



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

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June 11, 2021

Agenda Item: 3.c

To: Governing Board, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

From: Guangyu Wang, Chief Administrative Director

Re: **Consideration of Adoption of the Resolution regarding Recommendations for Safe, Clean Water Program Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Stormwater Investment Plans within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed**

Action Requested of the Governing Board

Adopt Resolution 21-02 regarding recommendations for the Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program) Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (FY21-22) Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) within the Santa Monica Bay watershed. (See [Attachment B](#)).

Background

Implementation of the SCW Program is a key action of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) [Action Plan](#) approved by the Governing Board in 2018 (Action #43). The SCW Program was established by the passage of Measure W in 2018 to provide local, dedicated funding to increase local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health.

Fifty percent of SCW Program's funds are allocated to its Regional Program for stormwater projects and programs. This portion of funding is distributed among nine Watershed Areas to be programmed by the respective Watershed Area Steering Committee (Steering Committee). The SCW Program's Scoring Committee evaluates and scores proposed projects for the Steering Committees' consideration. Each Steering Committee reviews this information and develops SIPs, or annual five-year plans that recommend funding allocations for the Infrastructure, Technical Resources, and Scientific Studies Programs in its Watershed Area. The SCW Program's Regional Oversight Committee reviews each SIP, determines whether and the extent to which each SIP achieves the SCW Program goals, and provides its findings and recommendations to the respective Steering Committee and to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board of Supervisors). The Board of Supervisors considers each SIP together with the Regional Oversight Committee's recommendation and either approves the SIP or returns it to the appropriate Steering Committee for revision and resubmittal.



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.

Three of the Steering Committees lie completely or partially in the Santa Monica Bay watershed: The North, Central, and South Santa Monica Bay Steering Committees.¹ At its June 18, 2020 meeting, the Governing Board adopted [Resolution 20-04](#) supporting the first round of the SCW Program funding for eight projects under the FY20-21 SIPs in the Santa Monica Bay watershed. In May 2021, these Steering Committees completed development of SIPs for the second round of funding (FY21-22), which include funding of both multi-year projects approved in the previous fiscal year and new projects. The Regional Oversight Committee's review and consideration of recommendations on the SIPs is anticipated in late June 2021 and the Board of Supervisors' consideration of approval is anticipated in July 2021.

In total, the FY21-22 SIPs adopted by the three Steering Committees in the watershed include five new Infrastructure Program projects and two new Technical Resources Program projects. One region-wide Scientific Studies Program project, the Regional Pathogen Reduction Study, was included in the SIP adopted by the South Santa Monica Bay Steering Committee, but not by the North or Central Santa Monica Bay Steering Committees. [Attachment A](#) summarizes all eight projects in the Santa Monica Bay watershed that are included in the FY21-22 SIPs.

At its May 20, 2021 meeting, the Commission's Executive Committee requested the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide input and recommendations on the SIPs for the Governing Board's consideration. After discussion with the TAC Chair, Commission staff determined that TAC review would not be feasible within the short timeframe needed to convey any recommendations of the Commission to the Board of Supervisors. However, all eight projects have gone through the SCW Program's public process of evaluation and scoring by the Scoring Committee and review, discussion, and adoption by the respective Steering Committee in the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

After reviewing the FY21-22 SIPs and communicating with SCW Program staff, Commission staff find that the five new Infrastructure Program projects and two new Technical Resources Program projects within the watershed that are included in the FY21-22 SIPs will further the implementation of the CCMP Action Plan. Commission staff recommend that the Governing Board supports SCW Program funding of these seven projects. However, Commission staff recommend that the Governing Board not take a position on the Scientific Studies Program project included in the South Santa Monica Bay Steering Committee's FY21-22 SIP due to the lack of consensus among all Steering Committees in the watershed. If approved by the Governing Board, Commission staff will convey to the respective Steering Committee, the Regional Oversight Committee, and the Board of Supervisors the resolution and a letter from the Chair with a list of supported projects.

¹ The boundary of the South Santa Monica Bay Steering Committee includes a portion of the Santa Monica Bay watershed and the Dominguez Channel watershed.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Governing Board adopt Resolution 21-02 regarding recommendations for the SCW Program FY21-22 SIPs within the Santa Monica Bay watershed, which expresses the following:

1. Support of SCW Program funding of seven of the projects included in the FY21-22 SIPs within the Santa Monica Bay watershed, as identified in [Table 1](#) of [Attachment B](#); and
2. Direction to Commission staff to convey this support and recommendation to the respective Steering Committee, the Regional Oversight Committee, and the Board of Supervisors with a letter from the Chair and a list of the supported projects.

