



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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February 12, 2020

Agenda Item: 3.d

To: Governing Board, SMBRC

From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director

Re: Consideration of Approval of Resolution to Revise the Proposition 12 Grant Program Recommended Project List

Action Requested of the Governing Board

Adopt Resolution 20-01 to revise the Proposition 12 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program Recommended Project List (Proposition 12 Recommended Project List) removing funding recommendation amounts.

Background

Proposition 12 (Prop 12) – the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000—allocated over \$220 million to the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), with \$25 million of SCC’s allocation specifically designated for restoration of Santa Monica Bay (SMB). Specifically, Prop 12 provides for SCC to use the SMB funds for “grants to public entities and nonprofit organizations to implement storm water and urban runoff pollution prevention programs, habitat restoration, and other priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan” (Public Resources Code § 5096.352(b)). The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) determines project eligibility and establishes grant priorities for SCC’s grants of these Prop 12 SMB funds.

Over the years prior to 2018, SCC awarded over \$17 million of Prop 12 SMB funds for 49 projects in the SMB watershed. In the Budget Act of 2017, the legislature appropriated the remaining balance of approximately \$6.9 million of Prop 12 funds designated for SMB. Remaining Prop 12 funds had to be encumbered by June 30, 2020 and projects completed by March 2022.

To meet the funding deadlines, a project solicitation notice and application guidelines were jointly announced by the SMBRC and the SCC in May 2018 and fifteen (15) eligible project applications received were evaluated by SMBRC and SCC staff based on multiple criteria, including, but not limited to the extent to which the project achieves one or more objectives of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (Bay Restoration Plan), provides multiple benefits, and satisfies SCC’s criteria.



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Based on the multiple criteria, staff developed a list of ten (10) recommended projects for consideration by the Governing Board. At the December 2018 Governing Board meeting, the Governing Board adopted Resolution 18-04 recommending that the SCC fund ten (10) Prop 12 projects with the remaining balance of approximately \$6.9 million of Prop 12 funds designated for use in the SMB watershed with the understanding that all remaining Prop 12 funds had to be encumbered by June 30, 2020 and projects completed by March 2022.

The recommendations to the SCC also came with the understanding that the recommended funding for each project represents an amount “up to” the full funding request for that project. Staff was recommending this method for funding recommendations due to the uncertainty associated with projects impacted by the Woolsey Fire. It was made clear in the staff report that by recommending “up to” funding amounts, SCC will have the flexibility to reallocate funds to more fully fund other projects on the Proposition 12 Recommended Project List that may receive partial funding, should one or both National Parks Service projects be reduced in scale or not be able to be implemented. However, the total amount of funding for all projects will not exceed the remaining \$6.9 million available for this program.

All ten projects were subsequently approved for funding by the SCC Board in March 2019. Grant agreements have been finalized and executed for most of the projects, and several projects are underway. However, one of the projects impacted by the Woolsey Fire (Paramount Ranch) had to be reduced in scope and will receive less funding, while another project (Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning) has a greater funding need than originally anticipated. SCC staff are also concerned that other situations could arise in which funds need to be reallocated to decrease funds for one project and increase funding beyond the originally requested amounts for other projects, and needs the flexibility to fund each recommended projects accordingly with consideration to the limitations of the total fund available to the greatest effect.

Funding needs often change as projects commence and progress and the limited timing for the use of these funds requires that SCC be able to determine which projects can use what amount of the funding within the viable window. Although such flexibility to reallocate funds was the intent reflected in SMBRC’s funding recommendation, the inclusion of an “up to” funding amount in the previous staff report suggested that SMBRC may have intended to designate a maximum funding amount for each project. Therefore, the SCC has requested that the SMBRC remove the recommended “up to” funding amount in the Proposition 12 Recommended Project List, which is attached to and referenced in the SMBRC’s Resolution No. 18-04.

The Prop 12 bond language provided that the SMBRC shall determine project eligibility and establish grant priority. The solicitation and application review and ranking process used to develop the Proposition 12 Recommended Project List used criteria that clearly and sufficiently defined project eligibility and priority. The recommended “up to” amount was based on the requested funding amount as estimated by the grantee at the time of application and was solely for the purpose of demonstrating the project funding needs.

Given the criteria used in scoring and ranking of the project applications, these requested funding amounts did not impact the eligibility and priority determination of the recommended projects. As the state agency responsible for administration of these funds, SCC has the discretion to set project funding amounts. Therefore, modifying the resolution to delete the recommended funding amounts will not affect the SMBRC's authority to designate project eligibility and priority and will not affect SMBRC's approval of the recommended projects.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that the Governing Board adopt Resolution 20-01 (Attachment 1) to revise the Proposition 12 Recommended Project List by removing the recommended "up to" funding amounts (Attachment 2).

