

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL COAST REGION**

STAFF REPORT FOR REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 17-18, 2025

Prepared on April 2, 2025

ITEM NUMBER: 7

SUBJECT: MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
PROGRAMS UPDATE

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ACTION: Information/Discussion

SUMMARY

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) has a long history of collaborating with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) to protect, monitor, characterize, and restore the water resources in the watersheds that drain into the MBNMS. For this item, staff of the MBNMS will provide an overview of sanctuary mandates, priorities, and how the sanctuary works in partnership with the Central Coast Water Board staff with focus on the water quality program.

Background

The MBNMS is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The MBNMS was designated in 1992 for the purposes of resource protection, research, education, and public use. The MBNMS stretches 276 miles along the California coast from Rocky Point in Marin County to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. The majority of the sanctuary is within the Central Coast Water Board's regional boundary.

A Memorandum of Agreement ([MOA](#))¹ between NOAA's MBNMS, the State Water Resource Control Board, the San Francisco and Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and other agencies, provides a framework for roles and responsibilities of the various agencies to protect the nationally significant resources, qualities, and uses of MBNMS and the water quality in the watersheds that drain into the MBNMS.

The Central Coast Water Board continues to collaborate on and coordinate with the MBNMS regarding non-point source control activities, in developing NPDES permits, waste discharge requirements, and total maximum daily loads (TMDL) for discharges within the MBNMS boundary, and to support water quality monitoring efforts.

Guest speakers include Karen Grimmer, the MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator and Pam Krone, the MBNMS Water Quality Program Manager. They will present an overview of the MBNMS actions to assess ocean and watershed health, current priority activities, water quality program objectives, collaborations, and accomplishments, and discuss how the MBNMS works in partnership with the Central Coast Water Board.

For more information on our guest speakers and their work at the MBNMS, see their [website](#).²

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¹ 2015 MOA: https://ambag.org/sites/default/files/2020-09/Water%20Quality%20MOA_2015_PDF_A.PDF

² MBNMS Resource Protection Staff website: <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/resourcepro/resprostaff.html>