California Deep Ocean DDT+ Research: Request for Proposals Informational Webinar & Mixer
February 1, 2023

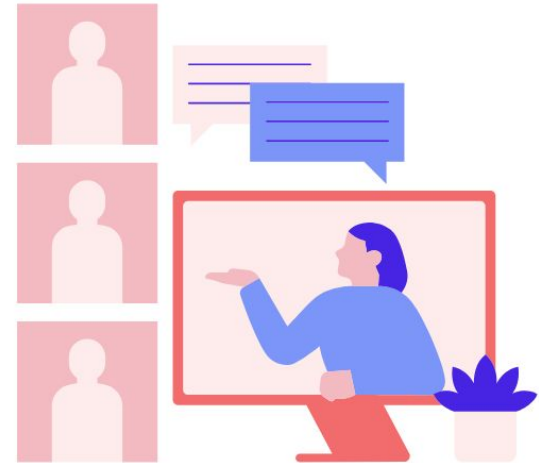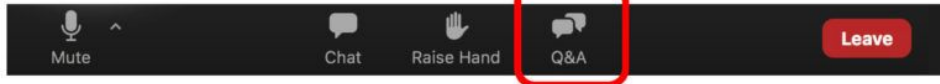Lian Guo | *Research Coordinator, California Sea Grant*
Amalia Almada | *Science, Research and Policy Specialist, USC Sea Grant*
Michelle Robbins | *Environmental Scientist, State Water Resources Control Board*
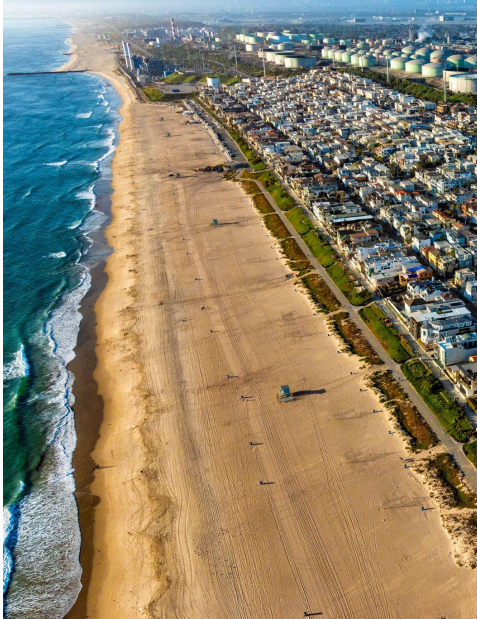Emily Duncan | *Senior Environmental Scientist, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board*

Webinar Guidelines

- All participants automatically muted during presentation
- Ask questions using the Q&A feature
- Recording of presentation will be made available on the Request for Proposals website

Please note that:

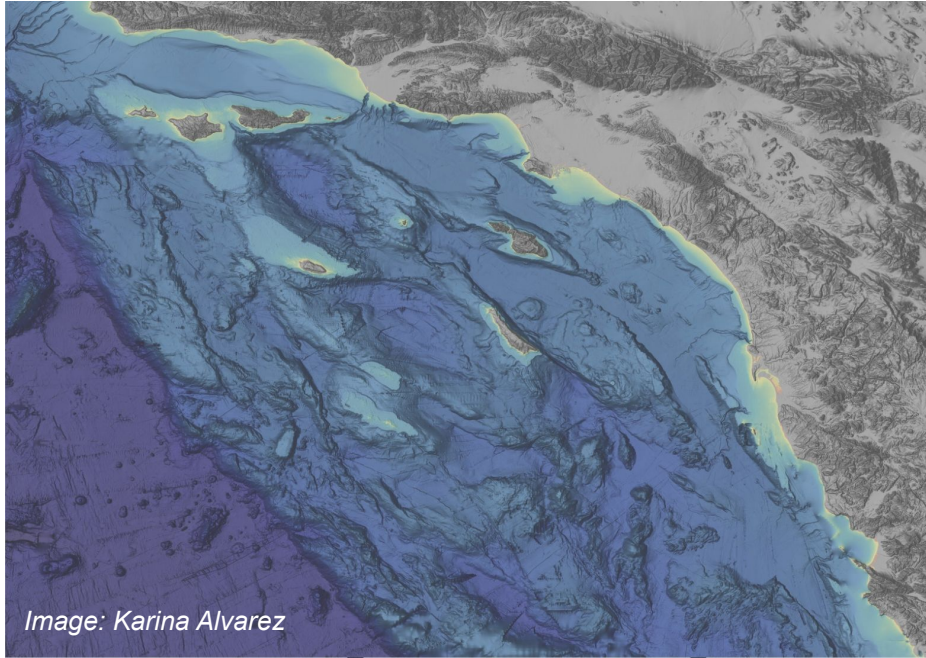- The information in this presentation is accurate as of February 1, 2023
- The timeline and details of the 2023 request for proposals (RFP) contained herein are subject to change
- Any updates to the timeline or the RFP will be listed on the RFP website
- We urge potential applicants to refer to the RFP itself when preparing applications and not solely rely on the information in this presentation

Webinar Objectives

Image: Karina Alvarez

- Describe in detail the request for proposals
- Go over important application components
- Question & Answer Session
- Collaborative "Mixer" to follow in separate Zoom link

CA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Mission:

To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.