Attachments

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Attachment A | Summary of All Projects within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed Included in the SCW Program's FY21-22 SIPs |
| Attachment B | Draft Resolution 21-02 regarding Recommendations for the SCW Program FY21-22 SIPs within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed |

ATTACHMENT A

SUMMARY OF ALL PROJECTS WITHIN THE SANTA MONICA BAY WATERSHED INCLUDED IN THE SCW PROGRAM'S FY21-22 SIPs

Table A lists all eight projects within the Santa Monica Bay watershed that are included in the Steering Committees' FY21-22 SIPs (see Table A). Following Table A is a brief summary of each proposed project. For Infrastructure Program projects, the overall SCW Program score and water supply, water quality, and community benefits are also provided. The overall SCW Program score is determined by the SCW Program Scoring Committee and is based on the benefit criteria in water quality (50 points), water supply (25 points), community investment (10 points), natural-based solutions (15 points), and leveraging funds (10 points), for a maximum of 110 points.

More information on these projects is available in the [SCW Program's Portal](#) and [SIP Planning Tool](#).

Table A. List of All Projects within the Santa Monica Bay watershed included in the SCW Program's FY21-22 SIPs

| Project Name | Watershed Area | Regional Subprogram | Project Lead | Approx. Total Funding Requested | Best Management Practices Type |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvement Project | North Santa Monica Bay | Infrastructure Program | Los Angeles County Public Works | \$800,000 (over 2 yrs.) | Modular wetlands/infiltration |
| Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III | North Santa Monica Bay | Technical Resources Program | City of Calabasas | \$300,000 | Bank stabilization/erosion control, storm drain outlet retrofit & plant rehabilitation |
| Ballona Creek TMDL Project | Central Santa Monica Bay | Infrastructure Program | City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation | \$15 million (over 5 yrs.) | Diversion and treatment facility |
| Slauson Connect Clean Water Project | Central Santa Monica Bay | Infrastructure Program | Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, Geosyntec Consultants | \$4.9 million (over 5 yrs.) | Cistern and green alleys |
| Syd Kronenthal Park Stormwater Capture Project | Central Santa Monica Bay | Technical Resources Program | City of Culver City | \$300,000 | Infiltration or storage/diversion |
| Stormwater Basin Expansion Project | South Santa Monica Bay | Infrastructure Program | City of Torrance | \$4.5 million (over 5 yrs.) | Retention/infiltration basin |
| South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project | South Santa Monica Bay | Infrastructure Program | City of Manhattan Beach | \$1.5 million | Diversion, permeable pavement, infiltration trench |
| Regional Pathogen Reduction Study | Region-wide | Scientific Studies Program | Gateway Water Management Authority | Up to \$8.5 million | N/A |

VIEWRIDGE ROAD STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Regional Subprogram: Infrastructure Program

Overall SCW Program Score: 60

Total Pollutant Reduction: 85% Toxics

Water Captured: N/A

Community Benefits: Improves flood protection, enhances habitat or park spaces, increases shade and trees, reduces heat island effects

Benefit to Disadvantaged Community: No

Project Summary: This project will treat flows that drain to Topanga Canyon Creek, which drains to the North Santa Monica Bay. It is designed to reduce the amount of bacteria, metals, nutrients, and trash being discharged into Topanga Canyon Creek by capturing all dry weather flows and storm flows for up to the 85th percentile, 24-hour storm event from the tributary area consisting of 80 acres of residential land use. The Project will treat up to 33 acre-feet of stormwater per year by means of biofiltration based on an average annual rainfall year as recorded at the nearest rain gauge. The bio-filtration units will collectively divert and treat the 85th percentile design storm at each sub-area within the total tributary area by means of a diversion structure and curb inlets, before discharging into the Topanga Creek. The biofiltration units will be equipped with a pre-treatment chamber to separate trash, sediment, and debris, followed by a filter media material to effectively remove the target pollutants.

LAS VIRGENES CREEK RESTORATION PHASE III

Regional Subprogram: Technical Resources Program

Project Summary: This feasibility study is needed as a prerequisite for Phase III of Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Project. Phase I of the project, completed in 2008 with Prop. 12 funding support from the SMBRC, removed the concrete channel lining with bank naturalization in the Las Virgenes Creek between 101 Freeway and Agoura Road bridge. Phase II of the project, completed in 2019, consisted of removing 440 linear feet of failing concrete liner south SCW of Meadow Creek Lane, creating 8 fish pools, planting 1,200 native trees along the banks, and establishing new multipurpose trails and other amenities for public gathering and school education. Phase III of the project aims to improve water quality and restore the habitat surrounding Las Virgenes Creek that has been damaged by heavy storms, and includes retrofitting 25 outlets draining into the creek, removal of fish barriers, removal of dead and/or broken mature trees, planting of new native oak trees, and building new multipurpose trail along the creek.

