



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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May 18, 2015

Agenda Item #3 a i

To: Executive Committee, SMBRC

Fr: Tom Ford, Executive Director

Re: Commission FY 16 Work Plan

Action Requested of the Executive Committee:

- Review and recommend Governing Board approval of the work plan

Background

Section 320 of the federal Clean Water Act establishes the National Estuary Program (NEP), which is administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). To implement the NEP, USEPA identifies national estuaries, develops a plan to restore the estuaries, and provides grants to pay for activities necessary to implement the plan. USEPA identified the Santa Monica Bay as a national estuary and approved the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP), with the concurrence of the State, that identifies actions and priorities to restore the Santa Monica Bay. In 2002, the California legislature established the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) as a non-regulatory, locally based state government entity to advise and oversee activities and coordinate with state, local, and private entities to implement the BRP. To assist in the implementation of the BRP, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provides administrative services to the SMBRC and USEPA provides an annual grant to the Bay Foundation (TBF) to pay for activities necessary for the development and implementation of the BRP. The California legislature has not appropriated funds to implement the BRP; the USEPA grant to TBF provides the primary funding for implementation of the BRP. In lieu of direct funding, the SWRCB contributes by providing state staff, office space, and other administrative services to the SMBRC.

Each year, the SMBRC, in collaboration with TBF, and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority (SMBRA), prepares and submits a work plan to USEPA that identifies the expected tasks and activities necessary to implement the BRP, the objectives to be achieved, and the entity that is expected to carry out the specific tasks.. The work plan also identifies funding sources and specifies a timeline and budget for the fiscal year. USEPA uses the annual work plan to track grant expenditures and progress toward achieving the program's objectives, and to compile information on the environmental outcomes of work plan implementation.

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 FY16 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 from fiscal year 2015. Meanwhile, changes and additions are proposed to reflect new program priorities and new project opportunities, and changes made in response to suggestions received from members of the Watershed Advisory Council during its annual meeting. The table below (Table 1) provides a summary of the FY16 work plan tasks and how they are related to the tasks in the current (FY15) work plan. The FY16 work plan includes revisions to the FY15 work plan to provide more clarity regarding the entity that is expected to carry out the particular task.

Accompanying this staff report is a summary of comments made by WAC members at the annual WAC meeting and staff responses to the comments. WAC comments incorporated in the work plan are indicated in the responses and highlighted in yellow.

Upon review and endorsement of these changes by the Executive Committee, a full version of the draft FY16 work plan will be developed and submitted to the Governing Board for adoption and USEPA for final approval. Although the 2016 federal fiscal year does not start until October 1, the work plan must be submitted to USEPA before the end of June to allow sufficient time to process TBF's annual grant application before the start of the federal fiscal year.

As the recipient of the USEPA Clean Water Act Section 320 grant funding, TBF will prepare and submit the grant application including the adopted work plan, and receive and administer the grant funding on behalf of the SMBNEP.

Budget/Financial Impact

Adoption of this work plan is necessary for USEPA to award the SMBNEP section 320 grant funding for the 2016 fiscal year.





Table 1. Summary of FY 2016 Work Plan Tasks

| Task # | FY 16 Task Description | Changes/Revisions from FY 15 to FY 16 |
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| 1 | Water Resource and Quality Improvement | |
| 1.1 | Oversee Prop. 12, 50, and 84 /Grant Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue oversight of on-going projects. (SMBRC) - Solicit and recommend Prop. 84 funding for new projects with focus on projects identified under WMPs and EWMPs and partner with water agencies. (SMBRC) |
| 1.2 | Facilitate development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Bay watershed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to participate in development of the enhanced watershed management plans and help in project development and implementation under the EWMP. (SMBRC, TBF) - Facilitate monitoring on effectiveness of LIDs, continue to implement ongoing MWD LID project, working with TAC to facilitate regional research efforts. (SMBRC, TBF) - Engage in addressing on-site wastewater treatment system in Malibu Civic Center (SMBRC) - Continue to assist LARWQCB in boater outreach on MDR copper TMDL, including seeking funding for implementation assistance project. (SMBRC, TBF) |
| 1.3 | Participate in Greater LA IRWMP | - Continue. |
| 1.4 | Implement Green Infrastructure and LID Projects in Targeted Watersheds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue existing projects and carry out the new rain garden projects through the MWD grant and outreach through the new LADWP grants (TBF) - Facilitate parkland agencies to incorporate development and implementation of LIDs at their facilities (SMBRC) |
| 1.5 | Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Ready Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnering with LARC, USC Sea Grant, Heal the Bay and coastal jurisdictions to carry out the Local Coastal Plan Sea Level Rise Adaptation project. (SMBRC, TBF) - Conduct vulnerability assessment of BRP objectives and milestones (SMBRC, TBF) - Carry out the Santa Monica sandy beach restoration pilot project. (TBF) - Carry out the kelp restoration/carbon sequestration pilot project. (TBF) |





