

**Clean Beach Task Force (CBTF) Meeting  
Southern California Coastal Water Research Project  
August 21, 2008  
9:30 PM - 2:30 PM**

**Members Present:**

Mark Gold, Heal the Bay  
Michael Johnson, UC Davis  
Philip Smith, Marin Co. EH  
John Ricker, Santa Cruz Co. EH  
Monica Mazur, Retired OCHCA  
Charles McGee, Orange Co. SD  
Mark McPherson, San Diego Co. EH  
Patricia Holden, UC Santa Barbara  
Dean Peterson, San Mateo Co. EH  
Steve Weisberg, SCCWRP

**Members Absent:**

Alexandria Boehm, Stanford  
Jack Gregg, CA Coastal Commission  
Jenny Jay, UC Los Angeles  
Mary Small, Coastal Conservancy  
John Dorsey, Loyola-Marymount Univ.  
Richard Lichtenfels, San Luis Obispo Co.  
Guangyu Wang, SMBRC

**Other Attendees:**

Leslie Laudon, SWRCB  
Laura Peters, SWRCB  
Tom Peltier, SWRCB  
Laurie Walsh, San Diego RWQCB  
John Griffith, SCCWRP  
Donna Ferguson, SCCWRP  
Yiping Cao, SCCWRP

**By Conference Call:**

Kurt Berchtold, Santa Ana RWQCB  
Jim Rasmus, Black & Veatch  
Peter Mangarella, Geosyntec  
Carmen Fewless, San Francisco RWQCB  
Harriet Hill, Humboldt County Env. Health

**Additions/Changes to Agenda:**

Discussion of the CBI\_302 Capitola Village Drainage Improvement Project Deviation Request was added to the end of the agenda.

**Proposition 84 Source Identification Pilot Program (SIPP):**

Clean Beaches Initiative (CBI) Unit staff introduced a proposal for a SIPP and provided some background information on the program. Proposition 84 includes a provision allowing up to 10% of funds under this grant program to be used to fund monitoring necessary for the successful design, selection and implementation of projects authorized under this program. Approximately \$5 million in Prop 84 funds will be available to implement the SIPP. The SIPP will be presented to the State Water Board for approval as part of the Prop 84 Guidelines approval.

CBI Unit staff has been working with several Task Force members to develop a conceptual approach to implement the program. These discussions have identified two sets of activities: (1) preliminary activities necessary to develop protocols; and (2) conducting the investigations and activities related to implementation of the SIPP. CBTF members expressed support for the program and recommended tying the implementation of the bacterial source identification program to the Bight '08 regional monitoring program along the southern California coast. The Bight '08 program will provide

data that can be used to help identify beaches for the SIPP. Each investigation must result in recommendations for projects or best management practices that can be implemented by the communities to reduce or eliminate the sources, possibly with Prop 84 grant funding.

Participants recommended that the program be developed in three phases: first, identify the beaches with the highest priority; second, identify which sources within the watershed are the highest priority; and third, establish a set of investigation protocols and train laboratories to do the analyses we need to support the source ID studies. As envisioned, the SIPP would follow a tiered approach with source investigations being conducted in phases.

Ideally, the SIPP can be implemented at a variety of beaches representing a spectrum of watersheds including urbanized, agricultural/rural, and combined urban/rural watersheds. The most important outcome for this program will be developing and testing protocols for source investigations that can be implemented at other beaches as resources become available.

Water Board staff will work with a sub-group of Task Force members to more fully develop the scope for the SIPP and bring this information back to the CBTF for review.

### **CBI Guidelines:**

The draft CBI Guidelines have been posted on the CBI Website and notices have been sent to people on the LYRIS List. The comment period will close on August 29<sup>th</sup> to give staff time to incorporate comments before presenting the Guidelines to the State Water Board at the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The matching funds requirements will be similar to the Prop 50 program: 15% for grants under \$1 million, 20% for grants over \$1 million. Matching funds for disadvantaged communities have been reduced to 5% for grants less than \$1 million, and 10% for grants over \$1 million. There are also some revisions to the eligibility requirements and other criteria. State Water Board preferences have also been revised to include Ahwahnee principles, low impact development, climate change, and others (see Guidelines for more details).

