



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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May 13, 2014

Agenda Item #3 a ii

To: Executive Committee
Fr: Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director
Re: Commission Fiscal Year 2015 Work Plan

Action Requested of the Executive Committee:

- Review and recommend Governing Board approval of the work plan

Background

The SMBRC is a National Estuary Program of the US EPA and receives its major operational funding through a grant from US EPA as specified in Section 320 of the Clean Water Act. Each year, we prepare a work plan outlining the issues we will work on, the program objectives, tasks, funding sources, and resource allocations for the work to be performed during the federal fiscal year. The US EPA requires that our Governing Board adopt a work plan, which is then used by US EPA to track our grant expenditures and our progress toward achieving our mission to improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resource, and protect the Bay's benefits and values.

The Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) work plan builds upon the work being carried out in the current fiscal year and for this reason many of the tasks in the current work plan will be carried over. On the other hand, several changes and additions are proposed to reflect new program priorities, new project opportunities, as well as in response to suggestions received from members of the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) during its March 19 annual meeting.

The table below provides a summary of FY15 work plan tasks and how they are related to the tasks in our current (FY14) work plan. Also attached is a summary of comments and suggestions from WAC members on the work plan. WAC suggestions incorporated in the work plan are highlighted in yellow.

Upon conceptual endorsement of these changes by the Executive Committee, a full version of the draft FY15 work plan will be developed and submitted to the Governing Board for adoption and US EPA for final approval. Although the 2015 federal fiscal year does not start until October 1 this year, US EPA has requested that we submit the work plan no later than early June to allow sufficient time to process our annual grant application.

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As the primary fiscal agent for the US EPA Section 320 grant funding, The Bay Foundation (TBF) will prepare and submit the grant application including the adopted work plan, and receive and administer the grant funding on behalf of the SMBRC.

Budget/Financial Impact

Adoption of this work plan is necessary for the USEPA to award us section 320 grant funding for the 2015 fiscal year.

Task #	FY 14 Task Description	Changes/Revisions from FY 14 to FY 15
1	Water Resource and Quality Improvement	
1.1	Oversee Prop. 12, 50, and 84 bond-funded grants	Continue oversight of on-going projects and develop new project proposals.
1.2	Facilitate development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Bay watershed	Continue to participate in development of the enhanced watershed management plans and help in project development and implementation under the EWMP. Continue to assist LARWQCB in boater outreach on MDR copper TMDL.
1.3	Participate in Greater LA IRWMP	Continue.
1.4	Implement Green Infrastructure and LID Projects in Targeted Watersheds	Continue existing projects and carry out the new rain garden projects through the newly awarded MWD grant and outreach through the new LADWP grants
1.5	Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Ready Program	Partnering with LARC, USC Sea Grant, Heal the Bay and coastal jurisdictions to carry out the Local Coastal Plan Sea Level Rise Adaptation project. Develop and seek funding for beach sediment management and habitat restoration projects
1.6	Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program	- Further promote the program and raise awareness through social media campaigns, food tastings, and increased media exposure, etc.
2	Wetlands and Coastal Habitats Restoration	
2.1	Facilitate restoration of priority wetlands	- Ballona Wetlands: Continue the CEQA/NEPA process. - Malibu Lagoon: Continue post-restoration maintenance and monitoring. - Oxford Basin: Carry out the restoration project
2.2	Facilitate stream protection and restoration	- Continue to facilitate adoption of stream protection ordinance by local jurisdictions. - Develop historical ecology and conceptual restoration plans for Trancas and other coastal lagoons in Santa Monica Bay.





		- Continue to facilitate control of mudsnails, crayfish, and other invasive species. Continue to facilitate restoration of red-legged frog habitats.
2.3	Facilitate watershed management in Ballona Creek watershed	Delete due to discontinuation of the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force. Other remaining activities are integrated into other relevant sections.
3	Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration	
3.1	Promote marine ecosystem protection through outreach and information sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the Los Angeles MPA Collaborative to facilitate management and overcome monitoring and enforcement challenges. - Continue ocean vessel aerial monitoring. - Promote programs to increase the supply of healthy local sustainable seafood. - Promote and/or participate in development of fishery management for spiny lobsters, California halibut, etc., and promote involvement of local fisherman in fishery management issues. - Collaborate with PV cities to promote protection of intertidal habitats on PV through outreach and other mechanisms.
3.2	Conduct research of important marine species and habitats	- Continue and complete the second phase of abalone population study involving release and restoration of abalone broodstock on Palos Verdes. Continue California Halibut status research.
3.3	Restore rocky reef habitat	Carry out the new multi-year rocky reef/kelp restoration project. Continue to support and contribute to development of rocky reef restoration plan on Palos Verdes.
4	Public Education and Outreach	
4.1	Conduct general outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue existing outreach efforts and publications. - Continue existing volunteer program and coordination of Coastal Cleanup Day.
4.2	Continue overseeing the Boater Education and Outreach Program	<p>Carry out the new oil spill prevention outreach program under the CalRecycle grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand Honey Pot Day to Honey Pot Unlimited and continue other existing programs
4.3	Oversee the PIE mini-grant program	- Continue to seek and raise funds from various local sources and initiate a new round of PIE.
4.4	Participate in the PV Shelf Institutional Controls Program	Continue to participate in activities of the Fish Contamination Education Collaborative and EPA Superfund site investigation.
5	Planning, Monitoring, and Program Management	
5.1	Increase funding and/or develop new financing mechanisms for BRP implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to solicit annual member contribution. - Continue to develop fundraising strategies and seek other public and private funding opportunities.



