SANTA MONICA BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM Fiscal Year 2026 Work Plan

1 October 2025 – 30 September 2026

17 April 2025

Final Work Plan approved for the SMBNEP Management Conference

SANTA MONICA BAY
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

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Common Work Plan Acronyms

Army Corps	Army Corps of Engineers
CalTrans	California Department of Transportation
CalTrout	California Trout
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CCMP	Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
CDBW	California Department of Boating and Waterways
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
CDWR	California Department of Water Resources
CMP	Santa Monica Bay Comprehensive Monitoring Program
CRI	Loyola Marymount University's Coastal Research Institute
CSU	California State University
CVA	Clean Vessel Act
DDT	Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
ECS	Environmental Charter Schools
EWMP	Enhanced Watershed Management Plans
FMP	Fishery Management Plan
FY	Fiscal Year
HABs	Harmful Algal Blooms
IRWM	Integrated Regional Water Management
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
LA	Los Angeles
LACDBH	Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors
LACDPH	Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
LACPW	Los Angeles County Public Works
LACFCD	Los Angeles County Flood Control District
LACSD	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
LADWP	Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
LARWQCB	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
LASAN	City of Los Angeles Sanitation
LCP	Local Coastal Plan
LVMWD	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
MARINe	Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network
MOU	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MRCA	Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority
MSRP	Montrose Settlement Restoration Program
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NEP	National Estuary Program
NEPORT	National Estuary Program Online Reporting Tool
NMFS	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service

NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Parks Service
NWF	National Wildlife Federation
OPC	Ocean Protection Council
OWDS	On-site Wastewater Disposal Systems
PE	Program Evaluation
PMRG	Paua Marine Research Group
Prop	Proposition Grant
QAPP	Quality Assurance Project Plan
RCDSMM	Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
SCC	California State Coastal Conservancy
SCCOOS	Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System
SCCWRP	Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
SCMI	Southern California Marine Institute
SCWP	Los Angeles County's Safe Clean Water Program
SMBNEP	Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program
SMBRC	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
SMMC	Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
State Parks	California Department of Parks and Recreation
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWFSC	Southwest Fisheries Science Center
TAC	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Technical Advisory Committee
TBD	To Be Determined
TBF	The Bay Foundation
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TWSD	Triunfo Water and Sanitation District
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
UCSB	University of California, Santa Barbara
USC	University of Southern California
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
West Basin	West Basin Municipal Water District
WMP	Watershed Management Plans

I. INTRODUCTION

Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program Entities

Section 320 of the federal Clean Water Act establishes the National Estuary Program (NEP), which is administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).[1] The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) promotes collaborative watershed-based partnerships to develop and implement a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) identifies priorities for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of habitats within the Santa Monica Bay watershed that support more than five thousand species, and myriad benefits to people and communities. The SMBNEP is comprised of two distinct entities: the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) and The Bay Foundation (TBF). Both entities are briefly described below. The Memorandum of Agreement between the SMBRC and TBF describes their respective roles and responsibilities and collaborative relationship to further the goals of the SMBNEP. More information on SMBNEP can be found at www.smbnep.org.

The SMBRC is a non-regulatory, locally based state entity established by an act of the California Legislature in 2002 to monitor, assess, coordinate, and advise the activities of state programs and oversee funding that affects the beneficial uses, restoration and enhancement of Santa Monica Bay and its watersheds [Pub. Res. Code §30988(d)] (www.smbrc.ca.gov). The SMBRC serves as the Management Conference for SMBNEP and is comprised of the Governing Board, Executive Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), SMBRC staff, and Santa Monica Bay Community Members. SMBRC staff provide administrative services to SMBRC and work to support the development and implementation of the CCMP. The SMBRC's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describes the governance structure of the SMBRC.

TBF is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1990. The mission of TBF is to contribute to the restoration and enhancement of Santa Monica Bay and other coastal waters (www.santamonicabay.org/). Serving as Host Entity for SMBNEP, TBF receives an annual federal grant from USEPA pursuant to section 320 of the Clean Water Act (CWA; 33 U.S.C. §1330) to implement the CCMP. TBF also applies for and receives grants and donations from other entities to support TBF and its implementation of the CCMP.

In addition, TBF and Loyola Marymount University's Coastal Research Institute (CRI) supports CCMP and Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) efforts through research and environmental monitoring. These efforts aid the SMBNEP by elucidating environmental conditions and changes in the condition of habitats resulting from SMBNEP supported work. CRI endeavors to aid in global urban coastal resource management through the execution of projects that stem from the SMBNEP CCMP.

[1] Additional information on USEPA's National Estuary Program is available at https://www.epa.gov/nep.

Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and FY26 Work Plan

The CCMP is intended as a living document, which undergoes updates periodically and is and is currently being updated as part of the SMBNEP FY25 Work Plan. The original CCMP, or Bay Restoration Plan, of 1995 was updated in 2008 and again in 2013. The SMBNEP completed a major CCMP revision in 2021, including a revised Action Plan in October 2018, a Finance Plan in December 2019, an Introduction Chapter in February 2021, and a Comprehensive Monitoring Program (CMP) in April 2021 (all key components of the CCMP). Additionally, a Memorandum of Agreement between SMBRC and TBF was completed in August 2021. The revision to the CCMP was approved by USEPA Region 9 and USEPA Headquarters in September 2021. SMBRC amended its Memorandum of Understanding in February 2024.

This Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Work Plan builds off the 2018 CCMP Action Plan and is focused on a subset of the identified actions and next steps in the Plan. The purpose of the Work Plan is to identify program objectives, tasks, and timelines of the work to be performed during the federal fiscal year, 1 October 2025 – 30 September 2026, to accomplish the goals and actions of the CCMP Action Plan, the CMP, and various technical, managerial, and administrative activities necessary to continue to advance the mission of SMBNEP. The FY26 Work Plan is different from the FY25 Work Plan, as all Work Plans change from year-to-year. Variation among Annual Work Plans is expected and part of the flexibility of the National Estuary Program.

As noted above, the CCMP, including the 2018 CCMP Action Plan, is currently being updated. Any deviations from the CCMP or 2018 CCMP Action Plan in the FY26 Work Plan are a result of, among other things, new information, formal and informal guidance from USEPA, and the related evolution of the priorities identified by the SMBRC and the implementation of projects by TBF, and are expected to be incorporated in updates to the CCMP. However, there is no requirement that Work Plans duplicate the wording of or include all the priorities, actions, or other content identified in the CCMP.

Clean Water Act Section 320 and Protect and Restore America's Estuaries Act

The National Estuary Program was originally enacted in 1987 when the CWA was amended to establish the program. As stated in the act, the purpose of the program is to:

1. Assess trends in water quality, natural resources, and uses of the estuary;
2. Collect, characterize, and assess data on toxics, nutrients, and natural resources within the estuarine zone to identify the causes of environmental problems;
3. Develop the relationship between the inplace loads and point and nonpoint loadings of pollutants to the estuarine zone and the potential uses of the zone, water quality, and natural resources;
4. Develop a comprehensive conservation and management plan that:
    a. Recommends priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the estuary, including

restoration and maintenance of water quality, a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in the estuary, and assure that the designated uses of the estuary are protected;

b. Addresses the effects of recurring extreme weather events on the estuary, including the identification and assessment of vulnerabilities in the estuary and the development and implementation of adaptation strategies; and
c. Increases public education and awareness of the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary.

