bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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September 20, 2012 **Agenda Item #3 b i**

To: Executive Committee, SMBRC

From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director

Subject: Oxford Retention Basin Water Quality and Multi-Use Enhancement Project

Action Requested of the Executive Committee:

- Recommend Governing Board approval of funding for the Oxford Retention Basin Water Quality and Multi-Use Enhancement Project[1]

Background:
Proposition 84 (The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006) allocated approximately $18 million to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) for projects that protect Santa Monica Bay beaches and coastal waters. These projects are administered jointly by SMBRC and the State Water Board (State Board).

The SMBRC released the second Request for Proposals (RFP) for our Proposition 84 grant program on 1/24/2011. The RFP solicited capital improvement projects that will benefit coastal water quality. Eleven applications were received by the 3/16/2011 deadline.

In March 2011, SMBRC staff determined that all eleven applications met the initial criteria for eligibility, and further reviewed the proposals for consistency with the priorities in the RFP. In April, 2011 the SMBRC's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed proposals for technical feasibility and ability to meet RFP criteria. Based on the TAC review, SMBRC staff requested additional information from several applicants, and used the information to develop an initial Recommended Project List (RPL).

The Oxford Basin Project described below was one of several projects that required additional study and review by the TAC and SMBRC staff before making a recommendation to the Executive Committee. The project is on the SMBRC Bond Funding Priority list that was presented to the Governing Board at the August 2012 meeting.

Applicant: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Project: Oxford Retention Basin Water Quality and Multi-Use Enhancement Project

[1] Pending recommendation from the SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee

Requested Amount: $5,000,000 **Recommended Amount: Up to $2,000,000**

This project proposes to address water quality impairments, enhance habitat and open space, create passive recreational opportunities, make aesthetic improvements, and mitigate localized flooding conditions.

Oxford Basin is located near the unincorporated community of Marina del Rey and occupies approximately 10.7 acres. The site primarily serves as a flood control facility which retains urban and stormwater runoff from approximately 700 acres of the Marina del Rey Watershed. Runoff from the basin is discharged directly to Basin E in Marina del Rey through existing tide gates under Admiralty Way. Discharges from Oxford basin contribute to multiple water quality problems in the marina's back basins including Mother's Beach, a popular recreational area within the marina. TMDLs have been adopted for bacteria (back basins) and toxic pollutants including chlordane, copper, lead, zinc, and PCBs (entire harbor). Historically, a portion of the site was used for municipal solid waste disposal, known as the Venice Dump Site. The Venice Dump was an unregulated landfill that accepted all types of municipal solid waste and construction debris. Legacy pollutants from the Venice Dump include lead and zinc, both of which are at levels considered hazardous for disposal purposes. The site is completely dominated by non-native invasive and exotic vegetation and provides little habitat for native fauna.

The County proposes to improve water quality, enhance habitat and open space, create passive recreational opportunities, improve aesthetics, and mitigate localized flooding conditions through the following activities:

- Improving water circulation with the construction of a circulation berm, and replacing and reprogramming the existing tide gates.
- Installation of a bioswale to capture additional runoff.
- Removal of non-native vegetation and legacy-polluted contaminated soil and replacement with appropriate soil and native, site appropriate vegetation,
- Excavate sediment and construct a parapet wall to restore the facility's flood protection capacity,
- Installation of a permeable walking path, interpretive signage, observation decks, new fencing, and additional amenities to enhance passive recreation, public education and safety.

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to $2,000,000 of Proposition 84 funds for water quality and habitat improvements to Oxford Basin. The funding will be used for:

- Berm construction and tide gate improvements: Construction of a berm between the two tide gates and varying the opening cycle of the gates will promote circulation around the berm during daily tidal cycles. Enhanced circulation

should increase dissolved oxygen levels in within the basin, resulting in less algae growth, lower bacteria levels, and a reduction of unpleasant odors,

