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**TO:** Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Program

**FROM:** **Bryan Cash**, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)

**Jenn Eckerle**, Deputy Secretary for Oceans and Coastal Policy, CNRA,  
Executive Director, Ocean Protection Council

**DATE:** Dec 11, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Ocean Protection Council (OPC) Expenditure Record for Fiscal Year 2022 SB 1 Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program

This Attestation Memorandum documents that the Ocean Protection Council completed the attached Expenditure Record on Dec 11, 2023, for the SB 1 Sea-Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program. The Expenditure Record is consistent with the statutory requirements of Government Code Section 16428.9 to support expenditures from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

This Attestation Memorandum and Expenditure Record will be submitted to CARB for public posting on the CARB website at: [www.arb.ca.gov/caclimateinvestments](http://www.arb.ca.gov/caclimateinvestments). Questions on this Attestation Memorandum or Expenditure Record may be directed to Ella McDougall, OPC Climate Change Program Manager, at [ella.mcdougall@resources.ca.gov](mailto:ella.mcdougall@resources.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Bryan Cash*

Bryan Cash

*Jenn Eckerle*

Jenn Eckerle

Attachment: *2023 SB 1 Grant Program Expenditure Record*

## Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Expenditure Record

Ocean Protection Council (OPC)  
SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant (SB 1 Grant) Program

**Authorizing legislation:** Section 19.58 of the Budget Act of 2022, as amended by Assembly Bill (AB) 179 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022) appropriates to Ocean Protection Council \$37,500,000 for implementation of Chapter 236 of the Statutes of 2021 (SB 1).

Chapter 236 of SB 1 (Atkins, 2021) gives authority to the California Sea Level Rise State and Regional Support Collaborative (Collaborative), facilitated by the Ocean Protection Council (OPC), to expend funds to local and regional governments to support sea level rise (SLR) planning efforts. To achieve this, OPC is developing the Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Planning Grant Program (SB 1 Grant Program), expected to launch in winter of 2023/24.

Section 19.58 of the Budget Act of 2022 appropriates \$37,500,000 to OPC, from the California Climate Investments (CCI), funded via the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). On August 15, 2023, OPC unanimously voted to approve the disbursement of up to \$34,625,000 of this appropriation to create the SB 1 Grant Program. This program will provide funding for local, regional, and tribal governments to complete SLR adaptation planning efforts and implementation projects, with the end goal of addressing and achieving coastal resiliency for California. Current CCI Funding Guidelines allow for the use of GGRF funds for planning and implementation projects that address climate resiliency.

**Element 1: A description of each expenditure proposed to be made by the administering agency pursuant to the appropriation.**

**Agency that will administer funding:**

- Ocean Protection Council, in coordination with California Sea-Level Rise State and Regional Support Collaborative.

**Amount of proposed expenditure and appropriation reference:**

- The total expenditure is \$34,625,000, per Section 19.58 of the Budget Act of 2022, as amended by Assembly Bill (AB) 179 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2022) to implement SB 1 (Atkins, 2021).
- Per Chapter 236 of SB 1 (Atkins, 2021), Ocean Protection Council, in coordination with the California Sea Level Rise State and Regional Support Collaborative, is authorized to expend up to \$100,000,000 to support local and regional governments in SLR planning efforts.

- Current CCI Funding Guidelines allow for the use of GGRF funds for planning and implementation projects to address climate resiliency.

**Estimated amount of expenditures for administering agency administrative costs:**

- The total expenditure includes \$1,875,000 million for State Operations costs and agency administration, which is 5% of the total \$37,500,000 GGRF appropriation.

**If applicable, identify laws or regulations that govern how funds will be used:**

- Chapter 236 of SB 1 (Atkins, 2021) states how these funds will be used.
- Funding Guidelines from the California Air Resources Board allow for program funds to be used for the creation of planning and implementation projects to address climate resiliency.

**Continuation of existing Expenditure Record:**

- This is a new program that does not have an existing Expenditure Record.

