

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

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13-14, 2014

Prepared on November 11, 2014

ITEM NUMBER: 13

SUBJECT: Morro Bay National Estuary Program Consent Decree Funds Spend Plan

STAFF CONTACT: Jennifer Epp 805/594-6181 Jennifer.Epp@waterboards.ca.gov

KEY INFORMATION: Comments

COMMENTS

Staff received comment letters related to this staff report. See Attachments.

Attachment 1: Letter dated November 5, 2014 from Jeffrey R. Single, Ph D., Regional Manager, Department of Fish and Game

Attachment 2: Letter dated November 6, 2014 from Jacqueline Crabb, District Manager, Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Attachment 3: Letter dated November 6, 2014 from Sharon Rowley



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



November 5, 2014

Jean-Pierre Wolff, Chair
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401-7906

Dear Chairman Wolff and Board Members:

**Subject: 11/13/14 BOARD MEETING #13 Morro Bay National Estuary Program
Consent Decree Funds Spend Plan**

I am writing you today to express our support for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program's spending proposal for the future of the Consent Decree funds under their guardianship. These funds have helped support important estuarine and watershed conservation work within the Morro Bay area. There is a continued need for these funds to implement the Estuary Program's management plan and worthy projects identified for future spending.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has collaborated with the Estuary Program on some of their past projects. We view their accomplishments as significant, and important to the fish, wildlife and habitat values of the area. An equally significant accomplishment is that the Estuary Program, using Consent Decree funds, has been able to leverage an additional \$9.35 million for water quality and habitat protection

I recommend that you support the Estuary Program's spending plan and also support their continued custody of these funds. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D.
Regional Manager

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870



Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

1203 Main Street, Suite B, Morro Bay, CA 93442
805-772-4391 | www.coastalrcd.org



November 6, 2014

Jean-Pierre Wolff, Chair
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906

Subject: Item #13 Morro Bay National Estuary Program Consent Decree Funds Spend Plan

Dear Chairman Wolff and Board Members:

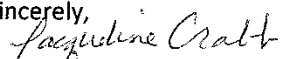
I am writing you today to express our support for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program's spending proposal for the future of the Consent Decree funds under their guardianship. Since 1997, these funds have helped support important estuarine and watershed conservation work within the Morro Bay area. As a result, the Estuary Program has leveraged \$9.35 million for water quality and habitat protection. There is a continued need for these funds to implement the Estuary Program's management plan and worthy projects identified for future spending.

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) is a leader in on-the-ground conservation efforts. Our relationship with the watershed community and the Estuary Program spans more than 20 years. In that time, we have been involved in numerous conservation projects including the Chorro Flats Floodplain Restoration, Project Clearwater, and Morro Bay Agricultural Water Quality Enhancement Program.

The Coastal San Luis RCD received over \$620,000 of Consent Decree funds to implement water quality projects. The funds are integral to showing local engagement and management of watersheds. The majority of the funds received went to Project Clearwater supporting implementation of over 150 best management practices (BMPs). These projects included installation of off-creek watering systems for cattle and corresponding riparian fencing, stream head-cut remediation, road improvement to prevent erosion, and habitat enhancement for steelhead trout and red-legged frogs. The project resulted in protection of over 52,000 feet of stream bank and the stabilization of 50 feet of stream bank. Improvements included over 51,500 feet of riparian fencing, 17 watering troughs/tanks, 74,592 feet of pipeline, 2 stream crossing improvements, 1 fish passage improvement, and over 21,000 feet of vegetation management and debris removal. Altogether, these implementation projects will provide estimated benefits to the Morro Bay estuary and its watershed, over a ten year period, of reduction in sedimentation by 9,014 tons, and prevention of deposition into streams of over 421 tons of manure, with a corresponding reduction in nitrogen input of 5,558 pounds, and of phosphorus input of 455 pounds, as well as large reductions in fecal coliform and fecal streptococci.

In the future, Consent Decree funds could support additional projects in partnership with the Coastal San Luis RCD such as stormwater management and water conservation. These projects would help the watershed community move toward climate readiness, improving the resiliency of water sources for all (agriculture, environment, and urban).

I urge you to support the Estuary Program's spending plan and to support their continued custody of these funds.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Crabb, District Manager

November 6, 2014

Jean-Pierre Wolff, Chair
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401-7906

Subject: Item #13 Morro Bay National Estuary Program Consent Decree Funds Spend Plan

Dear Chairman Wolff and Board Members:

I am writing you today to express our support for the Morro Bay National Estuary Program's spending proposal for the future of the Consent Decree funds under their guardianship. Since 1997, these funds have helped support important estuarine and watershed conservation work within the Morro Bay area. As a result, the Estuary Program has leveraged \$9.35 million for water quality and habitat protection. There is a continued need for these funds to implement the Estuary Program's management plan and worthy projects identified for future spending.

The dedicated people working for the Estuary Program have also brought a lot of people and organizations together and have inspired them to pitch in and help and bring new ideas that have benefitted the estuary, the life in it and water quality. The mini-grants they offer each year is just one of the avenues that helps the community to get involved. As a member of 2 local fishing organizations I have helped with one of the grants from the Morro Bay National Estuary Program that provided "Clean Boating" kits for all the local fishermen and some visiting vessels too. This clean boating project, along with many other Estuary projects, has had the side benefit of changing attitudes towards the importance of keeping the Morro Bay Estuary and surrounding land and local seas healthy.

I urge you to support the Estuary Program's spending plan and to support their continued custody of these funds.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Rowley