

August 19, 2013

To: Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC)

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

Subject: CZM Program Report to MACZAC

### **National Initiatives**

#### **Funding Allocation**

For FY 13, Hawaii CZM Program funding levels from NOAA is 6% less than FY 12 levels. The reduction (not as bad as the 10% reduction planned for) is primarily due to Federal Budget Sequestration.

Attention now turns to the FY14 budget and beyond where Coastal Zone Program funding is again being threatened. As of July 31, 2013, the following was known:

- President's Budget - \$72 million for CZ Programs (\$67 million) and Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROP) (\$5 million)
- House Appropriations Committee (7/17/13) reduced the amount to \$41 million (CZ Programs - \$41 million; ROPs - \$0)
- Senate Appropriations Committee (7/18/13) agreed with President's Budget - \$72 million

#### **Regional Ocean Partnerships (ROP) Grants**

The CZM Program has been awarded two ROP grants 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. The two grants total \$298,800, and are available to the CZM Program in October 2013. Initial work on the coastal and marine spatial tool is currently being done by CZM staff with a Request for Proposal for development of the tool scheduled to be issued in October 2013.

#### **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. No official word from NOAA has been received on this competitive grant, however, unofficially; the CZM Program is unlikely to be a recipient of a PSM Grant this fiscal year.

Anticipating a non-award, the CZM Program included a small amount of work to continue progress on climate change adaptation 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 such information from NOAA. Current information on the Habitat Blueprint Initiative can be found on-line at <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/habitatblueprint/>.

## **CZM Program Initiatives**

### **Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) Update**

The update of the ORMP has been completed, with Governor Abercrombie endorsing the plan on July 25, 2013. Copies are being distributed to MACZAC members at this meeting, and have been distributed to government officials and agencies. In an effort to be “green,” the ORMP can be viewed and downloaded via the CZM website - [http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp\\_update\\_reports/final\\_ormp\\_2013.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp_update_reports/final_ormp_2013.pdf)

Special thanks goes to all of the MACZAC members who provided guidance and comments on various drafts of the report, attending Public Listening Sessions, and participating on the ORMP Policy and Working Groups. Special thanks are also extended to the consultant SSFM International, Inc. (Cheryl Soon, April Coloretti, Jared Chang, and Heather Forester) who engaged all stakeholders, and completed the update within budget and 6 months ahead of schedule.

Attention now turns to implementation of the ORMP management priorities actions, development of a governance agreement for the establishment of the Hawaii Sub-regional Ocean Partnership (Sub-ROP), and the formation of action teams to work on achievement of goals set forth in the ORMP.

A discussion on MACZAC’s role in the implementation of the ORMP is on the agenda for this meeting.

### **Scoping the Value of the SMA Permit and Shoreline Setback Variance**

CZM staff, working with the University of Hawaii's Economic Research Organization (UHERO), and representatives from the county planning departments, have completed this study, which provides economic methodologies that OP or the counties may use to evaluate the value that the SMA Permit and Shoreline Setback Variance on key CZM areas (i.e., public access, beach and shoreline protection, marine resources, etc.).

The final report for this project is available at

[http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/resource/final\\_methodologies\\_to\\_assess\\_value.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/resource/final_methodologies_to_assess_value.pdf)

### **Stormwater Impact Assessment Project, Phase III**

This project - the final phase of the Stormwater Impact Assessment Project – has been completed. The project involved incorporation of work completed in Phases I and II to develop a guidance manual and training workshop curriculum to assess a development's cumulative impact on stormwater impact to coastal and ocean areas. Training workshops were held during the month of May in Honolulu, Puhi (Kauai), Wailuku, Kona, and Hilo for various government, private entities, and community members that review and develop mitigation measures for stormwater impacts.

The guidance manual is available at

[http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/initiative/stomwater\\_impact/final\\_stormwater\\_impact\\_assessments\\_guidance.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/initiative/stomwater_impact/final_stormwater_impact_assessments_guidance.pdf), and work is on-going to have the workshop slide presentations available on the CZM webpage.

## **Upcoming Projects**

### **National Estuarine Research Reserve in Hawaii**

The Hawaii National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) site determination process has received two site proposals – Heeia-Kaneohe Bay on the island of Oahu, and Hilo Bay on the island of Hawaii. The Site Evaluation Committee has reviewed and evaluated both of the proposed sites (using site criteria and evaluation scoring approved by the Site Selection Committee), and have recommended that both sites be forwarded to the Site Selection Committee for consideration.

The Site Selection Committee will meet on August 27, 2013, to discuss the two proposed sites, and also hear presentations from site proposers.

Ultimately, the Site Selection Committee will forward a single preferred site to Governor Abercrombie for nomination to NOAA. Development of a Management Plan, 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 over the next 18 months.

#### Alternative Funding Mechanisms for Acquisition and Maintenance of Shoreline Public Access

PBR Hawaii has been selected as the consultant for this project, and a contract is in the process of execution. A draft work plan has been developed by PBR Hawaii and reviewed by CZM staff. The project is in a research phase and is anticipated to progress in the coming months. MACZAC's Public Access Working Group will be a key group for collaboration in this project, which is scheduled to be completed by June 2014.

#### Miscellaneous

- CZM Program Staffing:
  - The CZM Program is at full staff levels with the addition of two Planning and Policy Analysts. Please welcome:
    - Ms. Justine Nihipali, who is a graduate of the Master's Program in Urban and Regional Planning at UH-Manoa, and has worked for the University's Office on Aging, and the Natural Disaster Preparedness Training Center (NDPTC). Justine will be the lead for coordination and implementation of the ORMP, and the CZM Program's effort in updating the Community Stewardship Directory.
    - Ms. Nathalie Morison, who is a graduate of the Master's Program in Environmental Management at the Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University and has worked at the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management, NC Coastal Federation and Duke University. Nathalie will be the lead in efforts on Climate Change Adaptation, Habitat, and Public Access.
  - Ms. Lisa Webster has also joined the staff at the Office of Planning as the Administrative Assistant on the Hawaii Sub-ROP project.