



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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September 17, 2015

Agenda Item #3 a i

To: Executive Committee, SMBRC

From: Tom Ford, Executive Director

Re: Proposition 84 Request for Proposals (RFP)

**Action Requested of the Executive Committee:**

Direct staff to work with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to finalize the Proposition 84 RFP, and submit to Governing Board for approval at the October 2015 Governing Board meeting.

**Background**

Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, was passed by the voters of California on November 7, 2006. Proposition 84 allocated \$90 million to the SWRCB to distribute for coastal water quality improvement projects pursuant to the Clean Beaches Program (Public Resources Code §30915). Of this amount, \$18 million was made available for projects that implement the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan, including projects that protect Santa Monica Bay beaches and coastal waters, prevent contamination and degradation of coastal waters and watersheds, and protect and restore the Bay's marine, freshwater, and terrestrial habitats. Proposition 84 requires the SMBRC and the SWRCB to work together to ensure that all projects are consistent with Clean Beaches Program requirements. The SMBRC reviews projects and the Governing Board recommends to the SWRCB that it grant funds for appropriate projects. The SMBRC has released two prior RFPs for projects to be funded by the Prop. 84 grant program (2008 and 2011). To date, the SMBRC Governing Board has recommended 10 projects totaling \$9,220,500 to the SWRCB for funding. After SWRCB administrative fees, the SMBRC has approximately \$7.2 million in Proposition 84 funds remaining to recommend for projects. Additionally, there are two previously recommended projects totaling \$2 million that may not be implemented due to lack of funding or other issues.

**Update**

Since the last RFP was released, a new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4 Permit) was adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and became effective on December 28, 2012. The purpose of the MS4 Permit is to ensure the municipal separate storm sewer systems in Los Angeles County are not causing or contributing to exceedances of water quality objectives set to protect the beneficial uses in the receiving waters in the Los Angeles region. The MS4 Permit allows permittees to customize their stormwater programs through the development and implementation of a Watershed Management Program (WMP) or an Enhanced Watershed Management

*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*





Program (EWMP) to achieve compliance with water quality objectives. This new RFP would focus on assisting responsible agencies in meeting the requirements of the new MS4 Permit through projects developed under EWMP and WMP. Projects developed under EWMP/WMP are consistent with the goals of the Bay Restoration Plan as well as the Proposition 84 grant program.

At its January 2015 meeting, the Executive Committee directed staff to consult with the Regional Water Board to ensure that the proposed RFP was compatible with the goals and timeline of the new MS4 permit. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Jack Topel and Guangyu Wang, SWRCB staff assigned to the SMBRC, met with Regional Programs Section Chief Renee Purdy. Ms. Purdy supplied several valuable suggestions, but concurred with staff that the proposed RFP is compatible with the goals of the new permit, and that the timing of the RFP meshes with the various TMDL implementation schedules found within the permit. Staff has also revised the RFP to clarify some sections and address comments from additional Regional Water Board staff. All changes are revisions are noted on the attached draft RFP.

### **Staff Recommendations**

Staff recommends the draft Proposition 84 RFP (attached) be submitted to the Governing Board for consideration at its October 2015 meeting. The RFP would be focused on assisting responsible agencies in meeting the requirements of the 2012 MS4 Permit.

Staff has submitted the Draft RFP to the SWRCB for review. Following that review, revisions to the RFP may be necessary. Staff recommends that any revisions to the draft RFP be noted in the staff report to the Governing Board and included in the RFP prior to final approval by the Governing Board, as appropriate.

