

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

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EQUIPMENT GRANTS OFFERED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) announced today it is offering Response Equipment Grants to local governments. The grants have an average value of a \$30,000 and include the cost of oil spill response equipment, a mobile trailer and equipment deployment training, but not maintenance or replacement.

"With growing concerns about increased movement of oil in California's inland areas, we felt the need to make these grants available as quickly as possible," said OSPR Administrator Thomas M. Cullen, Jr. "We confirmed with our partner agencies that we were not duplicating an existing effort and then launched the program inland."

OSPR has an initial \$250,000 to award in the first part of 2015. Future grant offerings will be contingent upon budget allowance. OSPR has offered the local equipment grants in the marine environment since 2008 and has provided \$850,000 to 34 government entities over that time. With Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.'s expansion of the state's oil spill preparedness and response program statewide, the Response Equipment Grant Program expanded as well providing support to inland counties.

Under the expansion, OSPR's program now covers all state surface waters at risk of oil spills from any source, including vessels, pipelines, production facilities, and other modes of petroleum transport. The expansion provides critical administrative funding for drills and exercises, spill response, and continued coordination with local, state and federal government along with industry and non-governmental organizations.

As part of CDFW, OSPR has the natural resource trustee and custodial responsibilities for protecting, managing, and restoring the state's fish, wildlife and plant resources. It is one of the few state agencies in the nation that has both major pollution response authority and natural resource trustee authority for wildlife and habitat.

For more information on local government grants visit:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/Response/Response_Equipment_Grants.asp

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