



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission 320 West 4th Street, Ste 200; Los Angeles, California 90013
213-576-6615 www.smbrc.ca.gov

June 15, 2020

Agenda Item: 3.d

To: Governing Board, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director

Re: **Consideration of Approval of Resolution to Concur in the Selection of the NEP Director of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program**

Action Requested of the Governing Board

Adopt Resolution 20-03 to concur in the selection of Tom Ford as the NEP Director of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP).

Background

Consistent with United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) guidance on the National Estuary Program (NEP), the proposed Amendment to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU; hereafter Amendment), which was submitted for approval at the June 18, 2020 Governing Board meeting, provides that the Host Entity identifies the NEP Director of the Santa Monica Bay NEP in consultation with the Governing Board. The proposed Amendment also provides that the NEP Director serves as an ex officio non-voting member of the Governing Board and Executive Committee to improve coordination and information exchange within the Santa Monica Bay NEP and advise on the long-term vision and day-to-day activities of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

Since 2006, The Bay Foundation has successfully served as Host Entity for the Santa Monica Bay NEP. The Bay Foundation has played a key role in developing and implementing revisions and updates to the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) and Annual Work Plans of the Santa Monica Bay NEP, including by providing critical experience and knowledge in implementing successful projects, coordinating volunteer programs to broaden public involvement, monitoring and communicating outcomes to the Management Conference and the public, and diversifying sources of funds to sustain support and momentum in implementing the priorities of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

The success of the Commission-The Bay Foundation partnership was emphasized in US EPA's 2019 NEP Program Evaluation, which concluded that the Santa Monica Bay NEP continues to make significant progress in implementing the CCMP and protecting and restoring the Santa Monica Bay watershed.



Our mission: to restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, mitigate the effects of climate change and sea level rise, and protect Santa Monica Bay's benefits and values

US EPA's key responsibility is to provide oversight of the performance of an NEP. The Governing Board may also assess the performance of The Bay Foundation as the Host Entity, including the NEP Director, consistent with any terms outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement between the Commission and The Bay Foundation and US EPA NEP guidance. The Commission may continue to provide direction to The Bay Foundation, including the NEP Director, by reviewing and approving and revisions and updates to the CCMP and Annual Work Plans of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

Commission staff have consulted with the Chair of the Governing Board, The Bay Foundation, and US EPA on the identification of the NEP Director. In their June 10 letter, The Bay Foundation identified Tom Ford, Executive Director of The Bay Foundation, as the appropriate staff member to serve as the NEP Director (Attachment 2). Tom Ford has provided invaluable service in furthering the mission of the Santa Monica Bay NEP and has effectively served in a capacity similar to the role of the NEP Director, such as by managing the annual federal Clean Water Act Section 320 NEP grant, managing the day-to-day NEP activities and coordinating NEP activities with existing efforts in Santa Monica Bay and its watershed, providing programmatic updates during bi-monthly Governing Board and Executive Committee meetings, and serving as liaison of The Bay Foundation to the Commission and US EPA and as a representative of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

Formal concurrence of The Bay Foundation's identification of Tom Ford as the NEP Director validates the longstanding and effective practice of the Santa Monica NEP and ensures the continued close coordination of NEP activities.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that, pending and following adoption of Resolution 20-02, the Governing Board adopt Resolution 20-03 (Attachment 1) to concur in the selection of Tom Ford as the NEP Director of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

Attachments

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| Attachment 1 | Draft Resolution 20-03 |
| Attachment 2 | The Bay Foundation Letter (RE: Relationship of the NEP Director to the Executive Committee and the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC), June 10, 2020) |



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ATTACHMENT 1

-DRAFT-

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION CONCURRING IN THE SELECTION OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

June 18, 2020

Resolution No. 20-03

WHEREAS, United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) guidance on the National Estuary Program (NEP) provides that the NEP Director is hired by and is an employee of the Host Entity and that the Management Conference generally concurs with the selection of the NEP Director; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Bay NEP is comprised of two distinct entities including The Bay Foundation as the Host Entity of the Santa Monica Bay NEP and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) as the Management Conference of the Santa Monica Bay NEP; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Foundation has successfully served as Host Entity for the Santa Monica Bay NEP since 2006; and

WHEREAS, The Bay Foundation's role in the success of the Santa Monica Bay NEP has been acknowledged and illustrated in findings from the 2019 Program Evaluation conducted by US EPA; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is pleased with the performance of The Bay Foundation as the Host Entity and will continue to provide direction to The Bay Foundation, including the NEP Director, by reviewing and approving and revisions and updates to the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and Annual Work Plans of the Santa Monica Bay NEP; and

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding of the Commission approved on June 18, 2020 provides that the Host Entity identifies the NEP Director in consultation with the Governing Board; and

WHEREAS, in the attached June 10, 2020 letter, The Bay Foundation identified Tom Ford, Executive Director of The Bay Foundation, as the appropriate staff member to serve as the NEP Director; and



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WHEREAS, Tom Ford has provided invaluable service in furthering the mission of the Santa Monica Bay NEP and has served in a capacity similar to the role of the NEP Director as described in the Memorandum of Understanding of the Commission approved on June 18, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has confidence in Tom Ford's ability to effectively serve as the NEP Director of the Santa Monica Bay NEP;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission has consulted with The Bay Foundation and hereby concurs in the selection of Tom Ford as the NEP Director of the Santa Monica Bay NEP.

BY:

Charlie Caspary
Governing Board Chair
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission



Date: June 10, 2020

To: Dr. Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

From: Laurie Newman
President, The Bay Foundation

Re: Relationship of the NEP Director to the Executive Committee and the Governing Board
of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC)

Dear Guangyu,

In review of the agenda for the upcoming SMBRC meeting, item 3.d. identifies a resolution to enable the concurrence of the SMBRC in the identification of the NEP Director as the representative to the host entity of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program i.e., The Bay Foundation (TBF).

On behalf of the Board of Directors I am pleased to identify Tom Ford, Executive Director of TBF to serve in that role. Tom has been with TBF since 2010 and was selected as the executive director in 2014. Tom Ford has been dedicated to environmental work in Los Angeles since his arrival in 1998, having worked for UCLA and Los Angeles Waterkeeper prior to his employment with TBF.

Guangyu, thank you, as always, for your efforts to advance the goals of the SMBRC. I look forward to our continued work together on the restoration of Santa Monica Bay. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Best,

Laurie Newman, President
The Bay Foundation

Cc. Tom Ford