



**SANTA MONICA BAY
RESTORATION COMMISSION**
MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

320 West 4th Street
Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213-576-6615
www.smbrc.ca.gov

October 12, 2020

Agenda Item: 3.b

To: Governing Board, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director
Re: **Consideration of Approval of Resolution regarding the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed**

Action Requested of the Governing Board

Adopt Resolution 20-05 regarding support of an MS4 permit that furthers the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) and the implementation of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program's (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP).¹

Background

Stormwater and non-stormwater enter and are conveyed through MS4s and discharged to waterbodies including Santa Monica Bay. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board) regulates stormwater and non-stormwater discharges through MS4 permits and released the tentative Regional Phase I MS4 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (Tentative Regional MS4 Permit) for public comment with the extended deadline of December 7, 2020.²

The MS4 permitting program is critical to achieve water quality standards for impaired waterbodies, including through the implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

¹ The CCMP is available on the Commission's website at:
https://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/smbr_plan/

² The Tentative Regional MS4 Permit and notice of opportunity for public comment is available under "Regional Permit (in development)" on the Los Angeles Water Board's website at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/municipal/index.html



The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's mission is to restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, mitigate the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and protect Santa Monica Bay's benefits and values.

Fourteen TMDLs have been established for waterbodies in the Santa Monica Bay watershed impaired by pollutants including bacteria, trash, nutrients, toxic pollutants, metals, sediment, and invasive vegetation. Stormwater runoff has been identified as one of the main sources for these impairments.

The goal of the Commission is to accelerate the pace, extent, and effectiveness of Santa Monica Bay restoration through implementation and financing of actions that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, mitigate impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and protect the health of Santa Monica Bay's recreational users and natural and living resources. The Commission aims to achieve its goal, in part, by prioritizing the reduction, prevention, and elimination of pollution, including stormwater pollution, and adverse impacts on public health, recreation and ecological health of habitats. The CCMP Action Plan approved by the Governing Board in 2018 (Action Plan) emphasizes these objectives in several actions, including:

- Support of the implementation of activities and projects that help achieve TMDL goals, including projects recommended for State bond funding that advance the implementation of watershed management programs (Action #16);
- Infiltration, capture, and reuse of stormwater and dry-weather runoff through green infrastructure, low impact development, and other multi-benefit projects and improve understanding of ecosystem services provided (Action #17);
- Support of efforts of disadvantaged communities to achieve healthy habitats, implement green infrastructure, and reduce pollution, including stormwater pollution (Action #28);
- Facilitation of research, monitoring, and assessments that inform more accurate waste load allocations and development of new water, sediment, and biological objectives, including for assessing the effectiveness of pollution control measures (Action #41); and
- Implementation of the Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP) to support stormwater pollution control projects (Action #43).

The Commission has a long history of supporting the implementation of MS4 permits through promotion of collaborative and integrated watershed-based planning and recommendation of stormwater pollution reduction projects for State bond funding (i.e., Propositions 12, 50, and 84). The Commission recognizes the need and opportunity to not only improve water quality, but increase local water supply, enhance habitats and biodiversity, increase resiliency to climate change, and promote environmental equity and justice for underserved communities. As a key goal of the Action Plan, the Commission also encourages improved monitoring in order to assess the effectiveness of green infrastructure, low impact development, and multi-benefit projects and better inform future management and funding decisions. The Commission also participates in the implementation of the SCWP, an important and dedicated funding source to carry out stormwater pollution control programs in the region while prioritizing nature-based

solutions, multi-benefit projects, and community investments.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Governing Board adopt Resolution 20-05 (Attachment 1), which:

1. Supports and encourages the adoption of an MS4 permit that furthers the goals of the Commission and the implementation of the CCMP;
2. Directs Commission staff to convey the resolution to the Los Angeles Water Board expressing the Commission's support of an MS4 permit that furthers the goals of the Commission and the implementation of the CCMP; and
3. Directs Commission staff to consider further actions to support the continued collaboration between the Commission and the Los Angeles Water Board, dischargers, and other stakeholders in implementation of stormwater pollution control programs for restoring and enhancing Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Draft Resolution 20-05



ATTACHMENT 1

- DRAFT -

**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
REGARDING THE MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEM PERMIT
WITHIN THE SANTA MONICA BAY WATERSHED**

October 15, 2020

Resolution No. 20-05

WHEREAS, Stormwater and non-stormwater enter and are conveyed through the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) and discharged to waterbodies including Santa Monica Bay; and

WHEREAS, Stormwater and non-stormwater discharges in the Santa Monica Bay watershed are regulated by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Water Board); and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Water Board released the tentative Regional Phase I MS4 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit (Tentative Regional MS4 Permit) for public comment with the extended deadline of December 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, The MS4 permitting program is critical to achieve water quality standards and restore water quality for public health and beneficial uses, such as through the implementation of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for waterbodies impaired by pollutants, including stormwater pollutants; and

WHEREAS, Fourteen TMDLs have been established for waterbodies in the Santa Monica Bay watershed impaired by pollutants including bacteria, trash, nutrients, toxic pollutants, metals, sediment, and invasive vegetation; and

WHEREAS, The goal of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) is to accelerate the pace, extent, and effectiveness of Santa Monica Bay restoration through implementation and financing of actions that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, mitigate impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and protect the health of Santa Monica Bay's recreational users and natural and living resources; and



The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's mission is to restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, mitigate the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, and protect Santa Monica Bay's benefits and values.

WHEREAS, The Commission will achieve its goal, in part, by prioritizing in its educational, monitoring, and bond proceeds expenditure decisions, proposals, or projects designed to reduce or eliminate pollution from stormwater and point and nonpoint sources and reduce and prevent threats to public health from pollution; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program's (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) addresses a range of environmental problems facing the Santa Monica Bay watershed while recognizing and balancing the needs of the local community; and

WHEREAS, Several key actions in the CCMP Action Plan approved by the Governing Board in 2018 (Action Plan) aim to improve water quality through support and implementation of activities and projects that help achieve TMDL goals, including projects recommended for State bond funding that advance the implementation of watershed management programs (Action #16), infiltration, capture, and reuse of stormwater and dry-weather runoff through green infrastructure, low impact development, and other multi-benefit projects and improve understanding of ecosystem services provided (Action #17), support of efforts of disadvantaged communities to achieve healthy habitats, implement green infrastructure, and reduce pollution, including stormwater pollution (Action #28), facilitation of research, monitoring, and assessments that inform more accurate waste load allocations and development of new water, sediment, and biological objectives, including for assessing the effectiveness of pollution control measures (Action #41), and implementation of the Los Angeles County Safe Clean Water Program to support stormwater pollution control projects (Action #43);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission hereby:

1. SUPPORTS AND ENCOURAGES adoption of an MS4 permit that furthers the goals of the Commission and the implementation of the CCMP;
2. DIRECTS Commission staff to convey this resolution to the Los Angeles Water Board expressing the Commission's support of an MS4 permit that furthers the goals of the Commission and the implementation of the CCMP; and
3. DIRECTS Commission staff to consider further actions to support the continued collaboration between the Commission and the Los Angeles Water Board, dischargers, and other stakeholders in implementation of stormwater pollution control programs for restoring and enhancing Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds.

BY:

Charlie Caspary
Governing Board Chair
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission