



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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August 9, 2013

Agenda Item #3b

To: Governing Board, SMBRC
From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director
Subject: SMBRC Fiscal Year 2014 Work Plan

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

- Review and approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Work Plan

Background

The SMBRC is a National Estuary Program (NEP) 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 resources, and protect the Bay's benefits and values.

The FY 2014 work plan (see summary table below) 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 are proposed to reflect new program priorities, new project opportunities, and US EPA's actual Section 320 grant funding allocation to the NEP, which was reduced by 15% from FY 2013. The table below provides a summary of FY 2014 work plan tasks and how they are related to the tasks in our current (FY 2013) work plan. The Executive Committee reviewed the draft work plan at its July 18 meeting and recommended that it be submitted to the Governing Board for adoption.

As the primary fiscal agent for the US EPA Section 320 grant funding, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) is responsible in preparing and submitting the grant application including the adopted work plan, and will receive and administer the grant funding on behalf of the SMBRC.

Budget/Financial Impact

Adoption of this work plan is necessary for the US EPA to award us Section 320 grant funding for the 2014 fiscal year which begins on October 1, 2013.

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



Task #	FY 13 Task Description	Changes/Revisions from FY 13 to FY 14
<i>1</i>	<i>Water Resource and Quality Improvement</i>	
1.1	Oversee Prop. 12, 50, and 84 bond-funded grants	Continue with emphasis on oversight of nine on-going projects.*
1.2	Facilitate development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Bay watershed	Continue. Add facilitate or provide technical assistance in development of the enhanced watershed management plans through participation in activities of sub-region stakeholder groups and other mechanisms.
1.3	Participate in Greater LA IRWMP	Continue.
1.4	Implement Green Infrastructure and LID Projects in Targeted Watersheds	Continue existing projects and seek funding and carry out a new rain barrel/rain garden program.
1.5	Implement Climate Ready Estuary Program	Expand work in this area, mainly by facilitating vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning by coastal jurisdictions along the Santa Monica Bay coast.
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.
		- Discontinue the effort to incorporate sustainable seafood component.
<i>2</i>	<i>Wetlands and Coastal Habitats Restoration</i>	
2.1	Facilitate restoration of priority wetlands	- Ballona Wetlands: Continue the CEQA/NEPA process.
		- Malibu Lagoon: Change from completion of restoration to post-restoration maintenance and monitoring.
2.2	Facilitate stream protection and restoration	- Continue to facilitate adoption of stream protection ordinance by local jurisdictions (vs. City of LA only).
		- Develop historical ecology and conceptual restoration plans for Trancas and other coastal lagoons in Santa Monica Bay.

2.3	Facilitate watershed management in Ballona Creek watershed	Discontinue coordination of the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force, but continue to promote and participate in planning and restoration efforts with stakeholders and partners in the watershed.
3	<i>Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration</i>	
3.1	Promote marine ecosystem protection through outreach and information sharing	- Phase out MPA outreach and shift the effort to participate in MPA monitoring of nearshore rocky reef habitat.
		- 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.
3.2	Conduct research of important marine species and habitats	- Discontinue the effort to review and disseminate information regarding fish die-off and Harmful algal bloom (HAB).
		- 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 explore restoration of rocky reef with placement of natural material (boulders from Rindge Dam removal).
4	<i>Public Education and Outreach</i>	
4.1	Implement the SMBRC outreach strategy	- Continue existing outreach efforts and publications.
		- Continue existing volunteer program and coordination of Coastal Cleanup Day, but not to organize additional cleanup events during other times of the year.
4.2	Continue overseeing the Boater Education and Outreach Program	- Expand Honey Pot Day to Honey Pot Unlimited and continue other existing programs
		- Not seeking expansion of effort to address marine debris, invasive species, etc.
4.3	Oversee the PIE mini-grant	- Seek and rise matching funds from a local

	program	sponsorship 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	<i>Planning, Monitoring, and Program Management</i>	
5.1	Increase funding and/or develop new financing mechanisms for BRP implementation	- Continue to solicit annual member contribution and seek other public and private funding opportunities. - 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 on 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. - Delete reference to coordinate with MPA Monitoring Enterprise in development of MPA monitoring program.
5.4	BRP Implementation Progress Tracking	Continue to improve the existing tracking system to be used for progress tracking of the newly-updated BRP. Delete reference to populate existing BRP progress tracking system to show milestones achieved and % of completion if feasible.
5.5	State of the Bay Reporting	Work with the TAC to develop an outline and begin identifying additional data needs and data sources and facilitate and support research and development of health indices for inclusion in the 2015 report.
5.6	Conduct general GB support, organizational management, and reporting activities	Continue existing activities.