Attachments

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| Attachment 1 | Draft Resolution 20-01 |
| Attachment 2 | Revised Proposition 12 Recommended Project List |



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ATTACHMENT 1

- DRAFT -

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION TO REVISE THE PROPOSITION 12 SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM RECOMMENDED PROJECT LIST

February 20, 2020

Resolution No. 20-01

WHEREAS, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12) provided \$25 million to the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) for restoration of Santa Monica Bay; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 12 provided that the Bay Watershed Council of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, which is now the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), shall determine project eligibility and establish grant priorities for SCC's grants of Santa Monica Bay restoration funds; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Board of the SMBRC adopted Resolution 18-04 on December 13, 2018 determining project eligibility and establishing grant priorities as identified in the Proposition 12 Recommended Project List; and

WHEREAS, funding needs for certain projects identified in the Proposition 12 Recommended Project List have varied from the original requests; and

WHEREAS, all Proposition 12 funds must be reallocated among eligible projects by June 2020 in order avoid expiration; and

WHEREAS, SCC is the state agency responsible for administration of these funds and has the discretion to set project funding amounts; and

WHEREAS, SCC will provide updates to the Governing Board on the disposition of Proposition 12 funds;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission hereby adopts the attached Revised Proposition 12 Recommended Project List removing funding recommendation amounts.

BY:

Charlie Caspary
Chair, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission



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ATTACHMENT 2

REVISED PROPOSITION 12 RECOMMENDED PROJECT LIST

Applicant: County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Project Name: Monteith Park & View Park Green Alley Stormwater Capture Project

Total Project Cost: \$3,711,505

Funds Requested: \$1,500,000

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works will construct a stormwater infiltration system at Monteith Park which will divert flows from Project 680 (a 33-inch diameter storm drain system) and Project 679 (a 30-inch diameter storm drain system), and a system at the View Park Green Alley which will divert flows from Project 670 (a 45-inch diameter storm drain system) to the infiltration system. Each diversion will consist of a drop inlet along the existing storm drain invert that redirects the flow towards pretreatment system before it enters the infiltration system. The pretreatment system will consist of a baffle box with a trash capture screen to ensure long term effectiveness of the infiltration system and minimize maintenance activities to prevent the system from clogging prematurely. Treated flow will enter the infiltration system where captured stormwater runoff will be allowed to percolate into the ground.

The infiltration system at the park will consist of twelve (12), 66-foot deep, 36-inch diameter infiltration wells that will be installed within the open space of the Park. The Park portion of the Project will also include recreation and aesthetic amenities such walking trails, native drought tolerant landscaping, bio-swales, and shade structures. The infiltration system at the View Park Green Alley will consist of four (4), 66-foot deep, 36-inch diameter infiltration wells that will be installed within the open space of the alley. The Green Alley portion of the Project will also include additional amenities such as LID, porous concrete, native drought tolerant landscaping, permeable pavers, and planter pockets.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant: The Bay Foundation

Project Name: Ballona Wetlands Community Restoration and Stewardship

Total Project Cost: \$223,743

Funds Requested: \$90,000

The Bay Foundation (TBF) and Friends of Ballona Wetlands, with support from California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), propose to conduct restoration activities at two adjacent habitats within the Ballona Wetlands Reserve with focus on managing non-native vegetation through community restoration events and conducting supplemental revegetation informed by scientific monitoring, to help native plants establish. This two-year effort will allow both partners to work with youth and community participants to remove iceplant and other invasive, non-native plants from targeted areas, restoring two acres of unique wetland and dune/upland habitat within the Reserve. The restoration events will not only enhance the ecological conditions of the sites, but also create educational and stewardship opportunities and increase public involvement at the Reserve. Specific project components include:

- A minimum of 12 TBF and FBW staff-led community restoration events focused on non-native vegetation management will be held each year for two consecutive years (A total of 24 events). Additionally, TBF and FBW staff will conduct supplemental native revegetation efforts.
- Outreach and Community Engagement –, targeted outreach and educational opportunities to school children and other youth groups associated with the public restoration events, educational workshops with Q&A at restoration events, and newsletters and continual webpage updates.
- Permitting and Pre-Restoration Monitoring – the restoration area is already permitted by the CA Coastal Commission through CDP No.'s 5-15-1427 and 5-97-144, and CDFW access permits (both TBF and FBW), which will expedite the start of project activities. Pre-restoration monitoring of both sites will inform restoration activities, supplemental revegetation, and provide a baseline to measure impacts of restoration efforts.
- Post-Restoration Monitoring and Maintenance – scientific monitoring (also supported by matching funds). This project component may also include supplemental revegetation efforts, if needed.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Project Name: Abalone Cove Habitat Restoration

