



**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

September 16, 2020

Agenda Item: 2.d.ii

To: Executive Committee, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director
Re: **Consideration of Approval of Proposition 50 Grant Program Award Process and Request for Proposals**

Background

Proposition 50 – the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 – allocated \$100 million to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to finance projects to restore and protect the water quality and environment of coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near-shore waters, and groundwater. Of that \$100 million, Section 79543, subdivision (c), of the Water Code allocated \$20 million to implement priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP), also known as the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP).

Since 2004, 16 projects recommended by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) have been completed with Proposition 50 grants. The Commission currently has \$3,227,000 remaining for project recommendations. At its August 16, 2018, the Governing Board accepted staff recommendations and adopted Resolution 18-02 to establish implementation of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) and other monitoring needs identified in the CCMP as the funding priority for the remaining Proposition 50 funding (Attachment 1). Staff recommendations were based on the need to fill the anticipated funding shortage for implementation of the CMP and the knowledge that funds allocated under this section of Proposition 50 are the only source of bond funds that can be awarded for monitoring projects (Water Code § 79148.8). When Resolution 18-02 was introduced, the Santa Monica Bay NEP was going through a major revision process of the CCMP, including update of the CMP as a major component of the CCMP. To address the issue that the CMP update would not be completed before the Proposition 50 encumbrance deadline at that time, the Governing Board further directed staff to work with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to develop a scope of work and project list for Proposition 50 funding submission to the Governing Board.

The TAC established a subcommittee to develop draft recommendations, which were discussed and revised at the July 17, 2019 TAC meeting. The TAC recommended topic



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.

areas, priority topics, and recommended projects with the goal of providing the greatest value for monitoring and assessing the state of Santa Monica Bay and its watershed (Attachment 2). Recommended areas of emphasis include the development of habitat assessment indices, new monitoring to support habitat assessments, compilation and management of existing monitoring data, and monitoring and evaluation using indicators not included in indices.

The update of the CMP is ongoing and staff anticipates the presentation of the draft CMP for the Governing Board's consideration of approval by early 2021. Meanwhile, the \$3,190,000 of the remaining Proposition 50 funds has been reappropriated for spending in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021, with an encumbrance date of June 30, 2023. The State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance has requested a reappropriation of the remaining \$37,000 balance for FY 2021-2022. It is estimated that 12 to 18 months are needed from when the funds are available to spend for the solicitation and review of project proposals, development and approval of recommended projects, and development and execution of grant agreements.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the new timeline for completion of the CMP update and the encumbrance date of the remaining Proposition 50 funds, staff recommend that the timeline proposed earlier for approval of the Proposition 50 grant program award process and release of the Requests for Proposal be revised. Staff recommends that this item be scheduled for the Governing Board consideration after the completion of the CMP update, anticipated in early 2021, instead of the October 15, 2020 Governing Board meeting. This revised timeline will assist in prioritizing Proposition 50 funds for projects that address monitoring priorities identified in the updated CMP while ensuring the funds be encumbered by mid-2022, one year before the encumbrance deadline.

Attachments

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Attachment 1 | Staff Report Regarding Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Funding Priorities and Scope of Work Development (August 13, 2018) |
| Attachment 2 | TAC Recommendations Regarding Proposition 50 Priority Areas (October 15, 2019) |



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 phone 213/576-6646 fax www.smbrc.ca.gov

- ATTACHMENT 1 -

August 13, 2018

Agenda Item: 3.b.

To: SMBRC Governing Board

From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director

Re: **Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Funding
Priorities and Scope of Work Development**

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

- Adoption of Resolution 18-02 regarding the Proposition 50 funding priorities and scope of work development

Background

In 2002, California voters approved Proposition 50 – “Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002”. The bond measure provided over \$3 billion for water supply and water quality protection programs throughout the state.

Section 79543 of the Water Code allocated one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to finance projects to restore and protect the water quality and environment of coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near-shore waters, and groundwater. Of that \$100,000,000, twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) was allocated to implement priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP).

Section 79148.8 of the Water Code stipulates that grants can be awarded for any of the following projects:

- (1) Projects designed to improve water quality at public beaches and to make improvements for the purpose of ensuring that coastal waters adjacent to public beaches meet bacteriological standards.
- (2) Projects to provide comprehensive capability for monitoring, collecting, and analyzing ambient water quality, including monitoring technology that can be entered into a statewide information base with standardized protocols and sampling, collection, storage and retrieval procedures.
- (3) Projects to make improvements to existing sewer collection systems and septic systems for the restoration and protection of coastal water quality.
- (4) Projects designed to implement storm water and runoff pollution reduction and prevention programs for the restoration and protection of coastal water quality.

