



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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August 13, 2018

Agenda Item: 3.b.

To: SMBRC Governing Board

From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director

Re: Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant funding Priorities and
Scope of Work Development

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

- Adoption of Resolution 18-02 regarding the Proposition 50 funding priorities and scope of work development

Background

In 2002, California voters approved Proposition 50 – “Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002”. The bond measure provided over \$3 billion for water supply and water quality protection programs throughout the state.

Section 79543 of the Water Code allocated one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to finance projects to restore and protect the water quality and environment of coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near-shore waters, and groundwater. Of that \$100,000,000, twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) was allocated to implement priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP).

Section 79148.8 of the Water Code stipulates that grants can be awarded for any of the following projects:

- (1) Projects designed to improve water quality at public beaches and to make improvements for the purpose of ensuring that coastal waters adjacent to public beaches meet bacteriological standards.
- (2) Projects to provide comprehensive capability for monitoring, collecting, and analyzing ambient water quality, including monitoring technology that can be entered into a statewide information base with standardized protocols and sampling, collection, storage and retrieval procedures.
- (3) Projects to make improvements to existing sewer collection systems and septic systems for the restoration and protection of coastal water quality.

(4) Projects designed to implement storm water and runoff pollution reduction and prevention programs for the restoration and protection of coastal water quality.

(5) Projects that are consistent with the state's nonpoint source control program.

Since 2004, 16 projects recommended by the SMBRC to the SWRCB have been completed with the Proposition 50 grants. The SMBRC currently has \$3,227,769 remaining for project recommendations. The State Water Board Department of Financial Assistance has requested the remaining Prop. 50 funds be re-appropriated for the 2019/20 fiscal year.

After providing an update on the status of the remaining Proposition 50 fund to the Governing Board at its last meeting on June 21, staff presented and discussed with the Executive Committee (EC) at its meeting on July 19 preliminary recommendations regarding the funding priority, award process, and timeline for the expenditure of the remaining bond funds. Based on input from the Executive Committee, staff recommends that the remaining funds be prioritized for projects that implement the Santa Monica Bay Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) as well as fulfilling other monitoring needs. This recommendation is made based on the following:

- The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program is required by federal EPA to develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring program to effectively monitor, assess, and report on the environmental condition and progress of the BRP (also known as the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan). in improving the condition of the Estuary.
- The implementation of the CMP and enhanced water quality monitoring are key objectives and milestones of the existing BRP, and are actions proposed for inclusion in the revised BRP
- Many data gaps identified in the existing CMP, which was developed back in 2007, remain unfilled due to the lack of funding.
- The SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is updating the CMP in conjunction with the BRP revision process. Although the update is still on-going, many new monitoring gaps have been identified and need to be filled to address emerging issues such as the impacts of climate change.
- Water quality regulatory and regulated communities also face challenges, including the lack of resources to collect data needed for evaluating the effectiveness of ongoing programs such as Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs) aimed at meeting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) pollutant loading reduction targets.
- While many bond measures provide funding for capital, land acquisition, and habitat restoration projects, based on our knowledge, funds allocated under this section of Proposition 50 is the only source of bond money that can be awarded for monitoring projects without conditions such as restricted use for pre- or post-capital project monitoring.

Staff Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Governing Board adopt the attached Resolution (03-18, attached below), which sets implementation of the CMP as well as other monitoring needs identified in the Bay Restoration Plan as the funding priority for the remaining

Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay grant funds. Staff also recommends that the Governing Board direct staff to work with the TAC to develop a scope of work and project list for submission to the Governing Board for adoption by early 2019.

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

August 16, 2018

Resolution No. 18-02

Resolution to Establish the Funding Priority, Scope of Work Development Process, and Timeline for Awarding the Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Funds

WHEREAS, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) provided \$20 million to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to finance projects to implement priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP); and

WHEREAS, to date, SWRCB has awarded approximately \$16 million in Proposition 50 grants to implement 16 projects to restore Santa Monica Bay; and

WHEREAS, the remaining balance available for BRP implementation is approximately \$3.2 million; and

WHEREAS, Section 79148.8 of the Water Code stipulates that the Proposition 50 grants can be awarded for projects designed to improve water quality through reduction of point and nonpoint sources of pollution, and projects to provide comprehensive capability for monitoring, collecting, and analyzing ambient water quality; and,

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program is required by federal EPA to develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring program to effectively monitor, assess, and report on the environmental condition and progress of the CCMP in improving the condition of Santa Monica Bay; and.

WHEREAS, Many monitoring needs identified in the Santa Monica Bay CMP and the BRP are unfilled due to the lack of funding; and

WHEREAS, many new monitoring gaps have been identified and need to be filled to address emerging water quality and habitat protection issues due to the impacts of climate change.

NOWHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Board of the SMBRC establishes that implementation of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) and other monitoring needs identified in the Bay Restoration Plan (CCMP) as the funding priority for the remaining Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay grant funding; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SMBRC staff is directed to work with the SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee to develop a scope of work and project list for submission to the Governing Board for adoption by early 2019.

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