Total Project Cost: \$484,800

Funds Requested: \$201,280

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy will implement an existing habitat restoration plan on 13-acres at Abalone Cove Reserve. The restoration includes the removal of invasive trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants; the propagation of native plant species and desired quantities; irrigation and planting specifications; maintenance schedule; and monitoring and reporting protocols. Tasks include;

- **Site Preparation:** Removal of invasive Acacia trees, iceplant, fennel, mustard, non-native annual grasses, tumbleweed, and scotch broom.
- **Irrigation:** Temporary, drip system irrigation will be installed after the site is cleared of non-native plants during the summer/fall season prior to native plant installation.
- **Revegetation:** Native plant species will be selected for site appropriateness and to achieve the goals of providing critical habitat for the California gnatcatcher, cactus wren, El Segundo blue butterfly, and Palos Verdes blue butterfly as well as to facilitate the range expansion of the listed rare plant species. Plants will be propagated in the Conservancy's native plant nursery, and grown from seeds sourced in the vicinity of the project.
- **Maintenance:** Removal of invasive plants after native plant installation and replacement planting to fill in areas of low native plant coverage will take place for three years after planting.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Conservancy staff will perform annual monitoring of each project area beginning one year after native plants are installed. Reports will be submitted after monitoring each year.
- **Trail Enhancements and Signage:** Trail improvements will include low-impact fencing to keep visitors out of the restoration areas and guide foot traffic onto the California Coastal Trail and other approved trails. Additionally, improvements will include posting Coastal Trail decals and trail markers to enhance wayfinding from the parking area to the beach.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant: National Park Service

Project Name: Reestablishment of California red-legged frogs (*Rana draytonii*) to the Santa Monica Mountains

Total Project Cost: \$422,300

Funds Requested: \$202,100

The National Park Service (NPS) propose to reintroduce and reestablish population of California red-legged frogs to the Santa Monica Mountains. The NPS has established protocols to reintroduce California Red-Legged Frogs (CRLF) to the Santa Monica Mountains where they are native and were once abundant. NPS translocates partial egg masses from a "source" population to suitable stream sites within the Santa Monica Mountains. Eggs and tadpoles are kept in predator-proof pens located on site in the translocation streams. The pens are monitored twice weekly and tadpoles are fed organic lettuce, algae, and protein pellets. Once the tadpoles are large enough to have a better chance of avoiding predation, they are released into the stream. NPS conducts year-round monitoring of the translocation streams for CRLF at all life stages. NPS proposes to continue this protocol, and add pit-tagging and night surveys to improve estimates for establishment. Project tasks include;

- Translocating CRLF partial egg masses to four historically occupied stream sites. This process includes multiple weekly visits to the translocation pens for feeding. After tadpole release, all sites will be monitored for growth of CRLFs.
- Monitoring sites for CRLF at all life stages with weekly visual surveys and PIT tagging of individual frogs periodically. NPS will also monitor for the presence of other native and non-native species.

Applicant: The Trust for Public Land

Project Name: Carbon Canyon Acquisition Project

Total Project Cost: \$2,200,000

Funds Requested: \$350,000

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) proposes the acquisition in fee of 91 acres of undeveloped land in Carbon Canyon, outside of Malibu. TPL will complete due diligence for the property (title, appraisal, and environmental review). TPL expects to acquire the land in fee by December 2019, for immediate conveyance to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Association (MRCA). MRCA will then own and operate the land in perpetuity. The project will permanently protect 91 acres of open space and habitat in the Santa Monica Mountains, preserving habitat and wildlife corridors, preventing development, preserving the scenic viewshed, and increasing public access to recreation.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant: Southern California Marine Institute

Project Name: Palos Verdes Restoration Reef

Total Project Cost: \$6,500,000

Funds Requested: \$1,176,470

The Southern California Marine Institute (SCMI) proposes to restore 69-acres of rocky reef/kelp habitat near Bunker Point off the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Approximately 70,000 tons of quarry rock from Catalina Island will be used to construct a restoration reef, designed as set of eight “blocks”. Each block will contain three modules in differing configurations. Blocks will be placed proximate to natural reef habitat and will be oriented to restore the lost features of the reef. This replicated design will allow SCMI to analyze different reef configurations and the overall contribution of the restoration habitat to the nearshore ecosystem. The project will help restore the nearshore ecological rocky-reef community, support approximately 6 tons of reef fishes and a proportional amount of invertebrates, and increase the abundance of commercial and recreational species, offsetting historical losses to ecosystem services.

