



Memo

Date: November 19, 2020

To: Members of the State Coastal Conservancy

From: Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer
Mary Small, Deputy Executive Officer

CC: Oversight Members

RE: Project Selection Criteria Update

Background

During the coming year, staff will bring a proposed update to the Coastal Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria to the Conservancy for discussion and then for consideration and possible authorization. The Conservancy has used Project Selection Criteria for the past twenty years to communicate priorities to potential applicants and project partners, to evaluate grant applications, and to prioritize projects for funding. The criteria have been updated periodically by the Conservancy, most recently in 2014.

The current update is a follow-up to the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Guidelines (JEDI Guidelines) adopted by the Conservancy at the September 2020 meeting. Specifically, the criteria will be updated to reflect those JEDI Guidelines that address our funding programs, meaningful engagement, and working with California's Tribes. We also anticipate updating the criteria related to Sea Level Rise, based on evolving guidance from the Natural Resources Agency.

Update Process & Stakeholder Outreach

Conservancy staff are planning a multi-pronged approach to obtaining input into the new criteria. This will include implementing a survey of existing grantees and grant applicants to gather input on how we can improve our grant programs. Staff are also conducting research and targeted interviews to identify best practices and learn more about specific issues such as

meaningful community engagement and anti-displacement strategies. Finally, we will release the draft criteria for comments from the Conservancy and the public and conduct at least one webinar to present the draft criteria, prior to seeking Conservancy authorization of the revised criteria.

Proposed Schedule

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Who</u>
Nov.	Update Conservancy on Process	SCC Staff/ Conservancy
Winter	Survey of grantees/applicants	Grantees & Applicants
Winter	Interviews and Research	SCC Staff/Stakeholders
Spring	Public comment on draft criteria	Public
Spring	Present draft criteria to Conservancy	SCC Staff/Conservancy
Spring	Webinar on draft criteria	SCC Staff/Stakeholders
Summer	Present final criteria to Conservancy	SCC Staff/Conservancy