**Project Type(s):**

- SLR planning efforts including the following project types:
  - Community Visioning
  - SLR Vulnerability Assessments
  - SLR Adaptation Plans
  - SF Bay Shoreline Adaptation Plans
  - Sector Specific SLR Adaptation Plans
- SLR implementation projects include the following project type:
  - Nature-based and Green-Grey Hybrid Adaptation Projects, Feasibility Studies, and/or Design

**Describe the projects and/or measures that will be eligible for funding:**

- Planning projects must culminate with a complete planning effort that fulfills the minimum requirements of the [SLR Criteria](#), depending on the specific project type. Project areas must show vulnerability to the impacts of SLR and address an urgent need within a community. Projects must contribute to the development of a land use plan that incorporates considerations for SLR. Projects must address the priorities of administering agency and Senate Bill 1. Implementation projects must culminate with a constructed project, a feasibility study, or design plans that fulfills the minimum requirements of the [SLR Criteria](#). Project areas must show vulnerability to the impacts of SLR and address an urgent need within a community. Projects must address the priorities of administering agency and Senate Bill 1.
- Intended recipients
- Local, Regional, and Federally Recognized Tribal Governments, or a consultant team working directly with the government as their representative.

**Program structure and process for selecting projects for funding:**

- Planning projects will be non-competitive, based on the minimum requirements of the SLR Criteria and the Technical Evaluation, as listed in the most up-to-date SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation. Implementation projects will be reviewed on a competitive, selective basis starting in summer-fall 2024. The selection criteria for implementation projects will be based on the SLR Criteria and Technical Evaluation, as listed in the SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation, but may be supplemented with additional criteria. Planning and Implementation projects will be reviewed and selected on a quarterly basis, based on administering agency public meeting schedule. Specific dates will be announced via the most up-to-date SB 1 Grant Program Solicitation.

**Element (2) A description of how a proposed expenditure will further the regulatory purposes of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, the limit established under Part 3 (commencing with Section 38550) and other applicable requirements of law.**

**How the expenditure is consistent with the Investment Plan and the Scoping Plan**

- AB 1532 (Chapter 807, Statutes of 2012) requires that monies from the Fund be appropriated in a manner that is consistent with the three-year Investment Plan. The “Cap and-Trade Auction Proceeds Fourth Investment Plan: Fiscal Years 2022-23 through 2024-25” recommends “integration of nature-based climate solutions into community adaptation plans and infrastructure investments”. The Plan also states “(p)lanning funds can help improve climate resilience by providing communities with the opportunity to plan for future climate risks such as sea level rise”. Therefore, the expenditures covered by this record are consistent with the Investment Plan because they support community SLR adaptation planning and nature-based climate solutions.
- California’s 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan identified key strategies and recommendations to continue reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieve the goals and purposes of AB 32 and related statutes. The recommended actions include restoration of wetlands “as they serve as hotspots for biodiversity, contain considerable carbon in the soil, are critical to the state’s water supply, and protect upland areas from flooding due to sea level rise and storms.” The expenditures covered by this record are consistent with the Climate Change Scoping Plan because they can be used for nature based SLR adaptation projects that include habitat restoration in order to preserve upland lands.

**Element (3) A description of how a proposed expenditure will contribute to achieving and maintaining greenhouse gas emission reductions pursuant to Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.**

**Describe how expenditures will facilitate the achievement of GHG emission reductions in the State**

- Expenditures will facilitate GHG reductions through coastal resilience planning and projects such as: natural shoreline adaptation projects, habitat restoration and conservation, relocation of development (managed retreat), or through projects that incorporate natural or green elements into traditional infrastructure. Expenditures will facilitate GHG emission reductions by making coastal infrastructure more resilient to rising sea levels, reducing future flooding and wave damage, reducing the need for cleanup and rebuilding, and/or increasing the resilience of habitats that sequester carbon.

**Explain when GHG emission reductions and/or co benefits are expected to occur and how they will be maintained**

- GHG emission facilitation will occur through climate adaptation, climate preparedness, and co-benefits by funding the development of SLR adaptation plans and projects that aim to increase climate resiliency and reduce the impacts of climate change. The project benefits will occur in the long-term life span of the plans and projects that are implemented.

**Element (4) A description of how the administering agency considered the applicability and feasibility of other non-greenhouse gas reduction objectives of Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code.**

**Expected co-benefits, particularly environmental, economic, public health and safety, and climate resiliency:**

- Projects will support SLR adaptation planning efforts and implementation projects that will result in multiple co-benefits such as flood reduction, habitat restoration and protection, improving water quality, supporting vulnerable communities, and creating jobs.

