



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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February 12, 2015

Agenda Item # 3b

To: Governing Board, SMBRC

From: Tom Ford, Executive Director

Subject: California Department of Parks and Recreation Request for Arroyo Sequit Steelhead and Stream Restoration Grant Augmentation of up to \$500,000

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

Recommend that the State Water Board approve an augmentation of up to \$500,000 for the California Department of Parks and Recreation Prop 50 Arroyo Sequit Steelhead and Stream Restoration grant with staff recommendations.

Background

In June 2011, the Governing Board recommended that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approve Prop 50 grants to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) for the design, engineering, and construction of two bridges to replace concrete at-grade (Arizona) crossings, and the removal of a 2' high check-dam on Arroyo Sequit Creek at Leo Carrillo State Beach.

Removal of the three barriers will provide immediate access to 4.5 miles of habitat to the endangered southern steelhead trout in the Arroyo Sequit watershed. The 4.4-mile increase in accessible steelhead habitat will result in a total of 11.5 linear miles of habitat becoming available in the Santa Monica Mountains, a 62% increase. The project will also improve water quality by reducing channel erosion, and improve public safety and recreational access. Arroyo Sequit is one of only three creeks in the Santa Monica Mountains that support the endangered southern steelhead trout. The completed project will help to fulfill the Bay Restoration Plan's objective to 'remove fish barriers and open 20 miles of stream habitat to migrating steelhead trout' (Goal 7, Objective 7.3, Milestone 7.3c, 2013 BRP Update). This project represents 22.5% of the SMBRC's overall goal.

The SMBRF was awarded \$300,000 for planning, design, engineering and permitting. State Parks was awarded \$1,300,000 for demolition of the crossings and check-dam, construction of two bridges, utilities relocation, invasive vegetation removal, and re-vegetation with native species. In 2013, cost estimates indicated that project costs would likely exceed the conceptual budget estimates by approximately \$494,000, for a total project cost of \$1,794,000. State Parks requested, and the Commission recommended, that the SWRCB approve an augmentation of \$155,000 to help offset an estimated \$494,000 cost increase for the project. State Parks secured the additional \$339,000 from

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values



the Wildlife Conservation Board (\$209,000) and internal State Park funds (\$130,000).

Project Status

The grant to the SMBRF for planning, design, engineering and permitting is complete. This grant included design plans (100%) and specifications for demolition, bridge construction, permitting, erosion control, vehicle access and construction staging, crossing alignments, and utility re-alignment.

All necessary permits have been approved, and the project was scheduled to go to construction in summer/fall 2014. The check dam was removed over a period of 11 days in August and September of 2014.

The project went out to bid in April 2014 and bids were opened in May 2014. A total of seven bids were received, all of which exceeded the estimated budget. The lowest bid was \$1,650,000 which was subsequently withdrawn by the bidder. Remaining bids ranged between \$1,922,000 and \$3,398,000. The average of all bids was \$2,435,000. State Parks notified all bidders that the project would not proceed in 2014 due to lack of available funds.

Augmentation Request

State Parks is requesting a budget augmentation of up to \$500,000 for the completion of the Arroyo Sequit Steelhead and Stream Restoration project. Based upon the actual bids received in May of 2014, State Parks has re-estimated costs for construction (contracted services) in 2015 to be \$3,024,600, including projected increases for material and labor. This leaves an estimated shortfall of approximately \$1,360,600 (\$1,230,600 shortage + \$130,000 expended to date). State Parks has successfully filled a large portion of this funding gap. They have secured an additional \$500,000 from Los Angeles County, and \$400,000 from the National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund. State Parks is requesting an augmentation in the amount of up to \$500,000 from the SMBRC to fill in the remaining funding gap. If the Governing Board recommends the augmentation, and the request is approved by the State Water Board, total Prop 50 funding for project planning, design, and implementation will be \$2,255,000.

Amount Secured	\$2,694,000
Expended to Date	(\$130,000)
Funds Available	\$2,564,000
Estimated Cost	\$3,024,600
Estimated Shortage	\$460,600



Proposition 50 Status

To date, the SMBRC has recommended 17 projects with awards ranging from \$315,000 to \$3,000,000. Total funding for all projects to date is \$14,172,580. The SMBRC has \$3,727,769 remaining in Prop 50 for project recommendations.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve submittal of the California Department of Parks and Recreation \$500,000 augmentation request for the Prop 50 Arroyo Sequit Steelhead and Stream Restoration grant to the State Water Resources Control Board for approval.

Staff recommends that the \$500,000 augmentation be limited to construction only and that any additional expenses incurred be the responsibility of State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Staff recommends that the \$500,000 augmentation be available to State Parks only in the event that the lowest qualified construction bid exceeds \$2,524,600 (3,024,600 estimate – 500,000).

