



February 5, 2021

Agenda Item: 3.d

To: Governing Board, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director
Re: **Consideration of Approval of Resolution regarding the Updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program**

Action Requested of the Governing Board

Approve Resolution 21-01 (Attachment 1) regarding the updated MOU for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program (Attachment 2) and continued participation of the Commission in the Leadership Committee to further implementation of the IRWM Plan (IRWMP).

Background

The Greater Los Angeles Area County Region IRWM program was established pursuant to specific provisions of Proposition 50 to facilitate long-term funding for various water quality, water supply, environmental, and health and safety projects within the region, including the Santa Monica Bay watershed. An MOU was entered by all participating stakeholders that establishes the organizational structure for general decision making and consensus building under the IRWM program.

Since the inception of the IRWM program, the Commission has played a significant and active role in the IRWMP implementation process by serving as a voting member of the IRWM program’s Leadership Committee, representing the “Open Space” Water Management Area. Commission staff also play an active role in potential project consideration through participation in the IRWM program’s regional subcommittees that cover various parts of the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

Continued implementation of the IRWMP is among the key steps identified in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Action Plan approved by the Governing Board in 2018 (Actions #16 and 28). Accordingly, continued participation in the IRWM program, including support of green infrastructure projects for IRWM program funding in disadvantaged communities, have been important tasks identified in the Santa Monica Bay NEP Annual Work Plans.

The IRWM program MOU is renewed every four years. The Governing Board approved the IRWM program’s original MOU in 2006 and updates to the MOU in October 2008,

2012, and 2016. The current MOU was set to expire at the end of 2020. The IRWM program Leadership Committee approved an updated version of the MOU (Attachment 2) at its November 18, 2020 meeting and requested each member agency's ratification in order to execute the updated MOU. The update to the MOU includes the addition of a provision pertaining to adoption and communication of positions on state and federal legislation relevant to integrated regional water management planning (Attachment 2, page 2, Section 2.1.3 and page 10 of Exhibit B, Section III.b.10), addition of a provision clarifying the role and responsibilities of the IRWM program's Leadership Committee (Attachment 2, page 9 of Exhibit B, Section III.b.2), and several minor clarifications of the applicable state requirements and membership requirements of the IRWM program's Leadership Committee.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Governing Board approve Resolution 21-01 (Attachment 1) regarding the updated MOU for the IRWM program (Attachment 2) and continued participation of the Commission in the Leadership Committee to further implementation of the IRWMP.

Attachments

- Attachment 1 Draft Resolution 21-01

- Attachment 2 2020 Updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program



ATTACHMENT 1

- DRAFT -

**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
REGARDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND
IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGION**

February 18, 2021

Resolution No. 21-01

WHEREAS, The Greater Los Angeles Area Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program was established to facilitate long-term funding for various water quality, water supply, environmental, and health and safety projects within the region, including the Santa Monica Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was entered by all participating stakeholders that establishes the organizational structure for general decision making and consensus building under the IRWM program; and

WHEREAS, The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission has served as a voting member of the IRWM program's Leadership Committee and participated in the IRWM program's regional subcommittees in the Santa Monica Bay watershed since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Continued participation in the IRWM program and implementation of the IRWM Plan (IRWMP) is consistent with, and advances the implementation of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Governing Board approved the original IRWM program MOU in 2006 and updates in 2008, 2012, and 2016.

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

1. APPROVES the revisions to the MOU for IRWM Planning and Implementation for the Greater Los Angeles County Region; and

2. AUTHORIZES the Chief Administrative Director to sign the updated MOU on behalf of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission; and
3. AUTHORIZES the Chief Administrative Director or his designee to represent the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission on the IRWM program's Leadership Committee.

BY:

Charlie Caspary
Governing Board Chair
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

ATTACHMENT 2

2020 UPDATED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR THE INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT (IRWM) PROGRAM

(The red-line version of the 2020 Updated IRWM Program MOU is available on the Commission's website as meeting materials for the February 18, 2021 Governing Board meeting at https://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/agendas/#2021.)