(5) Projects that are consistent with the state's nonpoint source control program.

Since 2004, 16 projects recommended by the SMBRC to the SWRCB have been completed with the Proposition 50 grants. The SMBRC currently has \$3,227,769 remaining for project recommendations. The State Water Board Department of Financial Assistance has requested the remaining Prop. 50 funds be re-appropriated for the 2019/20 fiscal year.

After providing an update on the status of the remaining Proposition 50 fund to the Governing Board at its last meeting on June 21, staff presented and discussed with the Executive Committee (EC) at its meeting on July 19 preliminary recommendations regarding the funding priority, award process, and timeline for the expenditure of the remaining bond funds. Based on input from the Executive Committee, staff recommends that the remaining funds be prioritized for projects that implement the Santa Monica Bay Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) as well as fulfilling other monitoring needs. This recommendation is made based on the following:

- The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program is required by federal EPA to develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring program to effectively monitor, assess, and report on the environmental condition and progress of the BRP (also known as the Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan). in improving the condition of the Estuary.
- The implementation of the CMP and enhanced water quality monitoring are key objectives and milestones of the existing BRP, and are actions proposed for inclusion in the revised BRP
- Many data gaps identified in the existing CMP, which was developed back in 2007, remain unfilled due to the lack of funding.
- The SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is updating the CMP in conjunction with the BRP revision process. Although the update is still on-going, many new monitoring gaps have been identified and need to be filled to address emerging issues such as the impacts of climate change.
- Water quality regulatory and regulated communities also face challenges, including the lack of resources to collect data needed for evaluating the effectiveness of ongoing programs such as Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs) aimed at meeting Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) pollutant loading reduction targets.
- While many bond measures provide funding for capital, land acquisition, and habitat restoration projects, based on our knowledge, funds allocated under this section of Proposition 50 is the only source of bond money that can be awarded for monitoring projects without conditions such as restricted use for pre- or post-capital project monitoring.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Governing Board adopt the attached Resolution (03-18, attached below), which sets implementation of the CMP as well as other monitoring needs identified in the Bay Restoration Plan as the funding priority for the remaining Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay grant funds. Staff also recommends that the Governing Board direct staff to work with the TAC to develop a scope of work and project list for submission to the Governing Board for adoption by early 2019.

SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION

August 16, 2018

Resolution No. 18-02

Resolution to Establish the Funding Priority, Scope of Work Development Process, and Timeline for Awarding the Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Funds

WHEREAS, the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50) provided \$20 million to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to finance projects to implement priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP); and

WHEREAS, to date, SWRCB has awarded approximately \$16 million in Proposition 50 grants to implement 16 projects to restore Santa Monica Bay; and

WHEREAS, the remaining balance available for BRP implementation is approximately \$3.2 million; and

WHEREAS, Section 79148.8 of the Water Code stipulates that the Proposition 50 grants can be awarded for projects designed to improve water quality through reduction of point and nonpoint sources of pollution, and projects to provide comprehensive capability for monitoring, collecting, and analyzing ambient water quality; and,

WHEREAS, the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program is required by federal EPA to develop and implement a comprehensive monitoring program to effectively monitor, assess, and report on the environmental condition and progress of the CCMP in improving the condition of Santa Monica Bay; and.

WHEREAS, Many monitoring needs identified in the Santa Monica Bay CMP and the BRP are unfilled due to the lack of funding; and

WHEREAS, many new monitoring gaps have been identified and need to be filled to address emerging water quality and habitat protection issues due to the impacts of climate change.

NOWHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Board of the SMBRC establishes that implementation of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) and other monitoring needs identified in the Bay Restoration Plan (CCMP) as the funding priority for the remaining Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay grant funding; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SMBRC staff is directed to work with the SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee to develop a scope of work and project list for submission to the Governing Board for adoption by early 2019.

