
State Water Resources Control Board

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DEPUTY DIRECTOR APPROVAL OF THE STORM WATER GRANT PROGRAM (SWGPP) PROPOSITION 1 (PROP 1) PLANNING GRANT RECOMMENDED FUNDING LIST (RECOMMENDED FUNDING LIST)

BACKGROUND

The Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Prop 1) was approved by California voters in the general election on November 4, 2014. Among other funds, Prop 1 provided \$200 million for matching grants to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, public utilities, state and federally recognized Indian tribes, and mutual water companies for multi-benefit storm water management projects (Water Code section 79747). After bond and program administration costs, approximately \$186 million will be available for projects.

Prior to the passage of Prop 1 in November 2014, the California Legislature adopted Senate Bill (SB) 985 entitled the Stormwater Resource Planning Act (SB 985). SB 985 amended Water Code sections 10561, 10562, 10563, 10573, and added sections 10561.5 and 10565 to require the development of a Storm Water Resource Plan to receive grants from a bond act approved after January 1, 2014 for storm water and dry weather runoff capture projects. The SB 985 requirement to prepare a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) is directed to public agencies. A SWRP must include a prioritized list of projects to address storm water and dry weather runoff capture on a watershed basis. The SWRP must address the requirements listed in the Water Code and be developed in accordance with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board's) SWRP Guidelines. Per the Water Code section 10563(c)(2)(B), a disadvantaged community (DAC) with a population of 20,000 or less and that is not listed as a co-permittee for a municipal storm water permit is exempt from the SWRP requirement.

The State Water Board adopted the SWGP Funding Guidelines for administering SWGP Prop 1 funds on December 15, 2015 (Resolution 2015-0076). The Resolution adopting the Funding Guidelines authorizes the Deputy Director of the Division of Financial Assistance (Division) to award grants and execute grant agreements.

Prop 1 allows up to ten percent of the SWGP grant funds for "...planning and monitoring necessary for the successful design, selection, and implementation of the projects authorized..." The development of a watershed-based SWRP must meet the requirements of the Water Code and the SWRP Guidelines (Resolution 2015-0077).

The Prop 1 Storm Water Planning Grant solicitation opened in January 2016 and closed on March 18, 2016. Prop 1 allowed up to \$19 million to be awarded for planning grants to fund either an SWRP or a Project Specific Planning project that would lead to project implementation. The Division received 45 applications requesting approximately \$15.5 million in grant funds.

Applications were reviewed by the Division, applicable Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and Division of Water Quality staff utilizing pre-established scoring criteria and for aspects including: project/applicant eligibility, application completeness, and application quality.

The recommended funding list includes 28 projects totaling approximately \$9.5 million in grant funds and including a total over \$8.8 million in matching funds. The remaining unused eligible planning funds may be used for implementation project grants. Grant amounts awarded may be adjusted due to ineligible tasks, ineligible project scope, or insufficient match. The draft funding list was provided to the Regional Water Boards for their review.

Seventeen applications are not recommended for funding at this time. A few of the SWRP applications were proposed for small, disadvantaged communities that did not require SWRPs to be eligible for storm water capture grant funding for construction/implementation projects. Other applications were not selected because they were an ineligible type of planning project, were implementation or maintenance projects, or were not fully developed applications. Division staff will work with the unselected applicants that are interested in continuing with their project to see if they are eligible for other funding programs, such as the Green Project Reserve in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program.

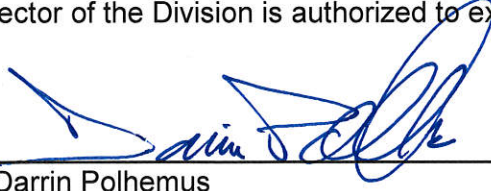
APPROVAL

I, Darrin Polhemus, Deputy Director of the State Water Board's Division of Financial Assistance, approve the Recommended Funding List (Attachment 1). The final amount awarded will be subject to each applicant providing an acceptable scope of work, budget, and schedule.

Projects may be removed from the Recommended Funding List by the Deputy Director of the Division if applicants do not respond to Division staff requests for changes to the scopes of work and budgets in a timely and appropriate manner. The Deputy Director of the Division has the authority to utilize additional funds that become available (e.g., if a project is withdrawn or completed under budget) to fund projects in future solicitations or to augment the scope and budget of projects previously awarded, subject to the maximum grant amounts allowed in the SWGP Prop 1 Guidelines. This authorization includes augmentation of project budgets to provide sufficient funds to ensure each project is properly implemented to meet its stated goals.

The Deputy Director of the Division is authorized to execute grant agreements and amendments thereto.

Approved:



Darrin Polhemus
Deputy Director, Division of Financial Assistance

Date:

6/30/2016

Attachment 1: Prop 1 SWGP Planning Grant Recommended Funding List

cc: Leslie Laudon, DFA
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Wendy Westerman, DFA
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