Applicant: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District

Project Name: Pure Water Project Las Virgenes-Triunfo (Pure Water Project)

Total Project Cost: \$2,534,000

Funds Requested: \$1,155,375

The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) proposes to construct a 100 gallon per minute advanced water treatment demonstration facility to test the microfiltration, reverse osmosis, ultraviolet light disinfection, and advanced oxidation components of a Pure Water advanced treatment facility. The demonstration facility will occupy an existing vacant building owned by the District. Interpretive signage and educational materials will explain each step of the treatment process, the need for potable reuse, and the environmental benefits associated with the project. Tours will be conducted for local schools, service groups, and the general public.

Visitors will be provided the opportunity to taste the treated water and will complete before and after surveys. Operation of the advanced water system will provide the opportunity to evaluate the performance of equipment, optimize operational efficiency, train operators and compile information into a final report to be shared with other entities interested in pursuing potable reuse projects. The results of the Demonstration Project’s research will be used for the development of a full-scale project that will provide up to 5,141 acre-feet of locally-sourced water annually.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant: City of Torrance (Lead for Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach)

Project Name: Beach Cities Multi-Benefit Green Streets Project

Total Project Cost: \$5,145,000

Funds Requested: \$2,550,000

The proposed project will retrofit existing impervious streets, parkways, and medians within public right-of-ways in Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach with various green infrastructure solutions and, where feasible, above ground vegetated elements to intercept and retain stormwater runoff from the urbanized coastal watershed and improve water quality in the Santa Monica Bay.

A full suite of Green Street BMPs (pervious pavement, dry wells, bio-filtration and bio-retention systems, vegetated curb extensions, planters, swales and rain gardens) will be used in design and implementation of unique projects in the four beach cities indicated above. Together, the Green Streets Project will capture, treat, and where possible, infiltrate stormwater runoff from a combined 198-acre area. In addition, full capture trash systems will be installed throughout these watersheds to eliminate trash entering the storm drain system. Each project site will offer a unique set of multi-benefits depending on its location and design.

This Project is the result of the Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) process which analyzed multiple BMPs through a GIS-based water quality analysis model to predict target load reductions expected from structural and source control BMPs, including green streets. The proposed project is an outcome of this extensive planning and BMP evaluation process to meet pollutant load reduction targets and support the protection of beneficial uses of Santa Monica Bay.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant: National Park Service

Project Name: Paramount Ranch Stormflow and Sediment Reduction Project

Total Project Cost: \$1,032,689

Funds Requested: \$516,106

The project will conserve water, reduce sediment loading, improve water quality, and restore riparian habitat at Paramount Ranch using the following design elements:

- Capture, store and re-use roof rainwater from the Western Town buildings by installing rain gutters and catchments, and re-aligning drainage into structural BMPs such as underground cisterns to improve landscape watering.
- Re-contour the banks of degraded Coyote Creek (tributary to Medea Creek), add pedestrian crossings, install over 1,100 native riparian plants from the NPS nursery to stabilize the banks and reduce erosion and peak flows into Medea Creek.
- Replace the current instream crossing with a pedestrian/equestrian bridge across Medea Creek.
- Install a vegetated buffer incorporating bioswales/berms along the edge of a 5-acre parking area to redirect drainage, manage stormflows, encourage infiltration, and reduce sediment input along 1,000 feet of Medea Creek. Adjust grading to reduce flood impacts to the parking area.
- Implement institutional BMPs involving public education and visitor outreach to explain the benefits of these methods to reduce sedimentation, vehicle particulate and fluid runoff, and horse manure loading to Medea Creek.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant: Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Project Name: Topanga Lagoon Restoration Planning

Total Project Cost: \$913,124

Funds Requested: \$460,000

The proposed project will advance the planning effort for the restoration of Topanga Lagoon. The Topanga State Park General Plan (2012) identified the lagoon and adjacent wetland restoration as a key action item. The goal of this project is to build on the Topanga Creek Watershed and Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Study (2002), Topanga Lagoon Preliminary Soil Investigation (2003), and the Topanga Lagoon Bridge Replacement and Lagoon Restoration study (2004) to produce conceptual restoration alternatives for Topanga Lagoon. The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, in partnership with California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), will review existing data and conduct technical studies to inform the restoration design; develop ecosystem restoration and public access goals and objectives with input from a technical advisory committee and public stakeholders; and develop three conceptual restoration alternatives designed to improve habitat for the endangered steelhead trout and tidewater goby, be resilient to sea level rise and climate change, and improve visitor experience and enhance recreational opportunities.