BALLONA CREEK TMDL PROJECT

Regional Subprogram: Infrastructure Program

Overall SCW Program Score: 80

Total Pollutant Reduction: N/A

Water Captured: 2,530 households per year

Community Benefits: Provides recreational opportunities, enhances habitat or park spaces, increases shade and trees, improves waterway access

Benefit to Disadvantaged Community: No

Project Summary: This project consists two low flow treatment facilities (LFTF-1 and LFTF-2) to improve the water quality in Ballona Creek. LFTF-1 will retrofit the City of Los Angeles's North Outfall Treatment Facility (NOTF), which is located along the Ballona Creek main stem in the City of Culver City and was originally designed for discharging sewer overflows (after treatment) into Ballona Creek. The facility is designed for diversion of dry weather runoff with a maximum capacity of 29 million gallons per day (mgd), and ozonation for disinfection of 6 mgd. Disinfected water will be returned to Ballona Creek to ensure that bacteria standards in Ballona Creek downstream of the facility will be met. The facility will also include diversion connection to the North Outfall Sewer (NOS) to convey a maximum of 23 mgd to the Hyperion Wastewater Reclamation Plant. LFTF-2 will be a new facility located along Sepulveda Channel, the largest tributary to Ballona Creek, for disinfection of all dry weather flow in this channel with a maximum design capacity of 1.3 mgd, and ozonation for disinfection of up to 1.3 mgd.

SLAUSON CONNECT CLEAN WATER PROJECT

Regional Subprogram: Infrastructure Program

Overall SCW Program Score: 62

Total Pollutant Reduction: 84% Zinc

Water Captured: 4 households per year

Community Benefits: Improves flood protection, provide recreational opportunities, enhances habitat or park spaces, increases shade and trees, reduces heat island effects, improves waterway access

Benefit to Disadvantaged Community: Yes

Project Summary: This project consists of a suite of multi-benefit Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI), including cistern on a 2.25-acre parcel, and two Green Alleys upstream of the cistern, in the Wildasin neighborhood of South Los Angeles and in conjunction with Council District 9's proposed development of the Slauson Connect Community Center site. The proposed BMPs will pump, treat, and disinfect runoff from up to 22 acres, and use the treated runoff to irrigate landscaping at the Slauson Connect site instead of draining to Ballona Creek. This project aligns with the goals and objectives of the South Los Angeles Green Alley Master Plan (AMP) to provide environmental and community health benefits. 100% of the Project area is within a Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC).

SYD KRONENTHAL PARK STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECT

Regional Subprogram: Technical Resources Program

Project Summary: The proposed project for technical feasibility study includes runoff diversion from existing storm drains and Ballona Creek/Adams Channel into large-scale underground storage chambers combined with a shallow reservoir for passive irrigation for the park. The feasibility study will also evaluate other potential project components that include Adams Channel Nature walk, dry or wet weather flow diversions, and associated extensions of existing bike paths further into the City of Los Angeles to broaden the access to the Ballona Creek Bike Path. The project will also include geotechnical study to determine the feasibility of infiltration.

STORMWATER BASIN EXPANSION PROJECT

Regional Subprogram: Infrastructure Program

Overall SCW Program Score: 65

Total Pollutant Reduction: 87%

Water Captured: 280 households per year

Community Benefits: Improves flood protection, provide recreational opportunities, enhances habitat or park spaces

Benefit to Disadvantaged Community: No

Project Summary: The objective of this project is to build upon the previous Stormwater Basin Enhancement Project and further improve the basins to retain and treat the 85th percentile storm event Design Capture Volume. The Stormwater Basin Enhancement Project, completed in 2015 with Prop. 84 funding support from the SMBRC, resulted in improvements to three stormwater retention basins (Henrietta, Entradero, and Amie Basins) aimed towards retaining and treating dry-weather flows and runoff from small storm events by natural means including constructed wetlands and infiltration areas. The proposed expansion project includes deepening the existing Henrietta and Entradero Basins and use the excavated soils to improve south slopes at Entradero Park, construction of a walking trail on the south side of Entradero Park, installation of dry wells at Henrietta Basin, extension of trail on south side of Henrietta Basin to complete loop, and adjustment of pumping levels at Amie Basin to retain 85% storm event to then be pumped to the Henrietta Basin for infiltration.

