

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

ITEM 13

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING GRANTS FOR THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION (SMBRC) THROUGH THE PROPOSITION 50 COASTAL NON POINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM

DISCUSSION

In November 2002, voters approved *The Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50)*. Section 79543 of Proposition 50 provides twenty million dollars (\$20 million) for implementation of priority actions specified in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (Plan). The Plan was adopted by the Bay Watershed Council in 2002, and comprehensively updated in 2008 by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC).

The SMBRC established project eligibility and grant priorities and solicited projects for placement on the Proposition 50 Competitive Project List (CPL). On June 15, 2005, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted [Resolution No. 2005-0042](#) authorizing the Executive Director or the Chief of the Division of Financial Assistance to issue grants, contracts, and amendments to implement the projects on SMBRC's CPL.

The CPL included a grant award in the amount of \$2,850,000 to Heal the Bay for a Steelhead and Stream Restoration Project on Arroyo Sequit. Time constraints of the grant agreement and other issues caused the project to stall, and the agreement was terminated without expenditure of any funds.

The SMBRC and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) staff developed a new scope of work for completing this project in two phases. Phase 1 is proposed to be a grant to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) to conduct the planning, design, and permitting portions of the project, using \$300,000 of Proposition 50 funds. The Project will include an analysis to determine the most cost effective stream crossing design that complies with coastal zone environmental requirements.

Phase 2 is proposed to be a grant to CDPR, using \$1,300,000 of Proposition 50 funds to replace two in-stream crossings, and remove one check dam in order to open 4.5 miles of stream habitat to steelhead trout.

In addition to approving these two projects, the Resolution authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to execute grants and amendments to implement additional projects meeting the goals of the Plan and selected by the SMBRC until funding is exhausted.

POLICY ISSUE

Should the State Water Board:

1. Approve the proposed projects for the Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program, and make those projects eligible for funding?
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement the proposed projects?
3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement additional projects meeting the goals of the Plan and selected by the SMBRC until funding is exhausted?

FISCAL IMPACT

Local assistance funds authorized from Proposition 50 are sufficient to fund the proposed projects.

REGIONAL WATER BOARD IMPACT

Yes. Division staff will manage the Phase 1 project, and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board staff has agreed to manage the Phase 2 project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should:

1. Approve the proposed projects for the Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program, and make those projects eligible for funding;
2. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement the proposed projects; and
3. Authorize the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement additional projects meeting the goals of the Plan and selected by the SMBRC 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. 2011-

APPROVING PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING GRANTS FOR THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION (SMBRC) THROUGH THE PROPOSITION 50 COASTAL NON POINT SOURCE GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS:

1. The *Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002* (Proposition 50) designated funds specifically for implementation of priority actions in the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (Plan);
2. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is authorized to administer the Proposition 50 funds for the SMBRC to implement priority actions in the Plan;
3. The SMBRC is committed to the restoration, conservation, cleanup, protection and enhancement of Santa Monica Bay and the wise use of the natural resources within its watersheds;
4. The SMBRC established project eligibility and grant priorities and solicited projects for placement on the Competitive Project List (CPL). On June 15, 2005, the State Water Board adopted [Resolution No. 2005-0042](#), that adopted the SMBRC's Proposition 50 Competitive Project List (CPL), and authorized the Executive Director or the Chief of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to issue grants, contract, and amendments to implement the projects on the CPL;
5. The CPL included a grant award in the amount of \$2,850,000 to Heal the Bay for a Steelhead and Stream Restoration Project on Arroyo Sequit. Time constraints of the grant agreement and other issues caused the project to stall and the agreement was terminated without expenditure of any funds; and
6. The SMBRC and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) staffs developed a new scope of work for completing this project in two phases. Phase 1 is proposed to be a grant to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation to conduct the planning, design, and permitting portions of the project, using \$300,000 of Prop 50 funds. The Project will include an analysis to determine the most cost-effective stream crossing design that complies with coastal zone environmental requirements. Phase 2 is proposed to be a grant to CDPR, using \$1,300,000 of Prop 50 funds to replace two in-stream crossings, and remove one check dam in order to open 4.5 miles of stream habitat to steelhead trout.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The State Water Resources Control Board:

1. Approves the proposed projects for the Proposition 50 Santa Monica Bay Restoration Grant Program, and makes those projects eligible for funding;

D R A F T

2. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement the proposed projects; and
3. Authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division to execute grants and amendments to implement additional projects meeting the goals of the Plan and selected by the SMBRC 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 Resources Control Board held on September 19, 2011.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board