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



- ATTACHMENT 2 -

Memorandum

October 15, 2019

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

From: Steven Bay, Chair, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Technical Advisory Committee

Re: TAC Recommendations Regarding Prop. 50 Priority Areas

Proposition 50 – “Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002” was approved by California voters in 2002. This bond measure has provided funding for many water supply and water quality protection programs throughout the state. A portion of these funds were allocated to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (Commission) for implementation of priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan. Approximately \$3.2 million of the bond allocation to Commission remains and the Governing Board has requested that these funds be used to support implementation of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) and other monitoring needs identified in the Bay Restoration Plan (now known as the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan). The TAC was asked to provide recommendations to Commission regarding priorities and types of work that will provide greatest value with regards to monitoring and assessing the state of Santa Monica Bay (Bay). The TAC established a subcommittee to develop draft recommendations, which were discussed and revised at the TAC’s July 17 meeting. This memo presents the TAC’s recommendations, which are organized into three parts: (1) Topic Areas, (2) Priority Topics, and (3) Recommended Projects.

1. Topic Areas

The TAC has identified two topic areas related to the Proposition 50 goal of implementing projects that “provide comprehensive capability for monitoring, collecting, and analyzing ambient water quality, including monitoring technology that can be entered into a statewide information base with standardized protocols and sampling, collection, storage and retrieval procedures.” Multiple areas of emphasis within the topic areas were also identified.

A. Support of State of the Bay assessments:

- 1. Development of habitat assessment indices.** Several of the types of indices identified by the TAC’s Habitat Subgroups have not been developed to the point where they can be applied throughout the Bay. Projects in this category include the collection, compilation, and synthesis of information to develop quantitative indices needed to support assessment of Bay habitats for use in future State of the Bay reports.

2. **New monitoring to support habitat assessments.** Projects in this category include conducting monitoring to fill data gaps and provide the information needed to facilitate application of Commission habitat assessment indices developed by the Commission habitat assessment subgroups. Management of new monitoring data is also included in this category.
3. **Compilation and management of existing monitoring data.** Data from ongoing monitoring programs may not be fully utilized in State of the Bay assessments due to the difficulty in locating and compiling this information in a timely manner. Projects in this category include work to compile, manage, and analyze data from ongoing monitoring programs to support application of standardized assessment indices by Commission.
4. **Monitoring and evaluation using indicators not included in indices.** Projects in this category include either new measurements (using established methods) or synthesis of existing information to assess biological condition or water quality and provide a more comprehensive evaluation of habitat condition.

B. Development and testing of new monitoring/assessment technologies:

New technologies, such as molecular assays or new types of sensors/sensing platforms, hold promise for increasing the efficiency, accuracy, and sensitivity of environmental monitoring of Santa Monica Bay. Projects in this category should apply these technologies to Santa Monica Bay (including the watershed) as a test case and demonstrate feasibility for use in monitoring programs.

2. Priority Topics

Several of the subtopic areas were identified by the TAC as priorities for funding:

- **Assessment index development.** Several Bay habitat groups either do not have assessment indices, or those indices need further development to improve their utility for the State of the Bay report.
- **New monitoring data.** There are gaps in either the spatial extent or completeness of currently available monitoring that limit the ability to assess condition in the Bay using the indicators identified by the habitat assessment subgroups.
- **Better habitat maps for the Bay.** The occurrence and extent of some habitats in the Bay is poorly documented. Existing information needs to be compiled and additional surveys conducted. These maps would also be useful for planning future restoration/enhancement activities.
- **Develop tools to assess climate change vulnerability for Bay habitats.** The TAC has identified four categories of indicators needed to assess the condition of Bay habitats (e.g., spatial extent, biological/ecological condition, stressors, and

climate change vulnerability). Of these categories, the tools and data needed to assess climate change vulnerability are lacking. While many types of indicators have been identified, the specific indicators, approach for interpretation, and monitoring data for most habitats are incomplete.

3. Recommended Projects

There are many potential projects that would provide information relevant for the priority topics described previously. However, the TAC has identified several projects that address the highest priority needs for improving assessment of the State of the Bay:

- Development of indices for assessing the biological/ecological condition of sandy shore and rocky intertidal habitats.
- Additional monitoring to provide the data needed to evaluate habitat-specific indicators/indices, or to provide a spatially more complete habitat assessment of biological/ecological condition. Data gaps are most pronounced for the following habitat categories: Wetlands, Sandy Shores, Rocky Intertidal, Rocky Reef, and Pelagic.
- Mapping the extent and characteristics of nearshore seagrass and nearshore rocky habitats in the Bay.
- Climate change vulnerability assessment of Bay habitats. The types of indicators identified for each habitat type need to be developed into specific tools/indices and then implemented to assess the current level of vulnerability for Bay habitats. These tools should also be useful for tracking changes in vulnerability over time.