

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION R3-2026-0040

**Allocation of Funds to Augment the
Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program Endowment**

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (hereafter Central Coast Water Board) finds that:

1. In 1998, Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) began conducting surface water quality monitoring on the Central Coast by partnering with local agencies and using existing laboratory contracts. CCAMP's main goal and objective is to serve as the region's primary, scientifically robust source of water quality information. CCAMP accomplishes this by collecting high-quality, comparable data; assessing conditions and long-term trends across watersheds; supporting regulatory and planning programs; identifying and investigating priority or emerging water quality issues; providing data and analyses that inform decisions across Central Coast Water Board programs, partner agencies, and the public; and advancing water quality protection through monitoring, reporting, and broad coordination with internal programs, statewide Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) initiatives, and external scientific partners.
2. In May 1999, the Central Coast Water Board approved Resolution 99-02¹ establishing a \$2 million endowment for CCAMP to be held in a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Trust.
3. In March 2007, the Central Coast Water Board approved Resolution R3-2007-0042² (amending Resolution No. 99-02), consolidating funding sources and establishing the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay (Bay Foundation) as the third-party administrator of the CCAMP endowment and operational accounts (collectively the CCAMP Fund).
4. Since 2008, the Bay Foundation has provided administrative support to the Central Coast Water Board under a memorandum of understanding and grant agreements for the implementation of water quality-related projects. The Bay Foundation has a Board of Directors that oversees the finances and policies of the organization. The mission of the Bay Foundation is to lead in restoring, enhancing, and protecting the marine resources and watersheds of Morro Bay

¹ Resolution 92-02:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_decisions/adopted_orders/1999/ccamp-resolution99-02.pdf

² Resolution R3-2007-0042:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2007/july/item23/item23_att2.pdf

and the Central Coast of California. The Bay Foundation manages several water quality monitoring and conservation programs, including the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. The Bay Foundation is financially stable and capable of successfully implementing and completing environmental projects. Due to the receipt of federal grant funding, the Bay Foundation is also subject to federal financial audits and federal procurement and contracting requirements.

5. In February 2008, the Central Coast Water Board approved Resolution R3-2007-0064,³ allocating \$2.1 million from the Guadalupe Settlement funds to establish an LID Fund and the Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI) to provide services necessary to implement Low Impact Development (LID) design principles and hydromodification controls throughout the Central Coast region. This established the LID Center (later the Low Impact Development Initiative (LIDI)). The Bay Foundation has served as the third-party administrator of the LID Fund since July 2008. Although LIDI is no longer active, there is approximately \$760,000 remaining in the LID Fund. Central Coast Water Board staff are coordinating with the Bay Foundation to apply these funds toward an LID project that supports the technical evaluation of specific applications of stormwater treatment and retention performance requirements, for example potential pretreatment requirements for underground infiltration systems and consideration of cumulative watershed impacts to assist municipalities in implementing Post-Construction Requirements (PCRs) and improve performance of stormwater capture measures.

The allocation of funds toward a post construction stormwater optimization LID project is consistent with Resolution R3-2007-0064 and the original intent of the LID Fund. The LID project will help protect and restore the diverse and unique watersheds in the Central Coast Region and promote sustainable and resilient water resources for future generations.

6. In 2012, the Central Coast Water Board approved Resolution R3-2012-0024,⁴ which established the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program – Groundwater Assessment and Protection (CCAMP GAP), allocated settlement funds, and reserved approximately \$500,000 for a Sustainable Watershed Basin Plan Amendment project, with unused funds to be reallocated to the CCAMP-GAP endowment. Due to limited Basin Planning Program resources, the \$500,000 has not been allocated to any project.
7. Between 2020 and 2026, CCAMP has been impacted by significant statewide reductions in annual funding that have resulted in substantial cutbacks to monitoring activities, including reduced analyte lists, loss of watershed rotation monitoring, suspension of bioassessment and toxicity monitoring, reduced

³ Resolution R2-2007-0064:

https://waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2008/feb/item9/item9_attachment6.pdf

⁴ Resolution R3-2012-0024:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb3/water_issues/programs/gap/docs/res_r3-2012-0024_final.pdf

harmful algal bloom monitoring coverage, and elimination of pathogen indicator testing. Additional financial support is needed to restore critical monitoring functions and continue long-term surface water monitoring.

8. The allocation of any funds remaining in the LID Fund after completion of the LID project to the CCAMP endowment and allocating the unused CCAMP-GAP funds originally reserved for a Sustainable Watershed Basin Plan Amendment project to the CCAMP endowment will provide additional ongoing earnings for the CCAMP program to continue the long-term, region-wide surface water quality monitoring in the future.

THEREFORE, the Central Coast Water Board hereby resolves that:

1. The Bay Foundation shall distribute the \$500,000 previously reserved within the CCAMP-GAP endowment for a Sustainable Watershed Basin Plan Amendment Project to the CCAMP endowment to increase principal and provide additional long-term earnings for CCAMP program implementation.
2. The Bay Foundation shall allocate the LID funds toward a post construction stormwater optimization project. Upon reaching substantial completion of the project, or upon determination by the Executive Officer that the remaining tasks can be completed with existing encumbered funds, the Bay Foundation shall transfer the remaining LID balance to the CCAMP endowment. Once the post construction stormwater optimization project is complete and all remaining funds are transferred to the CCAMP endowment, the LID Fund will be permanently closed. These steps are expected to occur within approximately three years, which accommodates both the technical requirements of the stormwater optimization project and a timely augmentation of the CCAMP endowment.
3. The Bay Foundation will continue to manage the CCAMP, CCAMP-GAP, and LID endowments and operational accounts.

This Resolution was adopted on:

[insert adoption date]

I, Ryan E. Lodge, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, on the date indicated above.

Ryan E. Lodge, Executive Officer