

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 18-19, 2024

Prepared on April 3, 2024

ITEM NUMBER: 10

SUBJECT: Executive Officer's Report to the Board

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ACTION: Information/Discussion

KEY INFORMATION: This item presents a brief overview of issues that may interest the Board. Upon request, staff can provide more detailed information about any item.

CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY-BASED WATER QUALITY GRANTS PROGRAM UPDATE [Julia Dyer, (805) 542-4624, Julia.Dyer@waterboards.ca.gov]

At the April 22, 2022, Board Meeting¹, the Central Coast Water Board adopted [Resolution R3-2022-0015](#)² which allocated \$1.2 million of PG&E settlement funds to the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment (Rose Foundation³) to develop and implement the [Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program](#)⁴ (Grants Program). The Rose Foundation is moving forward to implement the Grants Program based upon Resolution R3-2022-0015 and expects to open the Grants Program solicitation in May 2024 and finalize grant awards by January 2025. This report provides a status update of the Grants Program, tentative schedule, and includes additional information in response to questions asked by Central Coast Water Board members during the February 2024 Board Meeting⁵.

Grants Program Establishment

The Rose Foundation formally established the Grants Program on December 11, 2023, by entering into a contract agreement with the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay (Bay Foundation)⁶. Since that time, the Rose Foundation has received the funds, developed

¹https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2022/apr/agenda_apr.pdf

²https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2022/r3-2022-0015.pdf

³ <https://rosefdn.org/>

⁴ <https://rosefdn.org/central-coast-community-based-water-quality-grants-program/>

⁵ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2024/feb/item09_att1.pdf

⁶ www.bayfoundationmb.org

the Grants Program public solicitation notice based on the [project ranking and selection criteria](#)⁷ discussed at the April 2022 Central Coast Water Board Meeting, and established the Funding Advisory Board (FAB). Information about the Grants Program will be posted on the Rose Foundation website.

Funding Advisory Board

The Rose Foundation's process for recruiting potential candidates to the FAB started with outreach to contacts within their existing network and then reaching out to additional candidates referred to them through the network. Confirmed candidates have a connection to the Central Coast Region and have a familiarity with projects involving environmental justice and disadvantaged communities. In addition, potential candidates must be available over the next six months to implement the Rose Foundation's grant selection process. The FAB includes individuals with knowledge of the Central Coast Region's watersheds, groundwater basins, and priority water quality issues. The confirmed FAB members and alternate/alternates are listed below.

Funding Advisory Board Members:

- Mike Antos – Stantec⁸
- Lee Knudtson – Knudtson Consulting⁹
- Heather Lukacs – Clear Current Consulting, LLC
- Andria Ventura – Clean Water Action¹⁰
- Natalie LaVan - Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, Regional Water Management Foundation¹¹
- Cameron Yee – Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy¹²

Funding Advisory Board Alternate/Alternates”

- Martha Davis – The California Water Data Consortium¹³
- Additional Alternates – To be determined

Grants Program Schedule

Table 1 presents a tentative schedule for the Rose Foundation's implementation of the Grants Program through January 2025. The Rose Foundation expects to open the Grants Program solicitation in May 2024 and finalize grant awards by January 2025. Grant project implementation will last between 1 to 3 years.

⁷ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2022/apr/item12_att2.pdf

⁸ <https://www.stantec.com/en/people/a/antos-mike>

⁹ <https://knucon.com/>

¹⁰ <https://cleanwater.org/about/people/andria-ventura>

¹¹ <https://www.cfsc.org/the-foundation/our-team/natalie-la-van>

¹² <https://causenow.org/content/cameron-yee>

¹³ <https://cawaterdata.org/teams/martha-davis/>

Table 1. Tentative Schedule - Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program

Month	Activity
April 2024	Central Coast Water Board Executive Officer's Report Update - Grants Program status, confirmed FAB members and alternate/alternates, and tentative schedule.
May	Rose Foundation will distribute public solicitation notice via email to Rose Foundation's network, post to website, and provide assistance regarding how to submit applications through the grants application online database. Central Coast Water Board will also forward public solicitation notice via email to interested parties lists.
June	Rose Foundation will continue distribution of the public solicitation notice and will be available for short one-on-one consultations to provide technical assistance to potential applicants. ¹⁴
June 28	Tentative application deadline.
July-August	FAB meetings to discuss review and scoring of applications.
September	Final FAB meeting to make funding recommendations.
October	Rose Foundation will provide list of grantees and projects selected for grant awards to the Bay Foundation, in advance of December 2024 Central Coast Water Board meeting.
December	Central Coast Water Board Meeting – Rose Foundation will present list of grantees and projects selected for grant awards as an informational item to the Central Coast Water Board.
January 2025	Rose Foundation will execute grant contracts with grantees followed by distribution of funds. Project work begins. Grant project duration is likely 1 to 3 years.