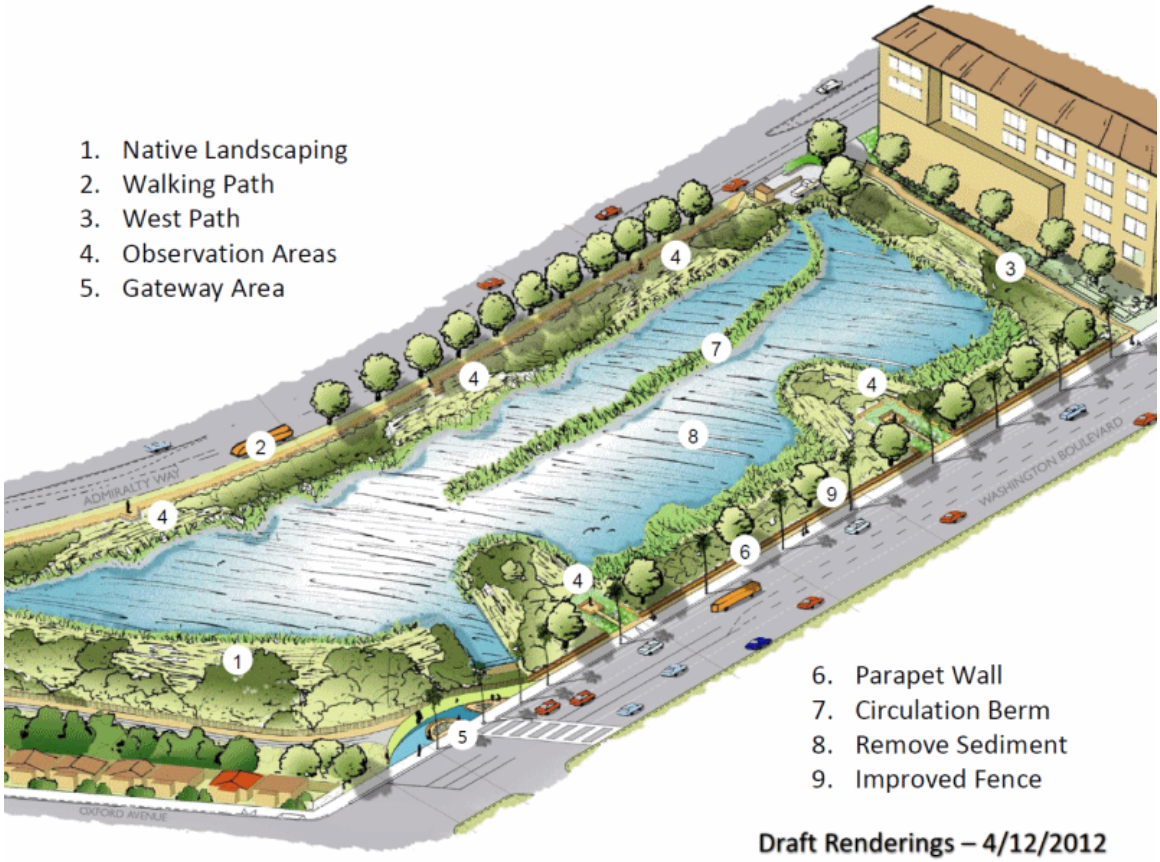
- Contaminated soil removal and replacement: Replacement of contaminated soil above the waterline will help remove legacy pollutants from the former dump site,

- Remove exotic/invasive vegetation: Removal of non-natives and planting native, site appropriate, vegetation will provide habitat for native wildlife, and reduce pollutants (especially heavy metals) through root uptake,

- Bioswale construction: The installation of a bioswale will reduce pollutants entering the basin from the perimeter of the site, increase pervious surface, and facilitate infiltration.

Budget:

Item	Total	SMBRC Funding	LACDPW Match
Habitat Restoration: Removal of Non-Native Plants & Planting of Native Plants	$1,300,000.00	$1,150,000.00	$150,000.00
Removal & Replacement of Contaminated Soil Above Waterline	$800,000.00	$400,000.00	$400,000.00
Tubular Steel Fencing: Maintain integrity of habitat	$500,000.00	$0.00	$500,000.00
Circulation Berm	$300,000.00	$300,000.00	$0.00
Decomposed Granite Walking Path	$200,000.00	$0.00	$200,000.00
Bioswales	$150,000.00	$150,000.00	$0.00
Tide Gate Upgrades	$500,000.00	$0	$500,000.00
Removal of Accumulated Sediment Below Water Line	$400,000.00		$400,000.00
Observation Decks, Benches, and Lighting	$250,000.00		$250,000.00
Concrete Parapet Wall	$200,000.00		$200,000.00
Drainage Improvements	$200,000.00		$200,000.00
Access ramps	$50,000.00		$50,000.00
TOTAL	**$4,850,000.00**	**$2,000,000.00**	**$2,850,000.00**



Draft Renderings – 4/12/2012