



City of Del Mar Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Kaitlyn Elliott-Norgrove, Special Projects and Programs Manager
Nestor Machado, Associate Management Analyst
Via Ashley Jones, City Manager

DATE: February 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Authorization to Apply for State Grant Funds in Support of the San Dieguito Lagoon Levee, Habitat Enhancement, and Trail Project

REQUESTED ACTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Council: 1) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for California Ocean Protection Council SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program funds (Attachment A); 2) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to apply for State Coastal Conservancy Grant Program funds (Attachment B); and Authorize the City Manager to approve and execute all agreements and related documents necessary for both grant opportunities.

BACKGROUND:

The San Dieguito Lagoon Levee, Habitat Enhancement, and Trail Project, herein referred to as the San Dieguito Lagoon Shoreline Project (Project), is a City Council work plan priority for Fiscal Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027. The Project, which will make important shoreline protection improvements along the San Dieguito Lagoon in a manner consistent with the City's 2018 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan, is being implemented in partnership with the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to effectively and efficiently utilize public funds for improvements along the San Dieguito Lagoon.

City staff are proactively working to identify funding sources to facilitate the completion of this important Project. Funds secured to date include \$500,000 in discretionary state funds secured in partnership with Assemblymember Tasha Boerner and \$1,031,000 in federal Community Project funding stewarded by Congressman Mike Levin. The JPA has also secured \$1,300,000 in California State Parks Department funds. While nearly \$3,000,000 has been raised for the Project, staff anticipates that at least an additional \$7,000,000 is necessary to fully fund this critical infrastructure project, components of which include necessary flood protection improvements that achieve FEMA's "no-rise" standard; relocation of the Public Works Facility office structure outside of the Floodway; native vegetation restoration and habitat enhancements; and improved public trail access and recreational amenities along both sides of the river.

City Council Action:

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

City staff are preparing two grant applications in support of the San Dieguito Lagoon Shoreline Project:

1. California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program

The OPC SB 1 Sea Level Rise Adaptation Grant Program provides support to local, regional, and tribal governments for sea level rise adaptation planning and implementation projects. Recently, OPC released the Sea Level Rise Implementation Project Solicitation (Track 2), which is funded with Proposition 4 Climate Bond revenue. Through this competition, a total of \$7,000,000 is available. OPC anticipates the minimum grant award will be \$500,000, while the maximum award may be \$2,500,000. The City seeks the full grant award of \$2,500,000. Letters of intent (LOI) are due by Friday, February 20, 2026; invitations to submit full proposals are anticipated by Friday, March 20, 2026. Full proposals are due June 5, 2026. OPC's recommendations for award are anticipated in late September 2026.

2. California State Coastal Conservancy Grant Program

The City also seeks funding for the San Dieguito Lagoon Shoreline Protection Project through the California State Coastal Conservancy grant program. The Coastal Conservancy prioritizes projects that restore and protect the California coast, expand access to it, and enhance resilience to climate change. The Coastal Conservancy will fund most stages of a project including feasibility studies, project planning and design, environmental review, permitting, and construction. While there are no maximum or minimum grant amounts for this funding, it is anticipated that most grants will be between \$200,000 and \$5,000,000. The City will seek the maximum award of \$5,000,000. This grant is awarded on a rolling basis, and the process begins with a pre-application.

In addition to the grant request amounts exceeded the \$60,000 signing authority of the City Manager, the City Council is being asked to approve the accompanying resolutions to authorize the City Manager to submit all related grant materials and execute any grant agreements to facilitate the timely submittal of all grant materials.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact related to the recommended actions. Should the City receive grant funding through these opportunities, staff will return to the City Council in Fiscal Year 2026-2027 to appropriate potential grant awards and recommend necessary budget adjustments.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

The proposed City Council action does not constitute a "project" under the definition set forth in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 because it will not

have a potential to result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment and is, therefore, not subject to CEQA. No further action under CEQA is required.

NEXUS TO CITY COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES:

Implementation of the project is a Tier II City Council priority work plan item for Fiscal Years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – SB 1 Resolution

Attachment B – Coastal Conservancy Resolution