		- Continue to support the collaborative effort of local environmental and business communities for the County-wide storm water funding measure.
5.2	Inter-agency coordination, and involvement	- Continue to participate various inter-agency committees and task forces.
5.3	Implement the Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program	- Continue existing effort to evaluate progress and facilitate CMP implementation. Develop pilot fish larvae and deep reef surveys. - Evaluate the need for CMP update - Continue participation in development of habitat condition indices for rocky reef, and rocky and sandy beaches and facilitate volunteer survey of intertidal ecology.
5.4	BRP Implementation Progress Tracking	Continue to develop tracking system for progress in implementing the newly-updated BRP.
5.5	State of the Bay Reporting	Develop and complete the 2015 State of the Bay Report.
5.6	Conduct general GB support, organizational management and reporting activities	Continue existing activities.

Attachment

**Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Watershed Advisory
Council Meeting
March 19, 2014**

Summary of Comments and Suggestions

Work Plan

1. Water Resources and Quality Improvement

- Encourage our stakeholders to participate in the municipal storm water permit NPDES process, to help develop project ideas and locations under EWMP.
- Working with various groups for new funding mechanisms to comply with TMDL requirement.

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- Oxford Basin should be restored as it is vital to the health and well-being of the area and is an opportunity for freshwater flushing and an adjunct for existing fish nurseries.
- Support copper TMDL for Marina del Rey.
- More emphasis on LIDs for retrofitting existing buildings instead of new developments.
- Install more tree wells instead of trees because they use a lot of irrigated water.
- Bond funding should be made available for other options (such as mechanical diversion) besides infiltration types of projects.
- Promote application of DNA analysis to TMDL to identify human or avian sources of bacteria and their health risk to swimmers.
- Address the mismatch between nitrogen-level requirements in storm water and drinking water standards in Palos Verdes area.
- Provide more incentive to get cities to ban Styrofoam, bags and smoking to comply with trash TMDL.
- Staff should spend more time on hands-on work versus issues with low pay-off such as climate change.

2. Wetland and Coastal Habitat Restoration

- More recognition that MDR is a vital part of fish nurseries and work to close at least the back area to fishing.
- Put more emphasis on assessing the impacts of invasives on stream habitats rather than just their presence/absences. More coordination for outreach on invasives control and have crayfish added to the 303D list or banned as bait.
- A group should be formed for interested parties to discuss Ballona Wetlands restoration.
- Recommend that SMBRC be removed from participating Ballona Wetlands restoration planning because there are too many errors in the process.

3. Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration

- Expand kelp restoration sites within the Bay and address the concern (altered wave pattern) of constructing artificial reef using dam demolition materials.
- Should work on implementation of protection plan for halibut and white sea bass instead of lobsters.
- More work should be done to understand why Algae bloom is occurring.
- Work with municipal communities on Palos Verdes Peninsula on the impacts of wasting disease on local starfish population.
- More work should be done to address the huge amount of sediment that rain causes and its effects on the tide pools on the PV Peninsula. Also, work to find more ways to discourage people taking tide pool species including hiring a ranger in the Abalone Cove area.

- Develop a wildlife taskforce to alert the community(-ies) about the risks of species loss, and be a way to stop small, regional disasters.
- More work should be done to investigate sediment movement and beach enhancement and reduce coastal armoring in the Bay.

4. Public Education and Outreach

- Engage school boards and develop outreach for curriculum for infiltration alternatives. One suggestion is to pick three smaller school districts (for example starting with Culver City) and progress to a larger State program after.
- Facilitate and coordinate curriculum development for watershed education.
- Partner with more organizations for outreach events in the Ballona Wetlands. Get more high schools on tours to sample and monitor.
- Solicit cities to contribute to PIE Funding as PIE participation help them to comply with the storm water permits.
- Opposing points of view and conflicts should be included in publications such as *Urban Coast*.

5. Planning, Monitoring, and Research

- Support more comprehensive monitoring. Bring more NGOs to participate in the comprehensive monitoring program instead of just the governmental entities.
- Establish working relationship with beach managers and develop mechanisms to make them be part of the managing/monitoring process for offshore habitats, intertidal beaches, etc. which are often missed by water monitoring agencies.
- Develop and participate comprehensive monitoring of runoff pollution by watershed cities to help assess TMDL compliance.