CALIFORNIA SEA GRANT

Mission:

To provide the information, tools, training, and relationships needed to help California conserve and sustainably prosper from our coastal and marine environments.

Mission:

To contribute to solving the problems of the Urban Ocean; foster the public's understanding of coastal, ocean, and social science; recognize opportunities for the blue economy, coastal commerce, and recreation; solicit and fund relevant, innovative science to inform better decision-making; and improve the quality of life in coastal regions across Southern California.
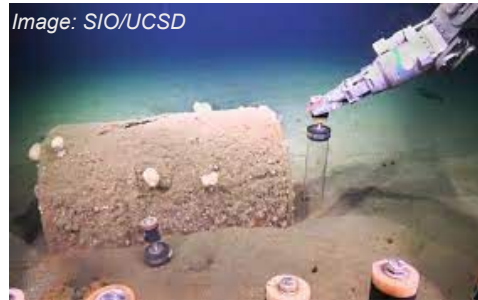
Award Information

- Focus on improving regulatory outcomes through greater understanding of the human health risk and ecological risk due to deep ocean DDT+ deposits (i.e., ocean disposal sites, other coastal sources, and DDT processes) in the Southern California Bight.

- Up to $5,200,000 is available; project budgets should not exceed $2,000,000 (to include indirect costs, if any)
  - Budgets may exceed $2,000,000 if good cause is provided and the DWQ Deputy Director approves the exceedance

- Projects can be up to 18 months in duration

- Anticipated Start Date: June 1, 2023

- Multi-institution/highly collaborative proposals are encouraged

Eligibility

- Proposals must be submitted by a researcher or faculty employed at a California-based research institution.
  - All lead PIs must have Principal Investigator (PI) status at their institution to be eligible to apply.
- Submissions from diverse teams led by early career researchers, women, nonbinary, Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other individuals with underrepresented identities are strongly encouraged.

Image: earth.org

Image: SIO/UCSD

Funding Priorities

- This research will be funded by Senate Bill 154, Budget Act of 2022, to "support DDT cleanup near Southern California".

- Priority research objectives are those that address State Water Board management priorities and relevant research needs described in Sea Grant's *A Deep Ocean DDT+ Research Needs Assessment for the Southern California Bight* report. Proposals must address one or more of the priority research objectives outlined in the RFP.

- Due to the limited availability of funds, researchers are highly encouraged to collaborate on proposals and to utilize archived samples as appropriate.

Funding Priorities

1. Improve understanding of DDT breakdown compounds and related byproducts in the Southern California Bight environment, particularly projects that include a focus on:

    a. Characterization of DDT+ chemicals (presence, concentration, bioavailability) in wildlife living in and/or migrating through the deep ocean basins; and/or

    b. Implications of monitoring the broader suite of DDT+ chemicals, including impurities, and how that alters our understanding of the extent and distribution of DDT+ chemicals in the Southern California Bight

Funding Priorities

2. **Assess the risk of deep ocean DDT+ chemicals to public health (particularly via local seafood consumption) and/or wildlife**, including aquatic organisms and fish-eating birds. Preference given to projects that include a focus on:

   a. Clarifying the potential DDT+ exposure based on source type; and/or geographic contributions

   b. Characterizing the concentration of DDT+ chemicals in local marine organisms that are frequently consumed by humans using standard protocols** to inform updated, location-specific fish advisories; and evaluating the toxicity of DDT+ chemicals identified in local organisms

   c. Understanding which Southern California Bight human populations are most likely to be impacted by DDT+ exposure

   d. Examining whether co-factors increase the potential DDT+ exposure to marine life and/or human consumers of fish

**Note: Research in support of fish consumption advisories should utilize methods outlined in OEHHA 2022, "Protocol for Fish Sampling and Analysis to Support the Development of Fish Advisories in California."

Timeline

February 1, 2023, 10:00 - 11:15AM PT: Optional Informational Webinar and Researcher Mixer

February 14, 2023, 5:00PM PT: Required Letter of Intent due in eSeaGrant

March 28, 2023, 5:00PM PT: Full proposals due in eSeaGrant

[Only applicants who submitted a letter of intent are eligible to submit a full proposal]

May 2023: Notification of funding status (expected)

June 1, 2023: Projects begin

November 30, 2024: Projects end

December 31, 2024: All project invoicing must be completed

February 28, 2025: All water quality data must be uploaded to CEDEN

Required Application Components: Letter of Intent

The letter (2 pg limit) must provide the following:

- Names of key personnel (PIs, co-PIs) and contact information
- Title of project
- Brief discussion of the proposed research project topic and approach, including:
  - RFP priorities that will be addressed
  - Project goals
  - Project design and methodology
  - Relevance to DDT+ management needs
- Approximate total funding amount to be requested
- A list of three suggested reviewers (without conflict of interest) with expertise to review your proposal

Letter of Intent Evaluation

A response acknowledging receipt of the letter of intent will be sent and letters of intent will be screened for applicability to the funding priorities of this RFP.