On January 13, 2021, the PRAE Act was signed into law to recognize the economic and environmental importance of wetlands and coastlines. The PRAE Act amended CWA Section 320 to require that CCMPs "address the recurring extreme weather events on the estuary, including the identification and assessment of vulnerabilities in the estuary and the development and implementation of adaption strategies," and "increase public education and awareness of the ecological health and water quality conditions of the estuary."

By investing in science-based management actions and community-driven solutions, the SMBNEP continues to uphold the intent of the Clean Water Act and the PRAE Act, ensuring that Santa Monica Bay remains a thriving natural resource for future generations.

II. WORK PLAN OVERVIEW

Work Plan Structure

This section of the Work Plan provides a brief discussion of the Work Plan's structure and a summary of SMBNEP program accomplishments and key projects. Section III details the individual actions, next steps, objectives, deliverables, and environmental outcomes (results) and SMBNEP organizational needs. Many of these actions or next steps have detailed implementation, monitoring, or permitting plans and summarizing them all would make this document an unmanageable size. For additional details on individual projects, refer to TBF's website and SMBNEP annual work plans, semi-annual reports, and annual reports on SMBNEP's website.

Section IV includes the Work Plan budget and travel. Appendix A of this Work Plan lists projects that were completed in FY25.Appendix B lists SMBRC and TBF staff supporting the implementation of this Work Plan.

The Work Plan was developed from the CCMP Action Plan and input from the SMBRC Governing Board, the SMBRC Santa Monica Bay Community Members workshop, SMBNEP partners, the public, USEPA, and SMBRC and TBF staff. This process involves public meetings as well as a written comment period to facilitate input. The development of an annual work plan is a core function of an NEP. The annual federal CWA section 320 NEP grant is administered by USEPA and awarded to a NEP for carrying out annual work plan activities. Non-federal grant matching funds are required at a minimum rate of 1:1. The scope of this Work Plan is broad and multifaceted. Significant resources will be devoted to carrying out water quality improvement and habitat restoration programs and projects this year, in support of many of the actions in the CCMP Action Plan. The structure of the Work Plan is intended to mimic the structure of the CCMP Action Plan to better communicate progress towards implementing the 44 actions in the CCMP Action Plan.

There will also be a focus and efforts in FY26 to implement programs that connect and integrate issues and efforts to improve public outreach and participation. This may include scheduled informational items during SMBRC Governing Board meetings or separate workshops. Although not identified for specific actions in this Work Plan, topics for SMBRC Governing Board meeting informational items and workshops will be planned on an as-needed basis throughout the fiscal year. Additionally, USEPA-required reporting will be conducted as part of this Work Plan but work to develop the reports is not tied to a specific action. Consistent with USEPA NEP funding guidance, reporting includes a semi-annual and an annual report outlining how funds were spent in the fiscal year and annual reporting on habitat restored and funding leveraged (i.e., NEPORT). SMBNEP also publishes the Baywire newsletter for updates on SMBNEP activities throughout the year.

Updates to the Work Plan

The format of this Work Plan remains largely the same when compared to the FY25 Work Plan, which was updated from previous work plans to improve accessibility and readability. In this Work Plan, each action has its own section with a table of next steps that are consistent with the CCMP Action Plan. Project leads, partners, objectives, and descriptions are identified. Many of the priorities and actions remain similar to previous years. New next steps or projects that are part of the FY26 Work Plan are emphasized in the tables with asterisks. If an action identified in the CCMP Action Plan is not contained in this Work Plan, it remains a priority of SMBNEP. Reasons actions may not be included in the Work Plan include, but are not limited to, that funding has not yet been identified for the action in FY26, or that the action is in development or in a planning stage. This does not preclude those next steps from being included in future work plans.

SMBNEP Program Accomplishments from Previous Fiscal Year (FY24)

See the SMBNEP FY24 Annual Report for programmatic updates and accomplishments by CCMP action number from federal fiscal year, FY24 (1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024). Also see Baywire newsletters that highlight semi-annual and annual accomplishments from FY24, and the presentation to the SMBRC Governing Board highlighting accomplishments on the FY24 Annual Report (that will be available on the Meeting Calendar webpage).

III. SMBNEP PLANNED ACTIVITIES

This section outlines each of the FY26 Work Plan actions and next steps to be undertaken during this fiscal year in summary tables. It also highlights whether the project is new or ongoing, objectives, a description/milestone summary, lead entities, partners, long-term environmental results or outcomes, and the connection to the CWA Core Elements. As required by USEPA, a semi-annual report and annual report will provide updates on implementing each task in the FY26 Work Plan and the online database NEPORT will be used to report on habitat restored and funding leveraged in FY26. Outcomes are long-term environmental changes or benefits resulting from implementing the Work Plan actions and next steps. Additional information about each action can be found in the CCMP Action Plan along with an associated narrative.

Many of the FY26 actions are continued from previous efforts or projects. Next steps which are new for this fiscal year are identified with an asterisk in the table; all other projects or next steps should be assumed to be ongoing. Note that next steps or project activities that are part of the CCMP Action Plan but are not currently identified as part of this Work Plan are not included in the tables. Some of these activities were completed in previous fiscal years. Others were not identified as being worked on this fiscal year; that does not preclude them from being part of partner activities or as part of future work plans. Completed tasks are often closely connected to ongoing, similar projects, and/or are part of a larger project. Completed tasks from the FY25 Work Plan are identified in Appendix A.

Additional information can be found on TBF or SMBRC's websites, the CCMP Action Plan, and as part of individual products for each project. There will be updates on each of the CCMP actions included in this Work Plan as part of the April semi-annual report (April 2026) and an annual report for FY26 (October 2026). Some actions will have additional deliverables as well. In 2019, SMBNEP updated the Finance Plan, a component of the CCMP. As part of that revision, significant partner and stakeholder input was received. The table below reflects the updated partners listed for each of the actions and next steps for the FY26 Work Plan. The list of partners and lead entities is not exhaustive and may evolve over time.

CCMP Action #1

Acquire open space for preservation of habitat and ecological services

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Publicly acquire new open space as it becomes available throughout the watershed to promote connectivity, preserve habitat, and sustain ecological services.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #1 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support partners in identification and prioritization of key acquisition or conservation easement properties	SMBRC	SMMC, MRCA, NPS, State Parks, RCDSMM, CDFW	To acquire and/or protect high priority properties that are at risk of development, or provide high biodiversity, include wildlife corridors, and/or provide local socio-economic benefits.	Communicate with partners on efforts to identify high-priority parcels for acquisition, support identification of funding sources, and acquire high-priority properties.

CCMP Action #2

Restore kelp forests in the Bay to improve the extent and condition of the habitat

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Restore 150 acres of kelp forest to improve habitat functions, local fisheries, and coastal resilience.

Estimated USEPA 320: $16,823

Action #2 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Implement the rocky reef/kelp forest restoration project	TBF	NOAA, MSRP trustees, NMFS, Vantuna Research Group, Commercial Sea Urchin Harvesters, CDFW, Marauder Robotics, Schmidt Marine Technology Partners, Amazon, Overbrook Foundation	To restore three acres of rocky reef kelp forest by reducing urchin density within barrens to the target 2 urchins per square meter to allow the reestablishment of giant kelp; To inform statewide restoration and management of kelp forest/rocky reefs.	Partner with fisherman and incorporate scientific volunteer divers to cull urchin densities within the urchin barrens in targeted locations; utilize robotic / AI technology to assist culling and monitoring efforts; develop partnerships and support for continued kelp restoration attaining 3 to 5 acres in FY26.
Biological response monitoring of restoration areas	TBF	VRG, CDFW, PMRG	To track the response of the kelp forest community after restoration activities occur.	Conduct pre-restoration monitoring of urchin barrens and post-restoration monitoring of resulting kelp forests; complete annual community structure surveys of reference and restored sites.

