



Oregon

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May 29, 2008

**TO: Oregon Coastal Management Program Partners
Interested Parties**

**FROM: Jeff Weber, Conservation Coordinator
Oregon Coastal Management Program**

**SUBJECT SOLICITATION FOR COASTAL CONSERVATION
LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS**

This notice is to solicit proposals for federal funding for coastal conservation land acquisition projects.

On May 23, 2008, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced a Federal Funding Opportunity for coastal conservation land acquisition projects under the **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program**. The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, or CELCP, was established “for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses.” Since 2002, CELCP has provided over \$200 million in federal funds to coastal states and communities for over 150 coastal conservation land acquisitions.

CELCP projects are selected for funding at the national level through a competitive process. Under CELCP, state coastal zone management programs are responsible for soliciting proposals from eligible applicants and for submitting eligible proposals for the national-level competition. States may submit up to three proposals for the national-level competition. **The purpose of this notice is to solicit CELCP proposals from Oregon state agencies and local governments.** At the national level, NOAA will manage a process to evaluate and score eligible proposals, and will assemble a prioritized list of projects to be forwarded to Congress for possible funding in 2009.

CELCP provides funding for the *public* purchase and management of land for conservation purposes. Therefore, **applicants for CELCP funds must be a state agency or local government** that has the authority to acquire and manage land for conservation purposes. State agencies and local governments have often worked closely with non-governmental organizations to develop CELCP proposals, and conservation organizations may help in managing areas acquired with CELCP funds.

Congress has not yet appropriated funds for this solicitation. If Congress provides funds for projects selected under this solicitation, federal funds are anticipated to become available from March through October, 2009. Federal funds for CELCP projects must be matched dollar-for-dollar with non-federal funds. The limit of federal funding for any single CELCP project is \$3,000,000.

What to do if you have a potential CELCP project:

If you have a conservation land acquisition project that might qualify for CELCP, review the [Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity](#) posted on a page for this CELCP solicitation on the Oregon Coastal Management Program's [website](#) at www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP/index.shtml. (Use the "CELCP Solicitation" button in the Current Topics list on the right side.) In particular, review the Evaluation Criteria (pages 15-21) to be used in scoring proposals at the national level. If after reviewing the Evaluation Criteria you believe you might have a competitive CELCP project, **please [contact me](#)** to discuss your project and the CELCP application process. My contact information is at the end of this memo.

Deadline for 2009 Oregon CELCP Proposals. The Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) manages the CELCP application process in Oregon. Applications for CELCP funding in Oregon must be submitted to the Oregon Coastal Management Program (send to DLCD, 635 Capitol St. NE, Suite 150, Salem, OR 97301) by **5:00 PM on Friday, July 11, 2008**. The OCMP will review and score all applications as described in [Oregon's CELCP Plan](#), which is posted under "CELCP" on the OCMP [website](#). The OCMP will submit Oregon's applications for the national level competition before the national deadline on July 23, 2008.

[Oregon's CELCP Plan](#) should be consulted in assembling an application. Section IV of the plan describes the "Criteria for Oregon CELCP Projects." In particular, OCMP elements listed under "CELCP National Criterion 3" (p. 23) and "State Project Selection Criteria" (p. 25) should be central to an Oregon application for CELCP funds. Templates in the federal announcement must be used in preparing an application; these templates are posted as an [Application Package](#) on the OCMP website.

The OCMP may submit up to three eligible proposals for possible inclusion in the list to be provided to Congress. We will not submit applications that are either ineligible according to the CELCP Guidelines or inconsistent with [Oregon's CELCP Plan](#). In the event we receive more than three proposals for CELCP funding, the coastal program will review and score all applications as outlined in the plan.

If you think you may be interested in developing a proposal for CELCP funding, you *must* consult with the Oregon Coastal Program before completing your application. Among other things, this consultation will review the national selection criteria for CELCP projects and clarify requirements for project submittals. If you have questions about CELCP or are interested in developing a CELCP proposal, contact Jeff Weber, Oregon Coastal Management Program Special Projects Coordinator, at (971)673-0964 or jeff.weber@state.or.us.