



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax www.smbrc.ca.gov

January 15, 2015

Agenda Item #3 a ii

To: Executive Committee, SMBRC

From: Tom Ford, Executive Director

Subject: California Department of Parks and Recreation Request for Arroyo Sequit Steelhead and Stream Restoration Grant Augmentation

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

Recommend submittal of California Department of Parks and Recreation augmentation request of up to \$500,000 to the Governing Board for the 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. 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, invasive removal, and re-vegetation with native species. In 2013, prior to delivery of 100% design plans, engineering cost estimates indicated that construction costs would likely exceed the conceptual budget estimates by approximately \$500,000. State Parks requested, and the Commission recommended, that the SWRCB approve an augmentation of \$155,000 to help offset the estimated \$500,000 construction cost increase for demolition of two at-grade crossings and construction of two bridges. State Parks secured the additional \$345,000.

Removal of the three barriers will provide immediate access to 4.5 miles of habitat to the endangered southern steelhead trout, 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'. This project represents 22.5% of the SMBRC's overall goal.

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



Project Status

The \$300,000 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. 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 final estimated cost for demolition of the two at-grade crossings and construction of the two bridges was \$1,550,000. 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 construction phase of the Arroyo Sequit Steelhead and Stream Restoration project. Based on the actual bids received to complete the remaining elements of the project, State Parks has re-estimated costs for construction in 2015 to be \$2,948,000, including projected price increases for material and labor. This leaves an estimated shortfall of approximately \$1,400,000. 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 funding gap.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Executive Committee approve submittal of State Parks augmentation request of up to \$500,000 for the Arroyo Sequit Steelhead and Stream Restoration grant to the Governing Board.

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 construction bids exceed \$2,448,000.