Action #2 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Develop recommendations for the deposition of materials from Rindge Dam or other suitable sources to augment sediment supply	State Parks	TBF, VRG, CDFW, CalTrout, others	To support scientific analyses, inform priorities, and assist with site evaluations and communications for material deposition.	Consider sediment deposition as part of technical studies (see Action #9). Communicate with lead agencies to provide scientific and other support, especially relating to deposition or placement of larger materials relating to reef enhancement.

CCMP Action #3

Recover abalone populations in the Santa Monica Bay and region to support rare species and socioeconomic benefits to people

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Establish 2-3 minimally viable green and red abalone populations (i.e., at least 2,000 abalone per hectare) in the Bay; establish 1-2 viable white abalone populations (i.e., at 2,000 abalone per hectare) in the Bay.

Estimated USEPA 320: $16,133

Action #3 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Establish abalone outplanting sites and conduct juvenile and larval outplanting	TBF	NOAA, NMFS, SCMI, The Cultured Abalone Farm, NFWF Bodega Marine Lab, SWFSC, PMRG, CDFW	To reintroduce abalone, test effectiveness of outplanting methods, and assess habitat site suitability.	Conduct habitat suitability surveys to select new outplant sites; implement two outplant events focused on white and red abalone in established restoration areas.
Monitor abalone restoration and reference sites	TBF	NOAA, NMFS, SWFSC, PMRG, CDFW	To conduct SCUBA-based surveys within outplant sites to assess the survivability of outplanted abalone and suitability of the site for future outplanting efforts.	Conduct quarterly surveys to collect shells and live abalone re-encounter rates, growth data, and genetic samples of outplanted abalone; conduct annual wild abalone population and habitat suitability surveys along southern California mainland coast and Channel Islands (i.e., Catalina and San Clemente Islands surveys).

Action #3 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Maintain aquaculture facility for abalone	TBF	SCMI, NOAA, NMFS, CDFW, Bodega Marine Lab, Aquarium of the Pacific, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, The Cultured Abalone Farm, MLML, SWFSC	To facilitate rearing of red and white abalone in support of future restoration activities for outplanting in the wild; to serve as central staging facility for southern California outplant efforts.	Maintain and operate laboratory to house endangered white abalone and increase program wide capacity for culturing and rearing white abalone larvae and juveniles; conduct water quality testing and husbandry tasks.

CCMP Action #4

Assess and restore seagrass habitats in the Santa Monica Bay and nearshore environments to benefit marine ecosystems and improve coastal resilience

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Restore 2-5 acres of seagrasses to the Bay to improve habitat functions and coastal resilience.

Estimated USEPA 320: $31,083

Action #4 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Survey the extent and condition of seagrasses in the Bay using R2Deep2, side-scan sonar, and SCUBA divers to inform the Comprehensive Monitoring Program	TBF	SCC, CRI, VRG, PMRG, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, others	To survey the extent and condition of seagrasses in the Bay using SCUBA divers and side-scan sonar, to inform the CMP and restoration activities.	Complete annual surveys in the Malibu and Catalina Island eelgrass beds to inform the extent (area) and condition of the beds and inform condition using recommended protocols.
Conduct pilot restoration project(s) of offshore eelgrass in the Bay	TBF	SCC, CRI, NOAA, CDFW, PMRG, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, others	To conduct a pilot restoration project of offshore eelgrass in the Bay within a one-acre footprint.	Initiate a second transplant project off Malibu.
Evaluate restoration potential of seagrasses in the Bay, harbor, wetlands, and nearshore environments	TBF	NOAA, CRI, UCLA, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, VRG	To improve understanding and probability of success for seagrass restoration projects.	Conduct Year 3 wave energy studies to determine effect of eelgrass restoration; collect physical oceanographic data, sediment cores and eDNA samples in transplant sites and existing eelgrass beds, develop site suitability criteria.

CCMP Action #5

Assess and implement offshore artificial reefs to benefit marine ecosystems and provide socioeconomic benefits to people

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Implement artificial reef projects to achieve 69 new acres of rocky reef habitat of a similar condition as reference reef habitats.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #5 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Implement rocky reef restoration project off Palos Verdes	VRG	SCMI, Vantuna Research Group, PV MSRP, NOAA, SCC, TBF, CDFW	To restore 42 acres of rocky reef habitat lost to landslides activity using high relief rocky modules that will resist future burial from sediment deposition.	Conduct Year 5 post-construction monitoring of the biological community response of the Palos Verdes Reef Project, the artificial rocky reef restoration project off Bunker Point (previously funded by Prop 12).
Preliminary work regarding the benefits of dynamic revetments and nearshore reefs	VRG	TBF, CRI, others	To preliminarily advance work towards understanding dynamic revetments and nearshore reefs, including feasibility of using recycled concrete for construction.	Assemble related research and initiate assessment of this approach to coastal engineering.

CCMP Action #6

Restore coastal strand and foredune habitat to beaches and sandy shores to improve coastal resilience

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Restore 10 acres of coastal strand and dune habitat along Santa Monica Bay beaches to improve ecological function, increase coastal resilience, and provide habitat for rare species.

Estimated USEPA 320: $72,445

Action #6 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Continue long-term monitoring of the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Pilot Project	TBF	City of Santa Monica, State Parks, Audubon	To continue long-term monitoring to inform coastal resilience, ecosystem benefits, and adaptive management of the restoration area.	Conduct physical and biological surveys annually; continue coordination with project partners and advance the planning, permitting, outreach, and implementation of an additional dune restoration site.
Support efforts to standardize sandy beach monitoring and a regional approach to restoration	TBF	Beach Ecology Coalition, CRI, SCC, Cal Sea Grant, USC Sea Grant, UCSB, SCWRP, UCLA others	To continue efforts to standardize sandy beach monitoring and data collection for southern California through stakeholder partnerships and CMP implementation.	Continue stakeholder and scientific communications, continue monitoring and data collection efforts in Santa Moncia Bay restoration sites.

CCMP Action #8

Restore coastal bluff habitats in the Bay watershed to support ecosystem services

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Restore 5 acres of bluff habitats in the Santa Monica Bay watersheds to support ecosystem services

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #8 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Initiate Point Dume stair replacement and bluff restoration project to benefit people and wildlife	State Parks	TBD	To replace a deteriorated beach access staircase and restore bluff habitat at Point Dume State Beach.	Continue monitoring and site maintenance of the replacement stairs and surrounding restored vegetation, which was completed and opened to the public in October 2022.

