



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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December 8, 2011

Agenda Item #3c

To: Governing Board, SMBRC

From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director

Subject: Amendment to Proposition 84 Grant Award to City of Calabasas

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

- Consider approval of amendment to a Proposition 84 grant award for a City of Calabasas trash screen installation project.

## Background

In August 2011 the Governing Board approved a Proposition 84 grant award for \$168,000 to the City of Calabasas (City) to install a minimum of 400 catch basin screens made out of 95% post-consumer recycled plastic in all City stormdrains that discharge to Las Virgenes Creek. The screens would help prevent trash and debris from entering the stormdrains which eventually discharge into Las Virgenes Creek and Santa Monica Bay beaches.

The City has informed SMBRC staff that the plastic screens do not meet LA County Flood Control District BMP requirements. The City can install the plastic screens but would be required to remove them from catch basin inlets prior to the onset of the rainy season, to prevent flooding during high rainfall events. This is because the plastic screens do not flip open during high flows. The screens preferred by the LA County FCD "automatically" flip open once flows reach a critical volume, thus reducing the potential for flooding while still capturing low flow wet weather events. If the City were to opt for the plastic screens and agree to remove them from catch basins before the beginning of the rainy season, there would be no opportunity to capture low flow wet weather events during the rainy season.

Staff therefore recommends the Governing Board approve and amended scope of work for this grant award that allows the City to install County-approved catch basin screens at high trash-generating sites throughout the City within the Malibu Creek watershed. The grant award of \$168,000 would remain the same, however the number of catch basins where screens would be installed would be reduced due to the higher cost of the County-approved screens, and the assumption by the City of all operational and maintenance costs. The funds will still enable the City install approved trash screens on all public streets in Calabasas within the Malibu Creek Watershed. However, gated communities with private roads, schools, and commercial properties would not be screened. Staff has concluded that despite the reduction in the number of trash screens to be installed, the project will have a major positive impact on water quality in the Malibu Creek watershed,





and the City will still be in compliance with the Malibu Creek watershed Trash TMDL.

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*Note: The original project description from the August 2011 Governing Board staff report is re-printed below for your reference:*

**Project: City of Calabasas Trash Basin Inserts**

**Applicant: City of Calabasas**

**Amount Requested: \$168,000**

**Match: \$40,820**

The City of Calabasas will install a minimum of 400 catch basin screens made out of 95% post-consumer recycled plastic in all stormdrains that discharge to Las Virgenes Creek. This includes the west side of the City. The screens will help prevent trash and debris from entering the stormdrains which eventually discharge into Las Virgenes Creek and Santa Monica Bay beaches. Trash screens will capture trash and debris greater than 5mm in size. The city estimates that average capture will be approximately 12 pounds of debris per applicable drain per quarter (dry weight). However, there are large variations in the amount of trash and debris collected by each drain in relation to location and size. The estimates were based on data from a previous pilot project, and street sweeper and CDS unit tonnage reports.

Site Description: Excluders will be installed at a minimum of 400 catch basins within the city that drain to Santa Monica Bay via Las Virgenes and Malibu Creek.

Project Benefits: Preventing trash from reaching local creeks and streams, beaches, and the Bay removes a potential hazard to human health and aquatic life, and helps protect aesthetics of these natural areas. Implementation of the project will help meet the Malibu Creek TMDL. Trash screens will capture trash and debris greater than 5mm in size. The city estimates that average capture will be approximately 12 pounds of debris per applicable drain per quarter (dry weight).

Staff has determined that the Trash Excluder Project is exempt from CEQA under Title 14 CCR Section 15301 (projects involving the minor alteration of existing structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of an existing use).