



Oregon

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

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

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

This memorandum is to solicit proposals to receive federal funding for coastal and estuarine conservation land acquisitions.

On January 2, 2009, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published an **Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity** for the **Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) FY2010 Competitive List**. The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program is a competitive national program that provides federal matching grants for the acquisition of coastal and estuarine lands 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.

In Oregon, the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) is the lead agency for CELCP. Under CELCP, the state's lead agency solicits conservation acquisition proposals from eligible applicants, reviews and selects proposals, and then submits up to three eligible proposals for a national-level competitive review and project ranking. **Eligible applicants include state agencies and local governments that have authority to own land for conservation purposes.**

The purpose of this notice is to solicit proposals from eligible applicants in Oregon for coastal and estuarine land conservation acquisitions under CELCP. The OCMP will review, score and rank proposals, and submit up to three proposals for the national-level competition. At the national level, NOAA will manage a process to review and rank all eligible proposals, and will assemble a prioritized list of projects to be forwarded to Congress for possible funding in 2010.

Congress has not yet appropriated funds for this solicitation. If Congress provides funds for projects selected under this solicitation, federal grant funds are anticipated to become available between March and October, 2010. **Federal funds for CELCP projects must be matched dollar-for-dollar with non-federal funds.** Federal funding for any single CELCP project may not exceed \$3,000,000.

CELCP funds provide for the *public* purchase and management of land for conservation purposes. Therefore, recipients of CELCP funds must be a state agency or local government that has the authority to acquire and manage land for conservation purposes. Non-government organizations may assist in the development of a proposal for CELCP funding, and may be involved in the management of lands purchased with CELCP funds.

If you have a potential CELCP project, please review the full Announcement of Federal Funding

Opportunity available at <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP/index.shtml>. Section V. A. of the funding opportunity announcement (pages 16-23) describes the project Evaluation Criteria. If after reviewing the Evaluation Criteria you believe you may want to submit a proposal for CELCP funding, **you must arrange a pre-application meeting with the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP)** to discuss your project. Pre-application meetings will be scheduled to occur from **February 24th through 26th**. You are encouraged to contact the OCMP about a possible CELCP proposal well before the pre-application. Contact information is at the end of this notice.

Deadline for 2010 Oregon CELCP Proposals.

Applications for CELCP funding in Oregon must be submitted to the Oregon Coastal Management Program by **5:00 PM on March 20, 2009**. The OCMP will review project submittals as described in Oregon's CELCP Plan, which is also available at the web address above. The OCMP will forward eligible applications for the national level competition by the national deadline of March 31, 2009.

Project applicants must develop a complete proposal based on the Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity and Oregon's CELCP Plan. All the elements of a CELCP proposal must be developed by project proponents. The Oregon Coastal Management Program will submit up to three eligible proposals to NOAA for possible inclusion in the list to be provided to Congress. In the event more than three Oregon proposals are eligible for CELCP funding, the coastal program will review and score all applications as outlined in the Oregon CELCP Plan. **The OCMP will not submit proposals it considers incomplete, ineligible according to the CELCP Guidelines, or inconsistent with Oregon's CELCP Plan (2007).**

All the materials necessary to submit a proposal for CELCP funding are available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/OCMP/index.shtml>

Download the "Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity" for CELCP application materials. The Announcement details the criteria for project selection and the contents of project proposals. It also includes two appendices—Appendix A and Appendix B—that must be used to assemble an application. The OCMP will complete the checklist in Appendix C with the assistance of project proponents. Oregon's CELCP plan, which is also available at the web link above, should be consulted in assembling an application.

If you are 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, including how proposals should be submitted to the Oregon Coastal Program.

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.