CCMP Action #9

Implement Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project (Rindge Dam and other barrier removals) to support ecosystem restoration

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Complete implementation of the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project including the removal of barriers to improve stream and riparian habitats and to benefit the steelhead trout

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #9 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support lead agencies in efforts to complete the design and engineering plans for the Malibu Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project	State Parks, Army Corps	TBF, RCDSMM, CDFW, CalTrout	To develop design and engineering plans to remove Rindge Dam and additional barriers, to restore terrestrial and aquatic habitat connectivity and establish natural sediment transport regime.	Continue phase II of the project (the pre-construction, engineering and design phase) including technical studies for sediment transport analysis, surface flow modeling, develop engineering plans and specifications to 90% level of completion, logistics planning, environmental planning and permitting, and public outreach.
Support lead agencies in identifying and obtaining funding for the project	CalTrout	State Parks	Implement removal of upstream fish passage barriers upstream of Rindge Dam.	Acquire funding to expedite modification/removal of eight upstream barriers along Las Virgenes and Cold Creeks within the Malibu Creek watershed.

CCMP Action #12

Restore smaller coastal lagoons and other wetland types to increase wetland habitat area and condition throughout the watershed

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Restore and increase wetland and transition habitat acreages for small lagoons such as Topanga Lagoon and other wetland systems to improve ecological functions.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #12 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Finalize restoration planning and permitting for Topanga Lagoon restoration project and initiate project	State Parks	SCC, RCDSMM, CalTrans, LACBH, CDFW	To create a restored habitat that enhances wildlife connectivity and integrates fish passage barrier removal, wetland habitat restoration, visitor services, and recreational opportunities at Topanga Lagoon (funded by Prop 12).	Continue the design and permitting phase anticipated through 2026, including addressing impacts from the January 2025 Palisades Fire, and seeking funding to support these efforts. Construction is anticipated from 2028-2031 with post-construction monitoring from 2031-2036. The final schedule will be based on Palisades Fire impacts, the availability of funds, and construction resources.
Complete land acquisition, feasibility analyses, and restoration design in coordination with bridge redevelopment for Trancas Lagoon	RCDSMM, LACFCD	CalTrans, Army Corps, CDFW	To restore habitats adjacent to Trancas Lagoon after CalTrans bridge expansion is completed.	Participate, when possible, in a scientific advisory capacity on habitat restoration elements of the Trancas Lagoon project.

Action #12 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Conduct comprehensive monitoring of small lagoons in northern Bay to inform CMP and seek funding to continue Malibu Lagoon monitoring	SCCWRP, SMBRC	Moss Landing Marine Labs, SWRCB, TBF, CRI, State Parks, RCDSMM	To conduct comprehensive monitoring of the northern Bay lagoons, inform the Comprehensive Monitoring Program (wetlands chapter), and acquire funding to continue long-term monitoring and data collection at Malibu Lagoon.	Implement the Prop 50-funded project to evaluate habitat extent, condition, and trends of coastal wetlands habitat and small, intermittently open estuaries within Santa Monica Bay; fill data gaps; and complete the wetlands chapter for the SMBNEP Comprehensive Monitoring Program (also see Action 36). The project is anticipated to close out in February 2026.

CCMP Action #13

Restore Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve to enhance wetland habitats and benefits to people

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Restore 577-acre Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve to improve wetland, transition, and upland habitats, functions, and services; Create public access trails and bike paths and encourage recreation and stewardship at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #13 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support the lead agencies by contributing technical information to the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Report and permitting	CDFW	Army Corps, LACFCD, SCC	To support the lead agencies in completing permitting and a federal environmental review document.	Continue the process to revise the EIR including developing and releasing the draft revised EIR, reviewing public comments on the draft, and initiating the process to certify the revised EIR.
Support lead agencies to identify and obtain restoration, access, and interim stewardship funding	CDFW	SMBRC, SCC, LACFCD	To support lead agencies in finding funding to implement the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.	CDFW to acquire funding to continue the EIR revision process and implement the project.

CCMP Action #14

Implement wildlife crossings and other innovative projects for benefits to wildlife and people

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Complete construction and implementation of two major freeway wildlife crossing projects to benefit wildlife, genetic-diversity, and people.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #14 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support lead agencies to find funding for Phase 2 of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing project	CalTrans, MRCA	RCDSMM, SCC, SMMC, NWF, CDFW, NPS	To implement phase 2 (Final/ 100% Design) of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing Project, also known as the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, in support of wildlife movement and safety and enhanced habitats.	Identify additional funding needed to complete construction of the project, to be confirmed after bidding for completing the section over Agoura Road (Stage 2).
Support lead agencies in permitting and environmental review of Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing project	CalTrans, MRCA	RCDSMM, SCC, SMMC, NWF, CDFW	To complete implementation of the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing Project (formerly known as the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing) in support of wildlife movement and safety and enhanced habitats.	Continue construction of and installation of native plants on the crossing section over the 101 freeway (Stage 1). Continue construction of the crossing over Agoura Road (Stage 2). Completion of the entire wildlife crossing is anticipated in 2026.
Identify additional locations for wildlife crossings	NPS	SMMC, Ventura County Transportation Commission, Caltrans, NWF	To implement the US 101 Conejo Pass Area Wildlife Tracking Study to improve wildlife connectivity from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Conejo Pass area, reduce wildlife collisions, and increase resiliency.	Continue to study wildlife movement at potential crossing points in the Conejo Pass area, evaluate current wildlife connectivity, and make recommendations for maintaining and improving connectivity such as a wildlife overcrossing or undercrossing.

CCMP Action #15

Implement projects that improve understanding and/or enhance endangered and threatened species populations (e.g., habitat improvements for Western Snowy Plover, genetic banking)

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Improved extent and condition of habitats for rare species throughout the Bay and its watershed.

Estimated USEPA 320: $1,297

Action #15 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support Southern California Steelhead Trout genetic banking study	RCDSMM	NPS, State Parks, USFWS, CDFW, others	To conduct the Southern California Steelhead Trout genetic banking study to inform population recovery.	Seek funding to implement the February 2024 "Rescue, Reintroduction, and Genetic Conservation for Southern California Steelhead" technical report, including a pilot project for streamside incubation.
Support restoration and monitoring activities to benefit California red legged frog populations	NPS	SCC, State Parks, RCDSMM, TBF, CDFW, USFWS	To improve riparian and stream habitats to support populations of California red legged frog.	Continue to implement the California red legged frog (*Rana draytonii)* re-establishment project (funded by Prop 12) and close out the project, anticipated in February 2026.
Support projects within western snowy plover critical habitat	TBF	LACDBH, City of Santa Monica, City of LA, City of Malibu, USFWS, CDFW, City of Hermosa, Audubon, others	To provide habitat and ecological benefits in support of the threatened Western Snowy Plover and to restore critical habitat.	Continue beach and dune restoration projects and continue to inform management actions in support of ecological benefits to the plovers.

CCMP Action #16

Support the implementation of activities and projects such as those in Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMPs) and activities identified in the TMDL implementation schedule to help achieve TMDL goals for 303d listed waterbodies in the Bay and its watershed

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Assist in achieving constituent percentage load reduction targets for waterbodies in the Santa Monica Bay according to TMDL compliance timeline.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #16 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Continue to support implementation of projects identified in EWMPs and WMPs	SMBRC	SWRCB, municipalities, LACFCD, CDFW	To allocate and oversee State Bond funding for implementation of projects identified in EWMPs and WMPs; support implementation of projects made available under the SCWP.	Continue to oversee implementation of capital projects for storm water pollution reduction through multi-benefit solutions (also see Action 17). Support the Stormwater Strategy efforts led by the SWRCB.
Continue implementation of LA IRWMP	LACFCD	LVMWD, West Basin	To facilitate and support coordination and allocation of IRWMP funding and implementation of projects identified in EWMPs and WMPs in the watershed.	Continue to participate in the Greater Los Angeles County Region IRWM Leadership Committee, including proposed project review and selection.