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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Install new pH/CO2 sensors in Santa Monica Bay. (SMBRC, TBF) - Develop and seek funding for beach sediment management and habitat restoration projects. (SMBRC, TBF) | <p>New, addressing WAC comment</p> <p>No change, addressing WAC comment</p> |
| 1.6 | Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further promote the program and raise awareness through social media campaigns events and increased media exposure, etc.(SMBRC, TBF) | Similar to FY 15. Continue the effort to expand the program to other cities, addressing WAC comments |
| 2 | Wetlands and Coastal Habitats Restoration | | |
| 2.1 | Facilitate restoration of priority wetlands | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ballona Wetlands: Continue participation in the CEQA/NEPA process. (TBF) - Development of regional Level-3 wetland monitoring plan. (SMBRA, TBF) - Malibu Lagoon: Continue post-restoration maintenance and monitoring. (SMBRA, TBF) - Oxford Basin: Partner with LA County to continue carry out the restoration project. (SMBRC) | <p>No change, addressing WAC comments</p> <p>Similar to FY 15. Continue to promote the project and seek additional funding.</p> <p>No change, addressing WAC comments</p> <p>No change, addressing WAC comments</p> |
| 2.2 | Facilitate stream protection and restoration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to facilitate adoption of stream protection ordinance by local jurisdictions. (SMBRC) - Develop historical ecology and conceptual restoration plans for Trancas and other coastal lagoons in Santa Monica Bay. (TBF) - Identify and develop new projects in Ballona Creek watershed based on results of historical ecology and water budget studies. (SMBRC, TBF) - Carry out more fish barrier removal projects, including Arroyo Sequit. (SMBRC, TBF) - Promote restoration of lower Topanga Creek through restoration of the narrows and HCH bridge replacement. (SMBRC) - Carry out maintenance of the restored Stone Canyon Creek. (TBF) - Seek new funding opportunities to implement more Ballona Greenway Plan projects. (SMBRC, TBF) - Continue to facilitate control of mudsnails, crayfish, and other invasive species. Continue to facilitate restoration of red-legged frog habitats. (SMBRC, TBF) | <p>Similar to FY 15. Plan to reinvigorate the effort with partnership with HtB and other organizations, addressing WAC comment</p> <p>No change from FY 15.</p> <p>No change from FY 15</p> <p>Similar to FY 15. Seeking new upcoming funding opportunities, addressing WAC comments.</p> <p>No change</p> |





| 3 Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration | | | |
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| 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. (TBF) - Continue ocean vessel aerial monitoring. (TBF) - Promote programs to increase the supply of healthy local sustainable seafood. (TBF) - Promote and/or participate in development of fishery management for important commercial and recreational fish species. (SMBRC, TBF) - Collaborate with PV cities to promote protection of intertidal habitats on PV through outreach and other mechanisms. (TBF) | <p>No change, addressing WAC comment</p> <p>Complete and discontinue</p> <p>Complete and discontinue</p> <p>Similar to FY 15, addressing WAC comment</p> <p>Similar to FY 15. Seek additional resources to contribute to this effort, addressing WAC comment</p> |
| 3.2 | Conduct research of important marine species and habitats | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue conduct and promote abalone study for release and restoration of abalone broodstock.(TBF) - Continue California Halibut status research. (TBF) - Assist federal partners in assessing eelgrass beds in the Bay. (TBF) | <p>Similar to FY 15. Explore partnership with Santa Monica Pier Aquarium and other organizations to promote abalone restoration</p> <p>Complete and discontinue</p> <p>No change from FY 15</p> |
| 3.3 | Restore rocky reef habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out the multi-year rocky reef/kelp restoration project. (TBF) - Continue to support the planned rocky reef restoration project by MSRP on Palos Verdes. (SMBRC) -Continue to investigate the feasibility of using materials removed from Rindge Dam for rocky reef and sandy beach restoration. (SMBRC) | <p>No change from FY 15</p> <p>No change from FY 15, addressing WAC comment</p> <p>Similar to FY 15. Add sandy beach restoration.</p> |
| 3.4 | Restore coastal dune and bluff habitat | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in and promote restoration of coastal dunes and bluffs (TBF) | <p>New</p> |
| 4.1 | Conduct general outreach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue existing outreach efforts and publications including annual report, Baywire, Urban Coast journal, general media outreach, social media outreach, website, and Urban Coastal Research Symposium (SMBRC, TBF) - Continue existing internship and volunteer program (TBF) - Continue participation of annual Coastal Cleanup Day through partnership with other organizations (TBF) | <p>No change, addressing WAC comments</p> <p>No change</p> <p>Similar to FY 15, without coordination role at Marina del Rey site.</p> |
| 4.2 | Continue overseeing the Boater Education and Outreach Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out the oil spill prevention outreach program under the CalRecycle grant, including oil absorbent exchange program and bilge pumpout installation (TBF) | <p>No change</p> |





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| | | - Continue existing boater education program including boating events/presentations, Changing Tide newsletter, Southern Cali. Tide Tables and Boating Guide, Clean Boating Packet, Honey Pot Day, and pumpout monitoring. (SMBRA, TBF) | No change |
| 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. (TBF) | No change |
| 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. (SMBRC) | No change |
| 5 | Planning, Monitoring, and Program Management | | |
| 5.1 | Increase funding and/or develop new financing mechanisms for BRP implementation | - Continue to solicit annual member contribution.(TBF) - Continue to develop fundraising strategies and seek other public and private funding opportunities. (SMBRC, TBF) - Continue to support the collaborative effort of local environmental and business communities for the County-wide storm water funding measure. (SMBRC) | Discontinue No change, No change, addressing WAC comment |
| 5.2 | Inter-agency coordination, and involvement | - Continue to participate various inter-agency committees and task forces. (SMBRC) | No change |
| 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. (SMBRC) - Evaluate the need for CMP update (SMBRC) - Continue participation in development of habitat condition indices for rocky reef, and rocky and sandy beaches and facilitate volunteer survey of intertidal ecology (All Ashore Sandy Beach citizen monitoring project). (SMBRC, TBF) | No change No change No change |
| 5.4 | BRP Implementation Progress Tracking | - Continue to track progress in implementing the BRP. (SMBRC, TBF) | No change, addressing WAC comment |
| 5.5 | State of the Bay Reporting | - Develop and complete the 2015 State of the Bay Report. (SMBRC) | Complete and discontinue |
| 5.6 | Conduct general GB support, organizational management, and reporting activities | - Continue existing activities.(SMBRC, SMBRA, TBF) | No change |