Task Force members discussed the schedule and procedures for grant solicitation. Applicants will use the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST) system to submit Concept Proposals and the application process will be open year-round. The FAAST system will also be used for reviews and comments by Task Force members. Reviewers will accept, reject, or ask for revised Concept Proposals. After a Concept Proposal is accepted, State Water Board staff will work with the applicant to develop the full project application. Task Force members will meet every four months (three times per year) to review applications and recommend projects for funding. Funding commitments will follow Task Force recommendation and will be presented to the State Water Board for approval. We anticipate opening the first solicitation cycle on September 17<sup>th</sup>, after the State Water Board adopts the CBI Guidelines. The first solicitation cycle would close in approximately mid to late January of 2009.

Task Force members reviewed the CBI research priorities and agreed that research priorities should be re-evaluated and revised if appropriate, on an annual basis. Research priorities fall into three basic categories: (1) projects intended to reduce or eliminate contamination, (2) projects that improve our understanding of sources and impacts of contamination, and (3) projects that improve how we measure and monitor contamination. In addition, the research priorities were updated to better reflect the current research needs. Lastly, Task Force members concurred on the need for research project applicants to provide a two-page resume to document their research capabilities.

The Task Force discussed updating the priority beach list. State Water Board staff presented a list of priority beaches that was generated from AB-411 monitoring data provided by Heal the Bay. The

list was pared down to those beaches with chronic problems and a footnote was added to indicate funding is not restricted to projects at beaches on the Priority Beaches List. Similarly, project funding is not guaranteed to beaches appearing on the list. Task Force Members removed a number of locations from the list of Priority Beaches because they are private beaches, or projects which may address the contamination problem recently implemented, or because current monitoring data does not support their listing. The revised Priority Beaches List will be included as Appendix C in the CBI Guidelines.

The State Water Board's strategic plan specifies reducing wet weather postings, in addition to eliminating dry weather postings by 2012. Projects at beaches with bacterial problems that occur only during wet weather will be considered if the applicants provide data to support the need for the project.

Task Force members reviewed questions that will be included in the FFAST on-line application and revised the wording of some questions to address problems that have become apparent in some of the previous submittals.

### **Standard Templates:**

Water Board staff is preparing standard templates for Monitoring Plans, Quality Assurance Project Plans, and Final Reports. The templates will be posted on the CBI website. Staff is preparing separate monitoring plan templates for research projects and construction projects. For either type of project, the monitoring plan needs to identify what question the applicant is trying to answer with the monitoring, and illustrate how the monitoring will answer that question.

Prop 84 includes a requirement that monitoring data be incorporated into the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP). The project must include SWAMP QA/QC requirements

### **CBI 302 Capitola Deviation:**

The City of Capitola received a CBI grant for the Capitola Village Drainage Improvement Project. When the Task Force considered this project, it was understood to be a storm water diversion project, which generally includes diverting urban drainage to a sewer treatment plant. The applicant is now proposing a design/build contract for the project to divert flows from three storm drains to a constructed wetland for treatment. Task Force Members considered the deviation request and approved it, with the condition that as-built drawings are provided upon completion of the project.

### **Wrap Up and Schedule Next Meeting:**

Water Board staff noted that only a core-group of Task Force members has been participating in the meetings and reviewing grant applications. Lack of active participation by other Task Force members places an unfair burden on those who do participate. Water Board staff will be contacting Task Force Members who have not been actively participating to urge them to either participate, or appoint someone to act in their place.

The next CBTF meeting will be in February of 2009 when the group meets to review the first round of CBI Grants applications under the new CBI Guidelines.