CCMP Action #17

Infiltrate, capture, and reuse stormwater and dry-weather runoff through infrastructure, Low Impact Development, and other multi-benefit projects and improve understanding of ecosystem services provided

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Assist in achieving constituent percentage load reduction targets for waterbodies in Santa Monica Bay according to TMDL compliance timeline.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #17 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Complete additional LID projects throughout the watershed	Municipalities	SMBRC, SWRCB, SCC, City of LA, City of Torrance, LA County, other watershed cities, LA County, NPS	To complete more LID projects throughout the watershed to improve flood protection and water quality, and provide additional benefits.	Continue to implement the Culver City's Citywide Bioretention Basin Project and close out the project, anticipated in March 2026 (awarded $800,000 in Prop 50 funds). Continue to implement the Beach Cities Multi-Benefit Green Streets Project (funded by Prop 12).

CCMP Action #18

Support installation and monitoring of additional sewage and bilge pumpout facilities in Southern California harbors

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Meet 86-100% annual average usability percentage (based on analysis of equipment performance) for all publicly funded sewage pumpout stations throughout Southern California.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #18 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Continue quarterly monitoring of public sewage pumpout stations	TBF	CDBW, marina operators	To assess the condition of public sewage pumpout and dump stations.	Conduct biannual monitoring (per Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grant directive) of public sewage pumpout and dump stations in Southern California harbors.
Support installation of sewage pumpouts in Marina del Rey or King Harbor	TBF	CDBW, marina operators	To provide the boating community with additional pollution prevention resources.	Conduct outreach regarding the need for additional sewage pumpouts and dump stations and advocate for California CVA pumpout and dump station Installation and Operations and Maintenance grants.
Support efforts of neighboring harbors in installation of bilge and sewage pumpouts in southern California	TBF	CDBW, marina operators	To provide the boating community with additional pollution prevention resources.	Conduct outreach regarding the need for additional pollution prevention resources and advocate for California CVA pumpout and dump station Installation and Operations and Maintenance grants.

CCMP Action #20

Support elimination of non-point pollution from onsite wastewater treatment systems

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Achieve level of performance and water quality protection set by state policy for all OWDS in the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #20 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Complete sewer connections of residential properties to the centralized wastewater treatment facility in the Malibu Civic Center area	City of Malibu	LARWQCB	To improve water quality and reduce nutrient pollution through connecting residential properties to the centralized wastewater treatment facility.	Continue to implement Phase 2 and 3 (expanding property connections) of the project. Due to Franklin Fire and Palisades Fire, approximately 303 beachfront properties along the Malibu beach area have been destroyed. The adoption of a modified MOU has been on hold until the City of Malibu has resolved the beach front property rebuild permitting issues.
Continue the coordinated OWTS identification, permitting, and inspection system between the LARWQCB and the cities and counties in the watershed	LARWQCB	Municipalities	To continue to support efforts by the LARWQCB and cities and counties to achieve full implementation of the statewide policy for siting design, operation, and maintenance of OWTSs.	Continue inspections at municipal and industrial facilities and issuing waste discharge permits as needed.

CCMP Action #21

Support policies that promote reuse, recycling, and advanced wastewater treatment to reduce reliance on imported water sources

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Help reduce dependence of the Los Angeles region on imported water and lower the percentage of imported water use by water agencies; work towards meeting the State's goals for recycled water in the Recycled Water Policy.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #21 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support recycled wastewater efforts by A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility of LACSD	LACSD, MWD	LACFCD, SMBRC, West Basin	To support expansion of wastewater effluent recycling by A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility of LACSD.	Continue A.K. Warren Water Resource Facility of LACSD's expansion of wastewater recycling through the Pure Water Southern California project. Continue testing at the demonstration facility (the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center). Continue the environmental review process including release draft EIR, review comments, prepare responses, revise the EIR as needed, and prepare the certification of the Final EIR for the Metropolitan Board of Directors. The Draft EIR is anticipated to be released in summer 2025 and the final EIR is anticipated to be considered for certification in early 2026.
Hyperion Treatment Plant to implement	LASAN	LACFCD, SMBRC	To support timely completion of Hyperion's Recycled Water Program.	Continue to implement Hyperion's Recycled Water Program including the two pilot/demonstration projects (the

Action #21 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
pilot project for recycled water				Hyperion Advanced Water Purification Facility and the Membrane Bioreactor Pilot Project) that inform the full-scale transformation of Hyperion to recycled water. The Advanced Water Purification Facility is anticipated to start producing recycled water for Hyperion and LAX by April 2025, with standard operation as a production facility by fall 2025. The start-up and commissioning of the Membrane Bioreactor Pilot Project is anticipated in fall 2025 with ongoing testing and monitoring. Continue the conceptual design of the first phase of the Hyperion 2035 Program Implementation Plan (completed in October 2024) with development of conceptual design reports for Hyperion Phases 1A and 1B of Pure Water LA. Continue to coordinate with LADWP on a Joint Programmatic EIR of LADWP's Master Plan and LASAN's Hyperion Program Implementation Plan.

Action #21 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support recycled wastewater efforts by Tapia Water Reclamation Facility and others through expansion of distribution system and regional partnerships	Las Virgenes-Triunfo JPA, SCCWRP, UCLA, City of Santa Monica	LACFCD, US Bureau of Reclamation, LVMWD, TWSD, SMBRC, many	To support expansion of recycled wastewater distribution and reuse.	Complete design and initiate construction of the advanced water purification facility and conveyance elements of the Las Virgenes-Triunfo JPA's Pure Water Project.

CCMP Action #22

Support policies and implement projects that divert landfill waste and encourage composting to improve water and air quality.

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Establish 10 local community-based compost hubs and divert food waste from 20 food service establishments; distribute compost among community support agriculture, gardens, and restoration projects.

Estimated USEPA 320: $11,072

Action #22 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support continuation of Table to Farm compost hubs	Schools	TBF, Environmental Charter Schools, Restaurants, LA Compost, LA Food Waste Prevention & Rescue Working Group	To reduce food waste being sent to landfills, compost food waste, and apply compost to urban gardens to grow food.	Support Table to Farm compost hubs at Environmental Charter Schools (ECS) in Gardena, Inglewood, and Lawndale; support Table to Farm-initiated food forests at ECS Inglewood and ECS-Gardena (middle school); support regional partners in strengthening and generating additional Los Angeles' community compost projects.

CCMP Action #24

Support the inclusion of coastal resilience through natural means and softscape measures into local coastal plan updates

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Inclusion of coastal adaptation measures for recurring extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in ocean chemistry and temperature, and other impacts in at least half of the 12 local coastal jurisdictions general plans (or equivalent) amendments.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #24 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Attend stakeholder meetings for local cities LCP development / updates / implementation	Municipalities	LACDBH, TBF, CRI, Heal the Bay, LARWQCB, Army Corps	Attend and participate in stakeholder meetings, workshops, and conversations related to LCPs and promote the inclusion of natural living shoreline measures as a coastal resilience strategy.	Attend and participate in stakeholder meetings, workshops, and conversations related to LCPs and promote the inclusion of natural living shoreline measures as a coastal resilience strategy.
Opportunistically assist cities in the development of sea level rise vulnerability studies	Municipalities	USGS, CDFW, others	To identify and partner with cities to develop sea level rise vulnerability studies to strategically recommend coastal resilience strategies.	Partner with cities in the development of sea level rise vulnerability studies and recommend natural living shoreline measures be included as adaptation strategies.
Use data collected from beach restoration “soft-scape” projects to inform and assist LCP development	TBF	LACDBH, CRI, municipalities	To provide science-based data to inform LCP development and support beach restoration.	Use data from regional beach restoration projects as case studies to inform adaptation solutions and future natural living shoreline projects.