SOUTH SANTA MONICA BAY WATER QUALITY ENHANCEMENT: 28TH STREET STORM DRAIN INFILTRATION PROJECT

Regional Subprogram: Infrastructure Program

Overall SCW Program Score: 67

Total Pollutant Reduction: 77% Bacteria

Water Captured: 238 households per year

Community Benefits: Increases shade and trees, reduces heat island effects

Benefit to Disadvantaged Community: No

Project Summary: This Project will capture and infiltrate runoff and is split into two phases. Phase 1 includes improvements at the 26th Street Parking Facility including diversion structure (will be used with Phase 2 also), pretreatment unit (will be used with Phase 2 also), pump station (will be used with Phase 2 also), approximately 48 drywells, permeable pavement, and trees in the 26th Street Parking Facility. Phase 2 includes infiltration trench (Phase 2 only), and dune restoration (in partnership with other City departments). The project is aimed at improving water quality at the beach and in the Santa Monica Bay by reducing discharges from the storm drain system.

REGIONAL PATHOGEN REDUCTION STUDY

Regional Subprogram: Scientific Studies Program

Project Summary: The Study will leverage recent research to produce strategies that prioritize the highest risk sources of human pathogens, protect public health more effectively and efficiently, and can be incorporated into Watershed Management Programs and Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (E/WMP). Specific technical outcomes of the Study include: (1) Determining the sources with the highest risk to human health; (2) Identifying the beaches and inland waterbodies where the risk to human health is higher so that E/WMPs can target those areas earlier in the implementation process; and, (3) Identifying management actions to address those sources more effectively.

The Study plans collect samples from beaches, rivers, creeks, and channels within the participating Watershed Areas identified by the SCWP. Samples will be analyzed for traditional bacterial indicators (i.e., E. coli, Enterococcus, and Fecal Coliform), viruses (e.g., norovirus), and human markers (e.g., HF183) during wet and dry weather. The Study will utilize efforts under the ongoing Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs (CIMPs) to SCW Scientific efficiently collect samples that are directly applicable to each participating Watershed Area. The number of samples and constituents collected is expected to follow the methodology used for similar studies conducted in Southern California. Development of the detailed Study Work Plan will be conducted through a stakeholder-led process with the input of technical experts including academia.



ATTACHMENT B

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**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION
REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
SAFE, CLEAN WATER PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022
STORMWATER INVESTMENT PLANS WITHIN THE
SANTA MONICA BAY WATERSHED
June 17, 2021**

Resolution No. 21-02

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Water Program (SCW Program) was established to provide local, dedicated funding to increase local water supply, improve water quality, and protect public health; and

WHEREAS, A portion of SCW Program's revenues are allocated to the Regional Program to fund stormwater projects and programs at the watershed level and are distributed among nine Watershed Areas to be programmed by the respective Watershed Area Steering Committee (Steering Committee); and

WHEREAS, The Steering Committees review project proposals and develop Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) that recommend funding allocations for projects and programs in the Regional Program's Infrastructure, Technical Resources, and Scientific Studies Programs for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' consideration of approval; and

WHEREAS, Three of the Steering Committees lie completely or partially in the Santa Monica Bay watershed: The North, Central, and South Santa Monica Bay Steering Committees; and

WHEREAS, Implementation of the SCW Program is a key action of the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) Action Plan approved by the Governing Board in 2018 (Action Plan); and

WHEREAS, At its June 18, 2020 meeting, the Governing Board adopted Resolution 20-04 supporting the first round of SCW Program funding for eight projects under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 SIPs in the Santa Monica Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, Eight new projects included in the FY 2021-2022 SIPs are within the Santa Monica Bay watershed, including five Infrastructure Program projects, two Technical Resources Program projects, and one Scientific Studies Program project; and

WHEREAS, Seven of these projects will further the implementation of the CCMP Action Plan: the five Infrastructure Program projects and two Technical Resources Program projects identified in Table 1; and

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

1. SUPPORT SCW Program funding of the five Infrastructure Program projects and two Technical Resources Program projects included in the FY 2021-2022 SIPs within the Santa Monica Bay watershed and as identified in Table 1; and
2. DIRECT Commission staff to convey this support and recommendation to the respective Steering Committee, the SCW Program Regional Oversight Committee, and the Board of Supervisors with a letter from the Chair.

BY:

Charlie Caspary
Governing Board Chair
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

Table 1. SCW Program FY 2021-2022 Projects Supported by Resolution 21-02 of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

| Name of Proposed Project | SCW Program Watershed Area |
|---|----------------------------|
| Viewridge Road Stormwater Improvement Project | North Santa Monica Bay |
| Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase III | North Santa Monica Bay |
| Ballona Creek TMDL Project | Central Santa Monica Bay |
| Slauson Connect Clean Water Project | Central Santa Monica Bay |
| Syd Kronenthal Park Stormwater Capture Project | Central Santa Monica Bay |
| Stormwater Basin Expansion Project | South Santa Monica Bay |
| South Santa Monica Bay Water Quality Enhancement: 28th Street Storm Drain Infiltration Project | South Santa Monica Bay |