review period.

Evaluation Procedures

The evaluation process consists of four distinct components:

- A preliminary review of relevant program documents, grants, work products, and correspondence;
- A site visit to California;
- One or more public meetings in California; and
- Follow-up contacts as necessary.

An evaluation team from NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management has reviewed financial assistance awards and other documents relating to the CCC for the period from March 2005 through December 2008. The team will visit California December 8 – 12, 2008, to meet with public and private groups and individuals interested in the California Coastal Commission. The evaluation team is visiting California again March 9 – 13, 2009, to meet with public and private groups and individuals interested in the BCDC and the Coastal Conservancy. Upon completion of the March site visit, the evaluation team will prepare a set of findings that identifies program successes and areas needing improvement. Recommendations from the findings may be used to negotiate future CZMA financial

assistance awards to the state. Copies of the final findings will be mailed to all evaluation participants upon request.

Public Participation

The CZMA provides three mechanisms for public participation in the evaluation process:

- Meeting directly with the evaluation team during the site visit;
- Attending a public meeting; or
- Submitting written comments.

The evaluation team would like to hear the views of interested parties concerning the CCC's implementation of the CCMP, including those aspects that are successful, areas in which the CCC has collaborated on projects or programs with your agency or organization, and any suggestions for addressing problems or making improvements. The evaluation team is particularly interested in topics such as: (1) the effectiveness of the CCC in permitting, monitoring, and enforcing the core authorities that form the legal basis of the CCMP; (2) implementation of state and federal consistency; (3) the certification process and effectiveness of the local coastal program component; (4) the manner in which the CCC provides technical and/or financial assistance to local governments on coastal issues; (5) the manner in which the CCC coordinates with other federal, state, and local agencies and programs; and (6) the manner in which the CCC engages the public, non-profit, and environmental organizations.

Two public meetings will be held during the week to solicit public comments. The first public meeting will be held on Monday, December 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ventura County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California. A second public meeting will be held on Friday, December 12, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at San Francisco City Hall, Legislative Chamber Room 250, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, California. If you cannot provide comments during the site visit, either by meeting with the evaluation team or by attending the public meeting, you may submit written comments to Ms. Chris McCay, the Evaluation Team Leader, at the address below (e-mail or U.S. mail) no later than December 30, 2008. You do not have to attend the public meeting to submit comments.

Evaluation Team

Ms. L. Christine McCay, Team Leader
National Policy and Evaluation Division
NOAA/NOS/OCRM
1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM7
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(301) 563-1163
chris.mccay@noaa.gov

Mr. Matt Gove, Program Specialist
Coastal Programs Division
NOAA/NOS/OCRM
1305 East-West Highway, N/ORM3
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(301) 563-1185
matt.gove@noaa.gov

Ms. Leslie-Ann McGee, Director
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
(617) 626-1200