CCMP Action #25

Support best management practices, increased public access, and improved public facilities for beaches and other public trail systems to support both enhanced natural resources values and benefits to people

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Improve access to the coast and enhance coastal experiences through linking and expanding the California Coastal Trail; develop and build partnerships that support the implementation of natural infrastructure throughout the Bay watersheds.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #25 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support implementation of identified actions within plans such as the LACDBH Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Assessment	LACDBH, Municipalities	SCC, City of Los Angeles, City of Manhattan Beach, State Parks, TBF, others	To implement adaptation projects that will improve coastal resilience.	Develop and begin implementation of coastal adaptation projects that address sea level rise and planning efforts.
Continue to advise BMPs for beaches that promote habitat condition improvements and support for unique species	LACDBH	LACDBH, Beach Ecology Coalition, beach managers, Audubon, TBF, CRI, USFWS, CDFW, USC Sea Grant, Cal Sea Grant, Heal the Bay	To build upon and continue partnerships with groups and agencies to benefit beach habitat conditions.	Continue partnerships and active participation with groups and agencies such as LACDBH, Audubon Society, Beach Ecology Coalition, State Parks, and USFWS to implement and provide recommendations for best management practices along beaches.

CCMP Action #26

Participate in research, education, outreach, and policy on invasive species removal and control

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Reduce impact of invasive species in critical habitats throughout the Bay and its watershed as measured by the CMP.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #26 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Conduct additional studies and outreach efforts to control impacts of, manage, or reduce the sale of invasive species	State Parks	USFWS, Heal the Bay, NPS, Pepperdine, RCDSMM, Environmental Restoration Group, UCLA	Address impacts of invasive species in the watershed.	Participate in crayfish task force to address impacts of invasive crayfish in Santa Monica Mountains.

CCMP Action #27

Produce educational resources and materials and conduct outreach to improve best management practices for Southern California boaters (e.g., fuel, sewage, and hazardous waste management)

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Increase understanding and adoption of sustainable boating habits to reduce boating related pollutants entering waterways (e.g., boat sewage, used oil, antifreeze, bilge water, batteries, copper, trash, and aquatic invasive species).

Estimated USEPA 320: $4,419

Action #27 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Produce educational materials	TBF	CCC, CDBW,	To produce educational materials to increase awareness of boating best management practices to boaters.	Produce and distribute *The Changing Tide* newsletters, *Southern California Tide Calendar* booklets, California Boater Kits, and virtual Clean Boater Questionnaire; distribute pumpout and dump station instruction stickers; continue to promote *Southern California Boater's Guide*, Pumpout Nav app, and informational videos (on Boater Kit resources, y-valves, marine sanitation devices, marine composting toilets, and Marine Protected Areas) to boaters across Southern California.
Conduct outreach	TBF	CCC, CDBW	To conduct outreach to increase awareness of boating best management practices to boaters.	Conduct direct outreach to boating communities via virtual/in-person presentations, events, and Dockwalker trainings; distribute supplies such as dye tablets and y-valve adapter kits to boaters and marina staff; engage new boating community allies and explore collaborations and partnerships; evaluate 2024 Community-Based Social Marketing (CBSM) pilot in San Diego that informs

Action #27 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
				proper boat sewage disposal behavior change outreach strategies; continue targeted outreach on marine composting toilets, analyze survey results to inform strategic engagement, attend outreach events, and plan and produce one local clean boating event.
Manage Pumpout Nav app	TBF	CDBW	Increase proper disposal of boater sewage.	Lead Pumpout Nav app maintenance with developer; serve as a national facilitator and collaborate with participating states on the app's development to encourage wider adoption and use.
Find funding and implement fuel spill prevention tools and outreach	TBF	Fuel docks, marina operators, CCC, CDBW	To reduce fuel and oil pollution from the boating community.	Educate boaters on oil spill prevention at presentation(s) and Dockwalker trainings with partner CDBW and CCC's Boating Clean and Green Program; distribute over 2,500 of each oil spill prevention resource to boaters: fuel bibs, oil absorbent pillows, and oil absorbent sheets in partnership with the California Boating Clean and Green's Dockwalker program; distribute oil absorbent pillows to marina and harbor facility contacts as needed.
Support and develop marine debris reduction and cleanup efforts	TBF	CCC, CDFW, marina operators	To reduce fishing line marine debris from the angling community.	Promote fishing line recycling facilities via the distribution of annual *Southern California Tide Calendar* booklets, at educational presentation(s) and via digital do-it-yourself monofilament recycling instructions.

CCMP Action #28

Support efforts of communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income to achieve healthy habitats, and install infrastructure to reduce pollution

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Help communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income to achieve healthy habitats through restoration and pollution reduction projects.

USEPA 320: $0

Action #28 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support IRWMP and similar programs to preferentially invest in communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.	West Basin	City of Carson, City of Gardena	Deliver recycled water to schools and parks.	West Basin received IRWMP funds for West Basin's Harbor South Bay Project, which includes two recycled water laterals in Carson and Gardena. West Basin's K-12 Education program provides free buses to West Basin's water recycling facility and the Manhattan Beach Roundhouse Aquarium to educate kids about water use efficiency and the environment.

CCMP Action #29

Reduce health risks of swimming in contaminated waters and consuming contaminated seafoods through more comprehensive source control and, advanced monitoring and public notification

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Achieve no elevated health risks associated with swimming and seafood consumption through source control, monitoring, and public notification.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #29 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Continue implementation and improvement of beach water quality monitoring and reporting system	SWRCB, Heal the Bay, LA Waterkeeper, West Basin	LARWQCB, LACDPH, CRI, SCCWRP, Rose Foundation	To support SWRCB's collection and coordination of bacterial sampling results for beach water quality monitoring required under AB 411; To support Heal the Bay's efforts to standardize beach water quality monitoring and effectively disseminate the information to the public.	SWRCB to continue to participation in the California Water Quality Monitoring Council, Heal the Bay to continue to implement the updated grading methodology for the River Report Card; and maintain weekly updates to the Beach Report Card. LA Waterkeeper to continue to collect water samples as part of "Following the Feces" project and SCCWRP's Bight '23 study of human fecal content. West Basin supports and funds the Teach and Test Program (South Bay Teach & Test BWTF). Per our agreement with Surfrider, this program is promoted to all school districts and students in and around the West Basin service area, which includes numerous communities and schools that meet both state and

Action #29 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
				federal definitions of communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.).
Maintain and enhance the existing seafood contamination education and enforcement program	EPA Superfund	FCEC partners, Heal the Bay, USEPA, SWRCB, USC Sea Grant, California Sea Grant, LACSD	Support and facilitate the continuation and enhancement of the existing seafood contamination education and enforcement program.	Continue to participate in the Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (FCEC). Continue to participate in the Palos Verdes Shelf Technical Information Exchange Group and to develop the Focused Feasibility Study for the Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund Site. Provide updates to the SMBRC Governing Board regarding the deep ocean DDT contamination in the Southern California Bight including research to address management needs and the findings of the Deep Ocean DDT+ Research Needs Assessment for the Southern California Bight Report.

