

## Department of State Lands Pearson

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**Request:** Retroactive authorization to apply for a \$772,700 federal grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR).

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Department of State Lands (DSL) is requesting retroactive authorization to apply for a grant to acquire land from the Common School Fund (CSF) for the SSNERR. This grant would allow DSL to shift 80 acres of upland habitat between programs in DSL, thus there would be no loss of private land for the county tax base. In a sense this request allows for a technical adjustment to the DSL program portfolio because the SSNERR is also an asset of the CSF. The transfer of the 80 acres would allow the land to be managed for conservation and watershed protection while compensating the CSF for its potential loss of revenue.

The notice of grant availability was posted in November 21, 2016; this was after the October 31, 2016 deadline for submitting requests for the December 2016 meeting of the Emergency Board. The deadline for applications was February 3, 2017. DSL complied with requirements for retroactive authorization by sending Legislative leadership a letter declaring its intent to apply on January 23. Awards will be made in July 2017.

The grant requires a 50 percent match. As with the prior grants, this requirement will be met with in-kind contributions. Federal grant applications often allow existing legislatively approved expenditures to count as match; these are called in-kind contributions. In this case existing personnel activities count as match.

If the application is successful, DSL will request additional expenditure limitation at the during the 2017 Legislative Session.