

project that identifies the entity(ies) responsible for ongoing stewardship, including financial or staff support, and monitoring of conservation easements or ongoing activities to ensure that they are consistent with long-term conservation.

Activities that may be considered to be consistent with conservation purposes include: resource protection; restoration and enhancement, such as vegetative erosion control or restoration of natural water flow to the area; recreational activities, such as: hiking, hunting, and fishing; access for swimming, canoeing, kayaking; and research and educational activities. Construction of facilities on a minor scale, such as restrooms or boardwalks, to facilitate these activities and/or for the purpose of minimizing harm to coastal resources due to public access and recreation may be allowed depending on the proposed use of the property and the site environment.

Activities that are considered to be inconsistent include: active agricultural or aquaculture production; shoreline armoring or other hard erosion control structures; construction or expansion of roads, buildings or facilities except as noted above, or such facilities for active recreation as sports facilities, water parks, playgrounds, or similar uses.

d. Non-governmental organizations, corporations, or individuals may participate in the acquisition and long-term stewardship of lands through this program, except as provided under sections 2.2 and 2.4 of these guidelines.

e. Leasing or renting of the property or interest in property acquired through the CELCP to a third party is prohibited unless specifically authorized by NOAA. The recipient agrees that any authorized arrangement for leasing or renting property involved in the project must be: consistent with the authorized general and special purpose of the award; for adequate consideration; and consistent with applicable Department of Commerce requirements concerning, but not limited to, nondiscrimination and environmental compliance. All income or other revenues derived from an approved lease or rent arrangement shall be used to maintain or manage the property.

f. Pre-existing uses on the property must be identified as part of the project application. NOAA will review such uses for potential impacts and to determine whether they are consistent with the purposes of the CELCP. Applicants may wish to consider protecting land that contains pre-existing uses through a conservation easement, rather than through fee simple acquisition. If a project is approved with pre-existing uses, such

uses may not be expanded or converted to other uses without prior approval of NOAA.

g. If the property or interest in the land acquired with CELCP funds is sold, exchanged, divested, or converted to other uses that are inconsistent with the purposes for which it was acquired without prior approval of NOAA, the recipient must return to NOAA the full amount of the Federal share of funds for re-distribution in the CELCP grant process. In some cases, at the recipient's request, NOAA may approve the disposition of the property and issue instructions to sell the property. In such cases, the correct value to be returned will be calculated by applying the Federal share of participation in the cost of the original purchase to the proceeds of the sale after deduction of any actual and reasonable selling expenses.

2.7. Cost-sharing requirements

a. Matching requirement. Federal funds awarded under this program shall be matched with funds from non-federal sources on a 1:1 basis. The coastal state is responsible for ensuring that the full amount of the matching requirement is provided, particularly when the non-federal share includes contributions from other agencies, groups or individuals. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, and in accordance with 48 U.S.C. 1469a(d), the Program shall waive the requirement for local matching funds for any project under \$200,000 (including in-kind contribution) to the governments of Insular Areas, defined as the jurisdictions of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

b. Source of matching funds. The non-federal share of funding may be derived from state, local, non-governmental or private sources in the form of cash or the value of non-monetary or in-kind contributions, such as the value of donated lands or interests therein, or services such as on-site remediation, restoration, enhancement, or donated labor and supplies, provided that the in-kind contributions are necessary and reasonable to accomplish the objectives of the project. Such in-kind contributions must be identified in the project application, completed within the financial assistance award period, and documented as part of the completed project. Any land used as match must be located within the vicinity of the property being acquired, in the same project area identified in the state's plan, or be substantially related in terms of conservation values or objectives, and must meet the eligibility

criteria, ownership and stewardship conditions described in sections 2.3 through 2.6. The value of land used as match must be documented with the grant application, and must reflect nationally recognized appraisal standards, including, to the extent appropriate, the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisition. (<http://www.usdoj.gov/enrd/land-ack/>).

No funds or in-kind contributions from Federal or non-federal sources, including the value of donated lands or services, that have been previously used to satisfy the matching requirements of this program or that have been or will be counted or used to satisfy another Federal grant, can be counted toward the non-federal matching share. Unless otherwise provided by law, the value of property or interests in property that were acquired with Federal funding may not be used as non-federal match.

See 15 CFR 24.24 Matching or Cost-Sharing (Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments) for determining the value of in-kind contributions.

c. Banked match. States may apply the value of land or in-kind services accrued up to 3 years prior to submission of the grant application toward the non-federal share of funding. Such "banked match" is subject to the same terms described under section 2.7.b. above.

3. State Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plans

3.1 Development of CELC Plan

In order to qualify to receive funds under this program, a coastal state must develop and submit to NOAA for approval, a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan that provides an assessment of priority conservation needs and clear guidance for nominating and selecting land conservation projects within the state. State plans will be developed and submitted by the state lead agency, in conjunction with: the state's coastal management program (if different from the lead agency); any NERRs in that state; any other state or Federal agencies involved in coastal land acquisition, conservation, or management in the state; and other interested parties.

Plans are intended to be fairly simple and concise, and may make use of work that has already been done in the state or region, such as regional, state or local watershed protection, restoration or land conservation plans. A state may incorporate existing plans, or portions thereof, by reference into a CELC plan. States are encouraged to consider