CCMP Action #30

Conduct community engagement, education, and inform policies related to water conservation and reuse to reduce water demand and reliance on imported sources

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Help reduce dependence of the Los Angeles region on imported water and lower the percentage of imported water use by water agencies.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #30 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Link water conservation with outreach events and social media	TBF, others	LADWP, MWD, municipalities, TreePeople, LAUSD, Heal the Bay, others	Opportunistically incorporate water conservation topics during outreach events and on social media.	Engage and educate the community and volunteers about local water conservation issues and solutions during restoration events, and TBF social media postings.
Educate, engage communities, and provide resources that promote the importance of native plants	TBF, others	LADWP, MWD, municipalities, TreePeople, LAUSD, CRI, many, West Basin	Promote the use of drought tolerant native plants.	Educate community and volunteers on the importance of using drought tolerant native plants in habitat restoration and residential landscaping. West Basin, along with Metropolitan Water District and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, are dedicated to reducing the region's water demand and outdoor water waste. West Basin specifically has dedicated financial and staff resources to incentivizing removal of "ornamental turf," reducing or eliminating grass medians in favor of ocean friendly

Action #30 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
				(native) gardens and prohibiting water wasting habits (like hoses without shutoff nozzles, overwatering landscape, and use of water to sweep sidewalks. All these efforts, with a focus on communities with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income, has resulted in a reduction in West Basin's water demand.
Support efforts by water agencies to promote water conservation and reuse including dissemination of materials	LADWP, City of Santa Monica	LADWP, MWD, municipalities, TreePeople, LAUSD, many	Promote current information on water conservation and reuse efforts developed by water agencies.	Share current water conservation and reuse incentives and goals developed by water agencies to promote the use of these programs and to educate the public.

CCMP Action #32

Reduce marine debris by supporting bans on single-use items, conducting outreach, and participating in trash reduction programs

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Implement ban on single use disposable plastics in Los Angeles County and 100% of cities throughout watershed; engage 30 food service establishments as ReThink Disposable participants.

Estimated USEPA 320: $13,172

Action #32 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Find funding for and continue ReThink Disposable LA	TBF	Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund, food service establishments, City of LA/LASAN	To contribute to source reduction of single-use disposable items from food service establishments.	Acquire additional funding to continue to advance source reduction and ReThink Disposable work in the LA region.
Support municipality bans of polystyrene, non-recyclable plastics, and single-use items	Reusable LA, City of Santa Monica, LA County Chief Sustainability Office, LACPW, City of LA, LASAN, other municipalities	TBF, Surfrider Foundation, Heal the Bay, 5 Gyres, Algalita, OPC, NOAA, USEPA, The Ocean Cleanup, others	To contribute to source reduction of polystyrene, non-recyclable plastics, and single use items through state and local legislation as well as downstream measures.	Participate in the Reusable LA coalition and support mobilization of local and state legislation targeting single-use disposable food and beverage ware source reduction and reuse implementation; participate in and promote Plastic Free Parks citizen-science project led by 5Gyres. Continue to operate LACFCD's Ballona Creek Trash Interceptor, a solar-powered trash collection device designed to capture floating plastic, trash and litter before they reach the ocean.

CCMP Action #34

Improve understanding of emerging contaminants through monitoring and research to inform source control and reduce loading (e.g., fire retardants), especially in the context of recurring extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in ocean chemistry and temperature, and other impacts.

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Reduce impacts of emerging contaminants on key habitats in the Bay and its watersheds.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #34 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Improve analytical methodology and standardize monitoring of more emerging contaminants	SCCWRP	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Water Foundation	To improve availability, sensitivity, and repeatability of analytical methods for emerging contaminants to improve data quality for monitoring emerging contaminants in aquatic ecosystems.	Support expanding list of contaminants monitored and monitoring reports and description of lab methods to analyze emerging contaminants.

CCMP Action #35

Monitor and inform management actions for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Reduce prevalence of HABs in the Bay and its waterbodies as measured by the Comprehensive Monitoring Program.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #35 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Continue to support research and monitoring efforts for HABs, especially in context of extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in ocean chemistry and temperature, and other impacts, and CMP implementation	SCCWRP, UCLA, UCSC, SCCOOS	CRI JPL/NASA	To support research and monitoring efforts that fill data gaps in our region for HAB occurrences, frequencies, causes, and impacts.	Explore emerging technologies like remote sensing and DNA technology to better understand and fill data gaps related to HABs, complete plankton HAB sampling study led by CRI.
Conduct monthly maintenance of SCCOOS shore station at Santa Monica Pier and seek support for additional sensors	SCCOOS	TBD	To collect data on oceanographic conditions in the nearshore environment and potentially inform long-term changes related to environmental factors.	Monthly maintenance of the Santa Monica Pier Shore Station.

CCMP Action #36

Monitor chemical, physical, and biological characteristics in the Bay to identify vulnerabilities and inform strategies and actions to mitigate impacts from recurring extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in ocean chemistry and temperature, and other impacts.

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Development and implementation of adaptation strategy addressing impacts from recurring extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in ocean chemistry and temperature, and other impacts in the Bay.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #36 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support inclusion of impacts from extreme weather events, sea level rise, changes in ocean chemistry and temperature, and other impacts into CMP, especially through new models and data	TBF	TAC, CRI, CDFW, many others	To implement monitoring associated with indicators in the CMP; to seek funding and implement the CMP; to complete and release the State of the Bay Report.	Include in State of the Bay Report Updates with TAC and others; Complete necessary QAPP and/or amend existing QAPPs (also see SMBNEP Organizational Needs section).
Convene technical advisors to prioritize actions based on information from CMP	SMBRC, SWRCB	TBF, SCCWRP, CSU Fullerton, Occidental College, Pepperdine University, Culver City	Implement projects approved for Prop 50 grant funding that prioritize monitoring and data collection needs based on the revised CMP for major habitats in the Bay and other monitoring needs identified in the CCMP.	Continue managing the six projects approved for Prop 50 funding, five of which address indicators and data gaps identified in the CMP. Close out four projects anticipated to end in 2026 (rocky reef, wetlands, eelgrass, and stormwater infrastructure). Continue implementation of two projects (freshwater/chapparal and

Action #36 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
				rocky intertidal) anticipated to close out in 2027 (also see Actions 37).[2]

[2] The five Prop 50 projects that address CMP indicators and data gaps were awarded $2,419,700 collectively ($3,219,700 total for all six projects).

CCMP Action #37

Increase understanding of deep-water habitats such as submarine canyons, deep reefs, and outfall pipes

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Enhance functions and conditions of deep marine environments (e.g., deep reefs) in the Bay.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #37 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Conduct ROV surveys to collect physical, chemical, and visual data	TBF	TAC, VRG	To use the ROV to conduct underwater surveys to supplement monitoring.	Explore sensor integration, and deploy a ROV to collect physical, chemical, and visual data.
Identify and apply emerging technology and techniques to better characterize Bay habitats, including recommendations	TBF, many	TAC, USC Sea Grant, SCMI, CRI, Blue Robotics, City of LA EMD, LACSD, CRI, SCCWRP, Marauder Robotics, CDFW, UCLA, others	To utilize cutting edge advancements in remote sensing, and remote platforms to better characterize the condition of the Bay's habitats.	Contribute to the development and deployment of next gen data collection platforms to assess health of the Bay's habitats; track monitoring reports and video from LASAN outfall pipe surveys; explore nearshore bathymetry survey opportunities with ROV, side-scan sonar and other platforms.

