

October 28, 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

The CZM Program is tracking the proposed FY14 budget where National Coastal Zone Program funding is again being threatened. Due to discussions on topics such as Affordable Care Act and the Debt Limit, budget proposals for the National Coastal Zone Program have not changed as of July 31, 2013:

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

The CZM Program was not impacted by the recent Government Shutdown.

NOAA's Habitat Blueprint

The Office of Planning and the Department of Land and Natural Resources has provided input on a number of proposed NOAA Habitat Blueprint Initiative sites in Hawaii. Proposed sites were also developed for American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. NOAA's Pacific Islands Regional Office held a two-day session in mid-September, at which all of the proposed sites in the Pacific Region were presented and discussed. It is anticipated that NOAA will select a project site in the Pacific Region by the 3rd Quarter of this year, with other sites selected across the nation throughout this year. Our office continues to engage in this effort to ensure federal coordination with the State. 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)

With the update to the ORMP completed, focus turns to implementation of the ORMP management priorities, development of a governance agreement for the establishment of the

Hawaii Ocean Partnership, and the formation of action teams to work on achievement of goals set forth in the ORMP.

The governance agreement was developed by members of the ORMP Working Group, and has been forwarded to the ORMP Policy Group. A meeting of the Policy Group is scheduled for November 27, 2013, to discuss the governance agreement.

The CZM Program is also in the process of developing outreach material on the updated ORMP, and is planning to visit county and state governmental offices, and community groups to inform them of the updated ORMP and its goals for the next five years.

With the assistance of CZM Program Staff, MACZAC is encouraged to continue the discussion on how it can be involved with implementation of the ORMP.

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

Alternative Funding Mechanisms for Acquisition and Maintenance of Shoreline Public Access

This project will be started with a project advisory committee meeting scheduled for November 1, 2013. MACZAC Chair Sue Sakai has graciously volunteered to sit on the advisory committee for the time being. PBR Hawaii is the consultant for this project, and points of contact are Roy Takemoto, Catie Cullison, and Bethany Wylie. The project is in the research phase and is anticipated to develop recommendations for alternative funding mechanisms for shoreline public access in the coming months, and be completed by June 2014. CZM Program Staff contact is Nathalie Morison.

National Estuarine Research Reserve in Hawaii

The Hawaii National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) site determination/nomination process has progressed with the selection of Heeia Estuary on the island of Oahu as the preferred site to be forwarded to Governor Abercrombie for nomination to NOAA.

The Site Selection Committee held a meeting on August 27, 2013, during which presentations from the two site proposal teams (Hilo Bay and Heeia Estuary) were received, discussed, and scored.

Next step for the nomination process is to hold a public meeting in the vicinity of the preferred site to obtain community input on the site. OP-CZM intends for Governor Abercrombie to meet with stakeholders/partners and open the public meeting. Due to the recent Government Shutdown, NOAA was not able to publish notice of the public meeting in the Federal Register, thus a date in early January 2014 is being sought, in coordination with the Governor's schedule.

Upon nomination of the preferred site to NOAA, and subsequently approval by NOAA, development of a Management Plan, and a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) document, will commence CZM staff, with assistance from consultants and NOAA, will be supporting this effort over the next year.