



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

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**April 6, 2021**

**Agenda Item: 3.c**

**To:** Governing Board, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
**From:** Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director  
**Re:** **Consideration of Approval of the Santa Monica Bay NEP Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Work Plan (FY22 Work Plan)**

**Action Requested of the Governing Board**

Approve the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Work Plan (FY22 Work Plan).

**Background**

Each year, the Commission collaborates with The Bay Foundation, the Host Entity of the Santa Monica Bay NEP, to develop the Santa Monica Bay NEP Annual Work Plan, which identifies the planned tasks and activities to further implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the federal fiscal year. Upon the Governing Board's approval of the Annual Work Plan, The Bay Foundation submits the Annual Work Plan to US EPA to apply for the annual federal Clean Water Act Section 320 NEP grant for implementation of certain Annual Work Plan activities. US EPA uses the Annual Work Plan to track grant expenditures and progress toward achieving the NEP's objectives and to compile information on the environmental outcomes of CCMP implementation.

The FY22 Work Plan outlines tasks, objectives, partners, and deliverables for the work to be performed between October 1, 2021 and September 30, 2022 and must be submitted to US EPA by June 1, 2021 to meet deadlines for US EPA's review and approval. The FY22 Work Plan is consistent with NEP funding guidance and the actions, next steps, leads, and long-term environmental results of the [CCMP Action Plan](#) adopted by the Governing Board in October 2018. The FY22 Work Plan also builds on the current [FY21 Work Plan](#). As such, many of the FY22 Work Plan's priorities and tasks remain similar because they are continuations of multi-year efforts.

A preliminary draft of the FY22 Work Plan planned activities was posted for public review on February 10, 2021 and distributed to Governing Board members on February 11, 2021 (February Preliminary Draft). An overview of the draft FY22 Work Plan was provided at the February 18, 2021 Governing Board meeting, followed by a Santa Monica Bay Stakeholders Workshop on April 24, 2021 to inform stakeholders and receive input on the draft FY22 Work Plan. The workshop was conducted in a facilitated workshop format in collaboration with The Bay Foundation, with a focus on soliciting



*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.*

input on addressing climate change and four areas of special interest identified in US EPA NEP funding guidance: nutrient pollution reduction, water reuse and conservation, marine litter reduction, and green infrastructure and resiliency. In addition to the workshop, stakeholders, including members of the public, had an opportunity to provide input during a written comment period, which opened February 18, 2021 and closed March 5, 2021. Thirty-five (35) Governing Board members and stakeholders, including members of the public, participated in the workshop and 11 individuals provided written comments on the draft FY22 Work Plan. The written comments and summaries of input received at the February 24, 2021 Santa Monica Bay Stakeholders workshop were posted and provided to Executive Committee members on March 12, 2021, prior to the March 18, 2021 Executive Committee meeting.

Commission staff, in collaboration with The Bay Foundation staff, reviewed all input and comments received, found most were constructive and informative, and were able to be incorporated into the final draft FY22 Work Plan (Attachment 1). The final draft FY22 Work Plan also includes five additional Work Plan sections that were not included in the February Preliminary Draft. These sections include:

- Introduction, which provides an overview of Santa Monica Bay NEP entities and the connection between the CCMP, the FY22 Work Plan, and US EPA goals (Section I, page 1),
- Work Plan Overview, which describes the Work Plan structure and highlights changes from FY21 and Santa Monica Bay NEP accomplishments from 2020 (Section II, page 5),
- Estimated FY22 Budget, which estimates and projects the budget for Santa Monica Bay NEP's implementation of the Work Plan from October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 (Section IV, page 71),
- Table of Completed Projects in FY21, which identifies projects completed from the FY21 Work Plan (Attachment A, page 76), and
- Santa Monica Bay NEP Entities Staffing, which lists Commission and The Bay Foundation staff and their responsibilities (Attachment B, page 79).

Attachment 2 includes responses to written comments and summaries of input received at the February 24, 2021 Santa Monica Bay Stakeholders workshop, with indication if the comment was incorporated into the final draft FY22 Work Plan. A redline version of the final draft FY22 Work Plan identifies changes made to the February Preliminary Draft FY22 Work Plan in response to input and comments received in addition to staff review (Attachment 3).

## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend the Governing Board approve the Santa Monica Bay NEP FY22 Work Plan (Attachment 1).

## **Attachments**

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| Attachment 1 | Final Draft FY22 Work Plan (April 6, 2021)  |
| Attachment 2 | Responses to Comments on the February Preliminary Draft FY22 Work Plan  |
| Attachment 3 | Redline Version of the April 6, 2021 Final Draft FY22 Work Plan Compared to the February Preliminary Draft FY22 Work Plan |