



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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October 11, 2018

Agenda Item #3b

To: Governing Board, SMBRC

From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director

Re: Review and Adoption of the Draft Final Action Plan of the Santa
Monica Bay National Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation
and Management Plan

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

Adopt the Draft Final Action Plan of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary
Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

Background

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is a local stakeholder-driven partnership and serves as the Management Conference (MC) for the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) established under the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 320, and recognized by the State of California and US EPA. The SMBNEP develops, updates, and implements the National Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) as authorized by Clean Water Act (CWA) §320. The CCMP reflects a scientific characterization of, and stakeholder concerns about, the NEP study area, including recommended actions striving to meet water quality, habitat, and living resource challenges. It is intended as a living document that undergoes an update every three to five years and a major revision approximately every 10 years, incorporating new information, new priorities and actions for our region, such as climate change as identified in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment completed in 2016.

The current CCMP for Santa Monica Bay, also called the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) was last updated in 2013. The revision process of the current CCMP began in fall 2017 and is undertaken through collaboration between the SMBRC and The Bay Foundation (TBF). To date, the process has been primarily focused on the development of the Action Plan, which is one component of the Santa Monica Bay CCMP, with the goal of providing a long-term framework for action in the Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds. The draft final Action Plan that the Governing Board is asked to review and adopt at the upcoming Board meeting on October 18, 2018, is the product of this year-long revision process, which incorporated input

from several workshops of the Governing Board and Watershed Advisory Council, meetings and input from the Technical Advisory Committee, and multiple, extensive public comment periods.

Enclosed you will find both a clean version and a 'redline' version of the final draft Action Plan. Comments received at the last workshop during the last Governing Board meeting on August 16, 2018, as well as incorporated written comments are marked in the redline version of the final draft. Also enclosed are copies of written comments received during the comment period after the August Governing Board meeting and staff responses to each comment. Copies of original emailed comment submissions are also available upon request.

In addition to the Action Plan, uncompleted portions of the full CCMP include components such as the Financial Plan, the Comprehensive Monitoring Program, and SMBNEP's structure and governance. The development of these components and others are ongoing in accordance with USEPA's funding guidance documents. Once completed, these remaining components, along with this Action Plan, will be compiled into a full CCMP for adoption by the Governing Board.

Enclosures

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