**How the project will support other objectives of AB 32 and related statutes:**

- This program will support AB 32 objectives by:
  - Maximizing additional environmental and economic co-benefits for California
  - Directing public and private investment toward the most under-resourced communities in California
  - Providing an opportunity for local, regional, and tribal governments to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to address the impacts of climate change, specifically SLR
  - Providing climate and SLR adaptation and resiliency benefits to communities

**Percentage of total funding that will be expended for projects that are located in and benefit priority populations<sup>1</sup> per CARB guidance:**

- The administering agency expects that a minimum of 15% (\$5,020,625) of the total project funds that will be utilized to provide direct benefits to priority populations (including but not limited to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and tribes) located along the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay. A minimum of \$4,320,000 will support proposals by federally recognized tribes or proposals co-created with California Native American tribes. This target may change as new analyses and assessments of benefit populations along the coast are performed.
- Applicants are encouraged to co-create and develop adaptation plans and projects and in partnership with California Native American tribes are highly encouraged and will be prioritized in the event of limited funding.
- These expenditures will support coastal resiliency planning and implementation projects located in and benefiting priority populations (including but not limited to disadvantaged

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<sup>1</sup> Priority populations include residents of: (1) census tracts identified as disadvantaged by California Environmental Protection Agency per SB 535; (2) census tracts identified as low-income per AB 1550; or (3) a low-income household per AB 1550. See Section VII.B Funding Guidelines for more information on the definitions of priority populations.

communities, low-income communities, and tribes) located along the coast of California and the San Francisco Bay, including, but not limited to:

- Rural communities of 50,000 or less and outside of urbanized areas
- California Native American tribes, including federally recognized Native American tribes and non-federally recognized Native American tribes
- Regionally/locally defined underserved communities
- Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) and/or Severely Disadvantaged Communities, as identified with the Parks Community FactFinder Map
- Communities at or below 80% Assembly Bill 1550 (Gomez, Chapter 369, Statutes of 2016)
- Communities at or above 75% CalEnviroScreen Version 4.0
- Communities at or below 25% California Healthy Places Index (HPI)

**Explain strategies the administering agency will use to maximize benefits to disadvantaged communities:**

- These expenditures will support climate, specifically SLR, resiliency planning and implementation projects located in and benefiting priority populations (including but not limited to disadvantaged communities, low-income communities, and tribes) offering a range of community benefits such as:
  - Improved climate resiliency
  - Community led visioning and planning for SLR
  - Reduction of SLR risks such as flooding and erosion
  - Improved coastal access
  - GHG emission reduction through improved habitats and open spaces

**Explain how the administering agency will avoid potential substantial burdens to disadvantaged communities and low-income communities or, if unknown, explain the process for identifying and avoiding potential substantial burdens:**

- The administering agency understands that low-income EJ communities, and California Native American tribes carry the burden of the impacts of climate change yet have the fewest resources to prepare themselves. The SB 1 Grant Program will bring support and assistance to these communities to plan for and implement coastal resiliency projects.
- The SB 1 Grant Program has a complementary Technical Assistance program ([a separate CCI program](#) implemented by the administering agency) that works with disadvantaged and low-income communities to prepare and submit successful SB 1 Grant Program applications. This reduces burden on these communities to access grant funds for SLR resiliency.



**Element (5) A description of how the administering agency will document the result achieved from the expenditure to comply with Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 35800) of the Health and Safety Code.**

**How the administering agency will track / report progress to make sure projects are implemented per requirements in statute and CARB guidance:**

- The administering agency will require all funding recipients to maintain records and submit quarterly status reports. In addition, the administering agency will work with the funding recipients (as needed) to maintain progress and effective reporting. If a funding recipient does not perform in accordance with program requirements, the recipient will be subject to the remedies for non-performance, as identified in the administering agency's guidelines and the grant agreement.

**Describe the approach that will be used to document GHG emission reductions and/or other benefits before and after project completion:**

- The administering agency will coordinate with CARB to determine how to document GHG emission reductions and/or co-benefits through qualitative metrics.

**Type of information that will be collected to document results, consistent with CARB guidance:**

- The administering agency will collect information on outcomes for the entire funded program, consistent with CARB guidance.

**How the administering agency will report on program status:**

- The administering agency will provide regular updates on expenditures, project status, and benefits in reports prepared according to CARB guidance. At a minimum, the reports will include expenditure amounts, quantification of applicable co-benefits, and other metrics yet to be determined. Reports will also include information on how outcomes for these projects have been linked to practical climate action over a period yet to be determined.