



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Concurrence Request: Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program CCMP Revision
FROM: Tomás Torres, Director, Water Division **TOMAS TORRES**
TO: Brian Frazier, Director
Office of Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division

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TOMAS TORRES
Date: 2021.09.14
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The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) has submitted its revised Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) to EPA. Our review of the revised CCMP finds that it fulfills the content requirements as prescribed in the EPA CCMP Revision guidance and are consistent with the 2021-2024 EPA Funding Guidance. Region 9 requests your concurrence that the SMBNEP CCMP documents meet all requirements and are therefore considered by EPA to be the official final documents.

The SMBNEP Management Conference conducts a review of the CCMP every five years and revises the CCMP approximately every 10 years. With input from the Management Conference and the public over the course of several workshops, the SMBNEP streamlined its CCMP from 167 Milestones to 44 Actions. The CCMP revision maintains the over-arching priorities of improving water quality, preserving and restoring natural resources, and protecting benefits to humans. In addition, a new priority entitled “understanding and adapting to climate change impacts” was added to the document. SMBNEP’s 2016 Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis was a key driver for this CCMP revision.

Each action in this plan supports one or more of the following goals:

1. Protect, enhance, and improve ecosystems of Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds
2. Improve water availability
3. Improve water quality
4. Enhance socio-economic benefits to the public
5. Enhance public engagement and education
6. Mitigate impacts and increase resiliency to climate change
7. Improve monitoring and ability to assess effectiveness of management actions

Over the course of four years, the SMBNEP produced the following five documents as part of its CCMP revision, which were approved by the SMBNEP Governing Board (Policy Committee) prior to submission to EPA for review and concurrence:

1. CCMP Introduction Chapter (2021)
2. CCMP Action Plan (2018) which includes the Habitat Protection/Restoration Plan and Outreach Strategy
3. Finance Plan (2019)

4. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (2020) (which defines the governance structure of the NEP)
5. Comprehensive Monitoring Plan (2021) (which helps assess and track the effectiveness of the revised CCMP actions)

Erica Yelensky, Region 9's SMBNEP coordinator, collaborated closely with Vince Bacalan of your staff to jointly review the revised SMBNEP CCMP documents using the CCMP Revision Checklist as a guide. Our Coordinators also worked in concert with the SMBNEP Director throughout the development of the CCMP documents. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or your staff may contact Erica Yelensky at (415) 972-3021.

Attachments (first 5 of 6 are hyperlinked):

[CCMP Introduction](#)

[CCMP Action Plan including the Habitat Protection/Restoration Plan and Outreach Strategy](#)

[CCMP Finance Plan](#)

[Memorandum of Understanding](#)

[SMBNEP Comprehensive Monitoring Plan](#)

CCMP Revision Checklist