



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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April 10, 2020

Agenda Item: 3.b

To: Governing Board, SMBRC
From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director
Re: **Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan**

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

Approve the SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan

Background

Each year, SMBRC collaborates with The Bay Foundation (TBF) to develop and submit an annual work plan of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) to US EPA that identifies the expected tasks and activities necessary to implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Upon approval of the annual work plan by the Governing Board, US EPA awards the annual federal Clean Water Act Section 320 NEP grant to TBF, uses the annual work plan to track grant expenditures and progress toward achieving the NEP's objectives, and compiles information on the environmental outcomes of the annual work plan's implementation.

The annual work plan for the federal fiscal year 2021 (FY21) covers the time period between October 1, 2020 and September 30, 2021 and it must be submitted to US EPA before the end of April to meet the deadlines for work plan review and approval by US EPA.

The FY21 Work Plan builds on the CCMP Action Plan adopted by the Governing Board in October 2018 and the Work Plan for the current fiscal year (FY20). The FY21 Work Plan identifies program objectives, tasks, outputs, and environmental outcomes of the work to be performed during FY21, specifically focused on accomplishing a subset of the identified Actions and Next Steps in the 2018 CCMP Action Plan.

The structure and format of the FY21 Work Plan is similar to the FY20 Work Plan, which retains consistency between the 2018 CCMP Action Plan and annual work plans, as well as meets US EPA funding guidance. Many of the tasks also remain similar due to the fact that they are continuations of multi-year tasks.



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

A draft FY21 Work Plan was distributed to Governing Board members and posted for public review on February 12, 2020. The draft FY21 Work Plan was briefly introduced at the February 20, 2020 Governing Board meeting, followed by a Watershed Advisory Council (WAC) meeting on March 5, 2020 specifically convened to inform and receive input on the FY21 Work Plan. The WAC meeting was conducted in a facilitated workshop format in collaboration with TBF, with a focus on soliciting input in addressing nutrient pollution reduction and climate resilience, two areas of special interests identified in US EPA NEP funding guidance. Twenty-one (21) WAC members, other stakeholders, as well as members of the general public participated in the WAC meeting. Several written comments on the draft FY21 Work Plan were also received prior to and after the WAC meeting.

Staff compiled and reviewed all input and comments received, found most were constructive and informative, and were able to incorporate them into the final draft FY21 Work Plan. The Responses to Comments on the Draft FY21 Work Plan document includes input compiled from participants of the March 5, 2020 WAC meeting and written comments submitted via e-mail by the March 13, 2020 deadline, except for comments regarding minor editorial corrections. The Responses to Comments on the Draft FY21 Work Plan document also includes written responses to all input and comments received, with indication if the input or comments were incorporated into the final draft FY21 Work Plan. A redline version of the final draft FY21 Work Plan identifies changes made to the February 12, 2020 draft FY21 Work Plan in response to input and comments received as well as staff review.

The final draft FY21 Work Plan also includes three additional Work Plan sections that were not available for inclusion in the February 12, 2020 draft. These sections are:

- 1) Estimated FY21 Budget - SMBNEP estimated budget for October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021 (Section IV, page 80)
- 2) Table of Completed Projects in FY20 (Attachment A, page 86)
- 3) SMBNEP Entities Staffing – Lists of staff members and responsibilities (Attachment B, page 87)

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Governing Board approve the SMBNEP Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Work Plan (FY21 Work Plan).