



News Release

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Grants available to help coastal counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Counties (NACo), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP), is pleased to announce the fourth year of funding for the *Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI)*.

The initiative provides financial assistance on a competitive basis to innovative, high quality county-led or supported projects. In 2010, CCRI will provide about \$500,000 in grants to improve stream, river, estuarine and other important marine habitats and remove barriers such as dams and culverts for fish migration and passage.

Grants that are community-based in nature and willing to work in partnership with NOAA will be given special consideration, as NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program is providing major financial support for this partnership. Priority areas for CCRI are coastal restoration and the removal of fish passage barriers in coastal streams and rivers. Grants will range from \$50,000-\$100,000, based upon need.

"NACo is very pleased that our partnership with NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program will expand to bring additional resources to coastal counties," said NACo President Valerie Brown, supervisor, Sonoma County, Calif. "Our nation's coastal environment provides tremendous benefits. Counties across the country are leading many critical efforts to restore these resources, and NACo is proud that this new program will bolster county-led efforts."

The *Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative* encourages innovative, county projects that restore important marine and coastal habitats. In addition, the program helps county governments, citizen groups and other local organizations to conduct community-based restoration that will enhance local watershed-based resource management and promote stewardship. To date, NACo has provided \$800,000 in funding to 12 county restoration projects. The funding facilitated the restoration of about 215 acres of coastal wetlands and opened up more than 12 miles for fish passage. More than 100 counties submitted applications in the past three years of funding.

CCRI will be accepting applications between Jan. 5 and March 29. For more information and to access the full RFP and application instructions, visit www.naco.org/ccri, call Carrie Clingan at 202.942.4246 or email cclingan@naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.