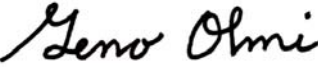




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29405-2413

10 July 2003

To: Marcia McNutt
Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

From: Geno Olmi 
Ecologist & Federal Program Officer

Subject: Application for Federal Assistance,
Support for Regional Coastal Observing System Development

Thank you for applying for funding under the NOAA Coastal Services Center's grant program for regional coastal observing system development. I am pleased to inform you that the Coastal Services Center (CSC) intends to recommend your proposal for funding.

The Coastal Services Center received twenty-one proposals in response to the announcement for availability of support for Regional Coastal Observing System Development. Each proposal was evaluated by a minimum of four reviewers. On 23-24 June, the CSC hosted a review panel to discuss the evaluations and to provide the CSC with a recommendation of which proposals to fund based on the announcement guidance, the evaluations, and the amount of funds available. In general, the panel favorably evaluated proposals that clearly articulated partners, roles and responsibilities, and a work plan that would significantly enhance development of a regional observing system.

Briefly, the main points regarding your proposal from the panel discussion were as follows:

Positives:

- Substantial list of partners
- Have some structure already in place through MB CORC efforts
- Well thought out and responsive to RFP

Negatives:

- May be forcing three years of work into one year
- End point not well defined
- Did not address data management issues very well

To the extent reasonable, please try to address the concerns of the panel in the implementation of the project.



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Based on the recommendations of the panel, the Coastal Services Center has selected seven proposals (six coordination and one pilot) that we intend to forward to the NOAA Grants Management Division with our recommendation for funding. Your proposal is one of those that we intend to recommend. Please note that authority for final approval of award applications rests with the NOAA Grants Management Office. The CSC will work with you over the next 2 weeks to prepare a complete application package that must be submitted to the Grants Office by the end of the July.

Congratulations on submitting a proposal worthy of funding. The Coastal Services Center looks forward to working with you to further develop regional coastal observing systems in support of a national Integrated Ocean Observing System. If you have any questions regarding the specifics of your grant, please contact Rebecca Smyth at 415 904-5251 or Rebecca.Smyth@noaa.gov.



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