



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

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April 9, 2021

Agenda Item: 3.b

To: Governing Board, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director
Re: **Consideration of Approval of the Revised Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP)**

Action Requested of the Governing Board

Approve the revised CMP of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP).

Background

The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) is currently undergoing a major revision of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), which is a living plan required by US EPA and provides a long-term framework for addressing a range of environmental problems facing Santa Monica Bay while recognizing and balancing the needs of the local community.

The Commission, in collaboration with The Bay Foundation, initiated the revision of the Santa Monica Bay NEP CCMP in 2017. The CCMP components approved by the Governing Board to date include the [Action Plan](#) (approved in 2018), the [Finance Plan](#) (approved in 2019), [the Commission's Memorandum of Understanding](#) (amended in 2020), and the [Introduction Chapter](#) (approved in 2021). Consistent with US EPA NEP guidance, the final revised CCMP package will be routed for US EPA's review and consideration of concurrence upon the Commission's approval of the remaining component—the revised CMP. The Governing Board approved the [current CMP](#) in 2007. Consistent with NEP funding guidance, the CMP describes strategies to track and detect changes and/or improvements within Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds and assess the effectiveness of CCMP implementation.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) led the development of the draft revised CMP with support from The Bay Foundation staff and Commission staff, and participation of outside experts. For each of the seven key habitats, the draft revised CMP describes approaches to advance comprehensive habitat assessments and address priority issues such as climate change, including identification of monitoring objectives and approaches, indicators, monitoring metrics or parameters, monitoring data programs, responsible parties, geographic scope or location sites when known, sampling frequency, data gaps, potential funding sources, and recommendations for future studies.



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.

The revised CMP will also inform:

- A revision to the Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP) for the Santa Monica Bay NEP, which tracks specific quality control and quality assurance goals and objectives associated with monitoring data,
- State of the Bay Reports, which are science-based comprehensive assessments of Santa Monica Bay's environmental condition produced every three to five years, and
- Recommendations of projects for Proposition 50 funding, which the Governing Board prioritized for projects that further the implementation of the CMP and other monitoring needs identified in the CCMP (Resolution 18-02).

At its March 10, 2021 meeting, the TAC refined the draft revised CMP and suggested minor revisions, including editorial corrections; emphasis on the dynamic nature of current monitoring efforts, partnerships, data gaps, and potential funding sources; and description of limitations of potential funding sources. The TAC adopted the recommendation to submit the final draft revised CMP with the suggested minor revisions outlined above to the Governing Board for consideration of approval. The draft revised CMP prepared for and discussed at the March 10, 2021 TAC meeting was distributed to the Executive Committee for their review on March 11, 2021, prior to the March 18, 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

A draft revised CMP, with the TAC's incorporated revisions, was distributed to the Governing Board for review on March 22, 2021. US EPA provided comments and suggestions on the final draft revised CMP, and many were incorporated into the April 9, 2021 proposed final draft (Attachment 1), including editorial corrections, further clarification on the significant scale of revisions from the 2007 CMP, further elaboration on how the CMP can help track the effectiveness of CCMP implementation, identification of the annual federal Clean Water Act Section 320 NEP grant funds as a potential funding source, and more specificity by replacing "N/A" designations in tables with "no current program" or "unknowns", as applicable. A redline version of the final draft revised CMP identifies changes made to the March 22, 2021 draft in response to input and comments received in addition to staff review (Attachment 2).

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Governing Board:

- approve the proposed final draft revised CMP (Attachment 1), which would complete the revised CCMP package and initiate US EPA's review and consideration of concurrence process, and
- direct staff to continue to coordinate with The Bay Foundation for routing the approved revised CMP to US EPA and facilitating US EPA's review and consideration of concurrence, as needed.

Attachments

Attachment 1 Final Draft Revised CMP (April 9, 2021)

Attachment 2 Redline Version of the April 9, 2021 Final Draft Revised CMP Compared to the March 22, 2021 Draft Revised CMP