¹⁴ Due to the potential for large volume of applications, technical assistance will be prioritized for small track applicants.

Grant Projects and Technical Assistance Mini Grants

At the February 2024 Board Meeting, Central Coast Water Board Members asked how the grant awards would be used to fund a diverse selection of projects and how the technical assistance mini-grants would be implemented. Based on the pool of applications and as a standard practice, the FAB will distribute the funding to a diverse number of organizations and project types (i.e., spread out geographically across the region, various types of organizations, and various project areas of focus and/or goals, etc.). Additionally, grant recipients are also eligible for technical assistance mini grants. Technical assistance mini grants are targeted towards smaller grantees to help the organization build capacity in specific areas. The Rose Foundation uses their discretion to identify grantees who would benefit from technical assistance mini grants to focus on the specific needs of the individual grantees. For example, if a grant recipient was to demonstrate the need for additional resources that would allow community members to participate in a public process, a technical assistance mini grant could be used for that purpose.

Distribution of Grant Funds and Project Lifespans

At the February 2024 Board Meeting, Central Coast Water Board Members asked about the timeframe for the distribution of grant funds and project lifespans. As outlined in Table 1. above, the FAB will make funding recommendations in September 2024. The Rose Foundation will provide the list of grantees and projects to the Bay Foundation in October 2024 and to the Central Coast Water Board in December 2024. In January 2025, the Rose Foundation will execute finalized grant contracts with grantees. Once a grantee has an executed contract, grantees can expect to receive funding within a month. The majority of grants will be completed within a year. Although, depending on the project, the timeline could extend up to three years.

Additional Information and Grants Program Notifications

For additional information regarding the Central Coast Community-Based Water Quality Grants Program, please contact the Rose Foundation at (510) 658-0702 or rose@rosefdn.org or visit [the Grants Program website](#)¹⁵ where stakeholders and potential grantees can sign up for grant opportunity notifications to receive more information as it becomes available.

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD FUNDING INFORMATION

The State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance (DFA) administers a number of funding programs supporting wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects in addition to other water quality protection and restoration projects. See the [DFA](#)

¹⁵ <https://rosefdn.org/central-coast-community-based-water-quality-grants-program/>

[website](#)¹⁶ for information regarding available loan and grant programs administered by the State Water Board.

State Water Board DFA maintains the following online dashboards tracking project funding applications and funded projects:

[Application Status Search Tool](#),¹⁷ allows users to search for the status of State Water Board drinking water and clean water State Revolving Fund (SRF) project applications that have been submitted for funding consideration and are currently under review (this portal does not include approved projects).

[Program funding dashboard](#),¹⁸ documents funded projects and descriptions via pull down menu options and graphics by funding program and geographic area for the most recent fiscal year for which the funding cycle has ended.

PROGRAM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Please see the following standard attachments.

ATTACHMENTS

1. [Table 1](#) - 401 Water Quality Certification Applications Received
2. [Table 2](#) - 401 Water Quality Certifications Issued
3. [Table 3](#) - Groundwater Section, Case Closure Performance Scoreboard
4. [Table 4](#) - Groundwater Case Closures
5. [Table 5](#) - Enrollments in General Orders/Waivers

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¹⁶ DFA website: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans

¹⁷ Application Search Tool: <https://public.waterboards.ca.gov/dfaAppSTAT/>

¹⁸ State Water Board Division of Financia Assistance project funding dashboard: <https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiazk1ZjM5ZWQ0OTFkYi00OGFjLTlhMjUtMjJmZmYTI1ZTEwliwiZCI6ImZlMg2YTI1LTdkNDktNDZlNi05OTQxLTA1ZDlyODFkMzZjMSJ9>