



Media Release

State Water Board Approves \$3.3 Million in Funds to Speed Colorado Lagoon Cleanup and Restoration Effort

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Contact: George Kostyrko
Phone: (916) 341-7365

Today, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) approved \$3.3 million to fund the final cleanup phase of an ongoing regional effort to restore the historic Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach which has been plagued by contaminated sediment that threatens public use of the water body.

The board action, which draws funding from the State Water Board's Clean Up and Abatement Account (CAA), is intended to assist the City of Long Beach in funding the removal, treatment, and disposal of hazardous material from the 15-acre Colorado Lagoon. The City will work closely with the Port of Long Beach, to take this material (*an estimated 55,000-cubic-yards of sediment*) to a confined disposal facility at the port between November 1, and April 30, 2012.

The board agreed to approve the funding with the stipulation that the project meet the schedule for disposal at the port instead of the more costly proposal to transport the sediment to the Kettleman City landfill. This funding request follows a Los Angeles Regional Quality Control Board resolution approved March 3, 2011, that identifies the Colorado Lagoon project as its top priority for CAA funds for the region.

The City of Long Beach and local organizations working on the Colorado Lagoon restoration testified that this funding is critical in making sure that contaminated sediment in that lagoon can be safely removed and transported to a nearby location for disposal. The goal is to ensure that the Lagoon, which is a popular recreation destination, will no longer pose a public health threat.

"This funding is in spirit with the purposes and use of CAA funds," said James Maughan, acting deputy director of the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance. "We look forward to working with both the community and City of Long Beach to move the Colorado Lagoon restoration project forward."

The CAA funding approval is consistent with purposes of State Water Code Section 13442 that states that the State Water Board may order monies to be paid from the CAA to a public agency with the authority to clean up or abate the effects of waste in order "to assist it in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on the waters of the state."

