

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
AUGUST 3, 2010**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING GRANTS FOR THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION (SMBRC) THROUGH THE PROPOSITION 84 CLEAN BEACHES PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

In November 2006, voters approved *The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006* (Proposition 84) (Pub. Resources Code, § 75001 et seq.) authorizing the issuance of bonds to fund a variety of water quality improvement projects. Proposition 84 allocated \$90 million to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) for coastal water quality improvement projects pursuant to the Clean Beaches Program (Pub Resources Code, § 30915 et seq.). Of this amount, \$18 million is to be made available to the SMBRC for matching grants to protect beaches and coastal waters in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed.

In 2008, the SMBRC comprehensively updated the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) with new goals, objectives, and milestones consistent with the mission to “improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources and protect the bay’s benefits and values.” The updated BRP identifies projects the SMBRC plans to implement.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration (SMBR) Grant Program provides funds for capital improvement projects that restore and protect the Santa Monica Bay’s water quality and help to achieve one or more of the following objectives identified in the BRP:

- Zero dry-weather beach closures at Santa Monica Bay Beaches
- Significant reduction in beach mile days for postings at Santa Monica Bay Beaches
- Significant reduction of trash to the Santa Monica Bay
- Significant reduction of other 303d listed pollutants

The Clean Beaches Program requires the State Water Board to consult with the State Coastal Conservancy in awarding projects. It also requires the Clean Beaches Task Force (CBTF) to review and recommend projects for funding.

The SMBRC appointed a panel of experts to assist in project reviews at their Governing Board Meeting on December 13, 2007. This Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was selected from local agencies, environmental advocacy groups, academia, government, and scientific research organizations. On September 2, 2008, in [Resolution No. 2008-0059](#), the State Water Board added the TAC members to the CBTF, hereinafter referred to as the Clean Beaches Santa Monica Bay (CBSMB) Task Force.

Projects for the SMBR Grant Program were solicited using the procedures and criteria established by the SMBRC Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP stated that approximately \$10.5 million would be available during this solicitation, and the additional funds would be used to target specific projects. The RFP opened on the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool system on August 22, 2008, and closed on October 17, 2008.

The SMBRC received the following in response to its RFP:

- Number of project proposals submitted: 21
- Total requested funds: \$33.02 million
- Total matching funds: \$25.35 million

The CBSMB Task Force members reviewed and ranked proposals in accordance with criteria established in the RFP. The CBSMB Task Force convened and developed a recommended project list (RPL). However, prior to the adoption of the RPL by the SMBRC Executive Committee, the Department of Finance issued Budget Letter 08-33 on December 17, 2008, ceasing the authorization of any new grants or obligations for bond projects, including new phases for existing projects. Since that time, some of the projects on the RPL were withdrawn, or funded by other sources (e.g., American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009). On January 22, 2009, the SMBRC Executive Committee approved the RPL. The SMBRC adopted resolutions at its April 15, 2010, meeting, approving funding for three projects listed on the RPL.

The State Water Board has recently been given the authority to begin restarting projects and funding new projects with the bond funds, which include Proposition 84 Clean Beaches Program funds. The three projects from the RPL with approved Resolutions are proposed for funding at the current time and include the following:

Agency	Project Title	Funding Amount Requested
City of Inglewood	Ballona Creek Watershed Trash Basin Insert Program	\$205,000
City of Torrance	Stormwater Basin Enhancement Program	\$3,337,500
City of Manhattan Beach	Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration System	\$500,000

These three projects total approximately \$4 million dollars of the available \$18 million. In addition to approving the RPL and funding for these three projects, the resolution authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to issue additional grants to implement other projects meeting the goals of the BRP and selected by the SMBRC, in consultation with the CBSMB Task Force.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Approve the proposed RPL for the SMBR Grant Program, presented in [Attachment 1](#), and make those projects eligible for funding?
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement the projects on the RPL in the order detailed work plans are received, and resolutions are adopted by the SMBRC approving funding?

3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to revise the RPL in the event of changes in requested grant amounts, match amounts, or project title?
4. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement additional projects meeting the goals of the BRP and selected by the SMBRC, in consultation with the CBSMB Task Force, until funding is exhausted?

FISCAL IMPACT

Local assistance funds authorized from Proposition 84 are sufficient to fund the recommended projects. Staff resources to manage the projects are available from the five percent administration allocation authorized by the bond.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board staff will manage the projects using administrative resources provided by the bond.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should:

1. Approve the proposed RPL for the SMBR Grant Program, presented Attachment 1, and make those projects eligible for funding;
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement the projects on the RPL in the order detailed work plans are received, and resolutions are adopted by the SMBRC approving funding;
3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to revise the RPL in the event of changes in requested grant amounts, match amounts, or project title; and
4. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement additional projects meeting the goals of the BRP and selected by the SMBRC, in consultation with the CBSMB Task Force, until funding is exhausted.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to implement strategies to fully support the beneficial uses for all 2006 listed water bodies by 2030. Approval of this item will: (1) manage urban runoff volume to reduce pollutant loadings, (2) reduce wet weather beach postings, (3) eliminate dry weather beach closures and postings, and (4) use management techniques to promote sustainable water supplies.

DRAFT

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2010-

APPROVING PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING GRANTS FOR THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION (SMBRC) THROUGH THE PROPOSITION 84 CLEAN BEACHES PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized to administer approximately \$18 million in Proposition 84 grant funds for the SMBRC through the Clean Beaches Grant Program for protection of beaches and coastal waters in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed;
2. The Clean Beaches Santa Monica Bay (CBSMB) Task Force was appointed by the State Water Board in [Resolution No. 2008-0059](#) to review and recommend projects for Proposition 84 SMBRC funding;
3. In 2008, the SMBRC comprehensively updated the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) which included identifying projects to implement, consistent with its mission;
4. Projects for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration (SMBR) Grant Program were solicited from those identified in the BRP using the procedures and criteria established by the SMBRC Request for Proposal (RFP);
5. The CBSMB Task Force reviewed all complete proposals and developed the Recommended Project List (RPL) for the Proposition 84 SMBRC funding;
6. The RPL was approved by the SMBRC's Executive Committee at its January 22, 2009, meeting; and
7. The SMBRC adopted resolutions at their April 15, 2010, meeting approving funding for three projects listed on the RPL (Ballona Creek Watershed Trash Basin Insert Program, Stormwater Basin Enhancement Program, and Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration System).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Board:

1. Approves the proposed RPL for the SMBR Grant Program, presented in [Attachment 1](#), and makes those projects eligible for funding;
2. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to execute grants and amendments to implement the projects on the RPL in the order detailed applications are received, and resolutions are adopted by the SMBRC approving funding;
3. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to revise the RPL in the event of changes in requested grant amounts, match amounts, or project title; and

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4. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement additional projects meeting the goals of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan and selected by the SMBRC, in consultation with the CBSMB Task Force, until funding is exhausted.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, Clerk to the Board, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Board held on August 3, 2010.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board