

April 15, 2013

To: Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

From: Leo Asuncion 
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Coastal Zone Management Program, Office of Planning

Subject: CZM Program Report to MACZAC

National Initiatives

Funding Allocation

Hawaii CZM Program funding levels for FY 13 continues to be unknown at this time due to a number of factors: 1) Congress recent passage of a budget to keep the federal government operational until September 30, 2013; and 2) Budget Sequestration remains in effect. At this time, the CZM Program has planned for a ten percent (10%) reduction from FY12 levels (which results in funding equivalent to FY11 levels).

Regional Ocean Partnerships Grants

The CZM Program has submitted a proposal to NOAA for a competitive grant to begin development of a coastal and marine spatial tool, and to continue organization and support of the formation of the Hawaii Sub-Regional Ocean Partnership. Due to the possibility that competitive grants may not be funded in FY13, pre-development work on the tool is included in the CZM Cooperative Agreement application as a task for in-house CZM staff to complete.

Project of Special Merit Grant

The CZM Program also submitted a proposal to NOAA for a Project of Special Merit (PSM) competitive grant to further the Office of Planning's work on climate change adaptation and implementation of the state's climate change adaptation policy incorporated as a Priority Guideline in Part III of Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 226. Likewise, due to the possibility that competitive grants not being funded in FY13, a small amount of work to continue progress on climate change adaptation is included in the CZM Cooperative Agreement application as a task for in-house CZM staff to complete.

NOAA's Habitat Blueprint

NOAA's Habitat Blueprint Initiative, which provides a framework to improve habitats for fisheries, marine life and coastal communities, will be selecting a site in Hawaii as its next project (the initial pilot project is located in Northern California - Russian River Valley). It is anticipated that NOAA will select a project site by the 3rd Quarter of this year, with other sites selected across the nation throughout this year. Our office is engaging in efforts to ensure federal coordination with the State. As this federal initiative in Hawaii is in its early stages, additional information will be forwarded to MACZAC as the CZM Program receives information from NOAA. Current information on the Habitat Blueprint Initiative can be found on-line at <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint/>.

Upcoming Projects

Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) Update

Comments on the Administrative Review Draft have been received from other governmental agencies, and SSFM will be incorporating these comments into a Pre-Final version of the ORMP. This Pre-Final Draft will be forwarded to the ORMP Policy Group for discussion and endorsement at their May 15, 2013 meeting. The

finalized updated plan is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2013. SSFM International will be giving a brief update during today's meeting.

Scoping the Value of the SMA Permit and Shoreline Setback Variance

CZM staff has been working with the University of Hawaii's Economic Research Organization (UHERO), and representatives from the county planning departments to complete this study, which will provide economic methodologies that OP could use to evaluate the value that the SMA Permit and Shoreline Setback Variance has on key CZM areas (i.e., public access, beach and shoreline protection, marine resources, etc.). MACZAC will receive a presentation of this study's status and initial findings at today's meeting.

Stormwater Impact Assessment Project, Phase III

The Office of Planning has contracted with PBR Hawaii to be a consultant on this project. This project is the final phase of the Stormwater Impact Assessment Project, and will involve incorporation of work completed in Phases I and II to develop a guidance manual and training workshop curriculum for various government and private entities that review and develop mitigation measures that address a development's cumulative impact on stormwater impact to coastal and ocean areas. The guidance manual will be made available to MACZAC members, and members will be invited to attend the training workshops in the April-May 2013 timeframe.

National Estuarine Research Reserve in Hawaii

The Hawaii National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) site determination process has begun, with the formation of a Site Selection Committee who approved a set of site criteria and evaluation scores. Upcoming steps in this process include: public solicitation of proposed sites; review and evaluation of proposed sites (using approved site criteria and evaluation scores) by a Site Evaluation Committee, who will generate a "short list" of potential sites; review of the "short list" by the Site Selection Committee, who will forward a single preferred site to Governor Abercrombie for nomination to NOAA. Management Plan development and a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) document will commence upon NOAA's acceptance of the nominated site. CZM staff, with assistance from consultants and NOAA, will be supporting this effort for the next two years.

Miscellaneous

- The 27th Legislature is set to adjourn on May 2, 2013. OP has been tracking a number of bills this session, and those related to CZM have been relatively low in number. The current status of bills being tracked by the CZM Program is presented in the attached Legislative Spreadsheet, and will be discussed during the report from the MACZAC Legislative Work Group later in today's meeting.
- CZM Program Staffing:
 - Please welcome Ms. Rebecka Arbin, the latest addition to the CZM Program Staff. Rebecka is a recent DURP graduate and has worked at the East-West Center, the Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC), and R.M. Towill. She will be assigned to the areas of Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP), Coastal Public Access, and the NEER Site Determination Process.
 - Ms. Lynn Sumida is now the permanent MACZAC Administrative Assistant. Please feel free to contact Lynn for all matters regarding to MACZAC.
 - We will be filling two Planning and Policy Analyst positions shortly. Upon filling of these positions, the CZM Program will be at full staff levels.