

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
JANUARY 21, 2014**

ITEM 11

SUBJECT

INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA MICROBIAL SOURCE IDENTIFICATION MANUAL: A TIERED APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING FECAL POLLUTION SOURCES TO BEACHES

DISCUSSION

The State Water Resources Control Board provided approximately \$4.2 million in Proposition 84 funding through its Clean Beaches Initiative Grant Program for the Source Identification Pilot Project. The Project included an extensive methods evaluation study and development of protocols for cost-effective identification of sources of fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) causing contamination at coastal beaches. The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) was the Grantee for the Project, and involved the University of California (UC) Los Angeles, UC Santa Barbara, and Stanford University as subcontractors on the team.

FIB can originate from numerous sources including human sewage, dogs, manure from livestock operations, wildlife, urban runoff, and even regrowth in biofilms and sand. Effective mitigation requires knowledge of the dominant source(s). Significant parts of the Project were to develop and test new microbial source identification methods that distinguish between different sources, to complete source identification studies at four coastal beaches (Doheny Beach in Orange County, Topanga Beach in Los Angeles County, Arroyo Burro Beach in Santa Barbara County, and Cowell Beach in Santa Cruz County) and to prepare a Source Identification Manual with protocols on how to conduct the studies.

SCCWRP will present an overview of the Project, the [Source Identification Manual](#), and applications for future use.

POLICY ISSUE

N/A – Informational Item only

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A – Informational Item only

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

N/A – Informational Item only

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

N/A – Informational Item only