Applicants should assume they are eligible to write full proposals unless otherwise notified.

Required Application Components: Full Proposal

DEADLINE: *March 28, 2023, 5:00PM PT submitted through eSeaGrant (http://eseagrant2.ucsd.edu/)*

Formatting guidelines and page limits can be found in the RFP.

1. Signed Institutional Cover Page
2. Project Summary
3. Project Narrative

NOTE:
Eligible applicants will be granted access to the full proposal submission portal in eSeaGrant.

Required Application Components: Full Proposal

DEADLINE: *March 28, 2023, 5:00PM PT submitted through eSeaGrant (http://eseagrant2.ucsd.edu/)*

Formatting guidelines and page limits can be found in the RFP.

1. **Signed Institutional Cover Page**
2. Project Summary
3. Project Narrative →

12 page limit
- Introduction and Background
- Objectives
- Project Details
- Outcomes and Deliverables
- Project Timeline
- Diversity Statement*
- References

*Example relevant activities:
- *Broadening the participation of underrepresented groups and/or early career researchers*
- *Guided research experiences and mentorship to students… and supporting research programs with Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)*
- *Partnerships with local **community-based organizations**, tribes, and impacted communities to inform the proposed research design and/or location(s)*

Required Application Components: Full Proposal

DEADLINE: *March 28, 2023, 5:00PM PT submitted through eSeaGrant (http://eseagrant2.ucsd.edu/)*
Formatting guidelines and page limits can be found in the RFP.

1. Signed Institutional Cover Page
2. Project Summary
3. Project Narrative
4. CVs and Additional Personnel
5. Budget and Budget Justification

6. Current and Pending Support
7. Letters of Support (Optional)
8. Data Management Plan
9. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

NOTE:
An excel budget workbook is available to help support preparation of your budget and other application components (cover page, current and pending support, timeline).

Excel Workbook and eSeaGrant Overview

Full Proposal Evaluation Criteria

To be funded, the proposed research must be consistent with the funding goals of this RFP

Technical/Scientific Merit (30%)

Project Rationale (25%)

Management Relevance (15%)

Qualifications of Investigators (15%)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (10%)

Project costs (5%)

All proposals will undergo a structured, external review process

Full Proposal Selection Criteria

Sea Grant and the State Water Board shall award in the rank order unless the proposal is justified to be selected out of rank order based on one or more of the following factors:

1. Availability of funding.
2. Balance/distribution of funds:
   - Geographically
   - By type of institution
   - By type of partners
   - By research priority
   - By project types
3. Duplication of other projects funded or considered for funding.
4. Program priorities and policy factors.
5. Applicant's prior award performance.
6. Addressing the goals of the Diversity Statement outlined in the Project Narrative Requirements, including applicants that come from and/or foster partnerships with early career researchers, Indigenous, underserved, and/or underrepresented peoples.

Reporting & Community Engagement

- Successful applicants will be expected to stay in communication with the funding agencies concerning project delays and other issues due to the time-sensitive nature of the funds. Every six months, funded Principle Investigators (PI) will submit a detailed progress report and a final report at the conclusion of the project.

- Each funded project team is expected to present their research progress in up to three DDT+ community engagement meetings facilitated by Sea Grant with relevant regulatory agencies, DDT+ researchers, and interested community members.

- PIs must upload all water quality data at the conclusion of the project to the California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN). Guidance for submitting data, including required minimum data elements and data formats, is available at http://www.ceden.org.

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Questions?
Please use the Zoom Q&A Feature

Budget Questions: sgbudget@ucsd.edu
Rose Madson, Assistant Director, California Sea Grant
Ruth Dudas, Contracts & Grants Coordinator, USC Sea Grant

Proposal and eSeaGrant Submission Questions: sgproposal@ucsd.edu
Lian Guo, Research Coordinator, California Sea Grant
Amalia Aruda Almada, Science, Research & Policy Specialist, USC Sea Grant

Informal Researcher Mixer

Goal: To assist DDT+ researchers in making new contacts for potential collaborations.

You do not have to share any proposal ideas during the mixer - we are structuring our conversations around what your expertise is, and what expertise you are in search of. We expect more detailed conversations about proposal ideas will occur outside this mixer.

Please fill out our "In search of…" DDT+ researcher spreadsheet and join us on the shared zoom link for an informal research mixer.

Informal Researcher Mixer

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Agenda:

- Welcome
- Random Breakout #1 - 8 min
- Random Breakout #2 - 8 min
- Closing

Recommended Prompts:

- Name, position, affiliation
- Expertise and/or experience working with DDT+ and related issues
- Types of expertise or collaborators you are seeking to connect with

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