CCMP Action #38

Monitor and improve understanding of rocky intertidal habitats to inform restoration actions

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Implementation of the Comprehensive Monitoring Program to achieve a better understanding of the extent and condition of habitats in Santa Monica Bay and its watershed.

Estimated USEPA 320: $19,550

Action #38 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Support study recommendations and outreach efforts for improved protection	CSU Fullerton, SMBRC	UCLA, California Polytechnic Institute Pomona, MARINe, CRI	To improve understanding of rocky intertidal habitats to fill CMP data gaps and inform restoration activities.	Implement the Prop 50-funded project to fill rocky intertidal habitat monitoring and assessment needs by quantifying the extent of rocky intertidal habitat in the Bay and projecting changes under sea level rise, identifying sites at risk for landslides, continuing and expanding the MARINe surveys to detect and characterize changes in rocky intertidal habitat structure over space and time, quantifying patterns of biodiversity and human activity, detecting non-native species, and characterizing intertidal temperature trends (also see Action 36). CRI to further application of methodologies to improve quantification of responses to environmental related stressors i.e., temperature and salinity, in *Mytilus galloprovincialis.*

CCMP Action #39

Monitor and inform effective management of Marine Protected Areas, Fishery Management Plans, and local fisheries for recreational and commercially important species

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Inform agency enforcement plans and long-term adaptive management of MPAs, assist with fishery related public health advisories.

Estimated USEPA 320: $2,282

Action #39 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Conduct MPA Watch to monitor and inform use of MPAs in the Bay	LA Water-keeper, Heal the Bay	LA MPA Collaborative	To implement a community-science based program to monitor activities in MPAs and encourage appropriate enforcement and regulation activities.	Continue participation in LA MPA Collaborative meetings and efforts to increase community awareness. Train MPA Watch volunteers, conduct boat and land-based surveys, oversee data integrity, share data with local enforcement agencies, conduct public outreach, publish bi-annual data reports, and mentor individual intern research projects. (See Action 27 for additional MPA outreach efforts related to the boating/angling community.)

CCMP Action #40

Research and inform best management and pollution reduction practices to address non-point source pollution and facilitate reduction

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Assist in achieving constituent percentage load reduction targets for waterbodies in Santa Monica Bay according to TMDL compliance timeline.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #40 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Identify partners and identify funding sources for long-term monitoring efforts for LID and water conservation efforts	City of Santa Monica, many	LA County, municipalities, LACPW, Our Water LA Coalition	To establish project partners and identify potential funding sources in support of long-term monitoring for LID and water conservation efforts.	Continue to work with project partners, agencies, and stakeholders to develop MOUs or other agreements with partners.
Implement monitoring programs for long-term monitoring and to inform effectiveness of LID/BMP implementation projects	Municipalities	SMBRC TAC, CRI, LACPW, Our Water LA Coalition	To fill data gaps and inform LID/BMP effectiveness in reducing non-point source pollution, especially nutrient pollution.	Continue to encourage the implementation of enhanced and standardized monitoring programs developed by the SMBRC TAC for all infrastructure projects funded under the SCWP. Explore research opportunities or supplemental monitoring.

CCMP Action #41

Facilitate research, monitoring, and assessments that inform more accurate waste load allocations and development of new water, sediment, and biological objectives

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Assist in achieving constituent percentage load reduction targets for waterbodies in the Bay according to TMDL compliance timeline.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #41 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Conduct or support data collection for water quality objective development	LARWQCB	Many	To review and, as appropriate, modify and adopt water quality standards as new data and information become available or as specific needs arise.	Continue phase III of the 2023-2025 Triennial Review of water quality standards in the Basin Plan, including development of projects addressing priority issues and adoption of any resulting changes to the Basin Plan as individual Basin Plan amendments.

CCMP Action #43

Implement the County-wide SCWP to support stormwater pollution control projects

Long-term Environmental Results / Outcomes: Assist in achieving constituent percentage load reduction targets for waterbodies in Santa Monica Bay according to TMDL compliance timeline.

Estimated USEPA 320: $0

Action #43 Next Steps / Project Name	Lead Entities	Partners	Objectives	Description / Milestone Summary
Participate in advisory board and support implementation of projects from the new funding mechanism	LACPW	SMBRC, LA Waterkeeper, Heal the Bay, LA County Board of Supervisors, LACFCD municipalities, NRDC	To improve stormwater management in urban areas, protect water quality within our communities, provide new sources of water for current and future generations, and contribute to water quality objectives to reduce stormwater pollution, increased stormwater retention, increased service to a Census Block Group that has an annual median household income of less than eighty percent (80%) of the Statewide annual median household income (as defined in Water Code section 79505.5), and coordination of efforts across the County.	SMBRC staff to continue to support a robust watershed planning process that includes strong community engagement efforts. SMBRC Governing Board to consider support of SCWP projects that align with the CCMP. SMBRC staff to convey any SCWP funding recommendations to the LA County Board of Supervisors, pending SMBRC Governing Board approval. LACPW to implement recommendations from the Biennial Progress Review of the SCWP and continue the watershed planning process.

SMBNEP Organizational Needs

The following SMBNEP tasks are activities to be performed in FY26 per USEPA requirements:

Reporting to USEPA

Consistent with USEPA NEP funding guidance, Commission staff and The Bay Foundation staff will develop reports on implementation of the FY26 Work Plan and how funds were spent in the fiscal year including a semi-annual report due in spring 2026 and an annual report due in fall 2026. Commission staff and The Bay Foundation staff will also complete annual reporting on habitat restored and funding leveraged (i.e., NEPORT) in fall 2026.

State of the Bay Report

The State of the Bay report is a science-based assessment of the environmental conditions of the Santa Monica Bay, conducted periodically by the SMBNEP, as required by USEPA. The report includes seven major habitats in the Bay and its watershed: Pelagic, Soft Bottom, Rocky Reefs, Rocky Intertidal, Sandy Shores, Coastal Wetlands, and Freshwater/Riparian. Below is a tentative timeline to complete each habitat chapter of the report:

Habitat	**Chapter Target Date**
Coastal Wetlands	Nov 2025 (Prop 50 project)
Rocky Reefs	April 2026 (Prop 50 project)
Soft Bottom	June 2026 (Prop 50 project)
Freshwater/Riparian	March 2027 (Prop 50 project)
Rocky Intertidal	July 2027 (Prop 50 project)
Sandy Shores	To be determined
Pelagic	To be determined

SMBNEP CCMP Update

The SMBNEP CCMP was revised in 2017 and 2018 and was formally adopted in October 2018. NEP programs are expected to undertake periodic revision and updates of their respective CCMPs to ensure that they are contemporary and relevant while supporting the identified priorities of the Management Conference. In addition, the CCMP must be consistent with USEPA guidance. The SMBNEP CCMP update began in FY24 with the approval of the SMBRC's Amendment to the MOU. Below is a tentative timeline to complete the process:

Tentative Date	Task
February – April 2025	Receive input from SMBRC Governing Board, Executive Committee, and the public on the CCMP update in conjunction with the development of the SMBNEP FY26 Work Plan.
May – June 2025	Receive input from SMBRC Governing Board and Executive Committee on action samples and draft structure.
August 2025	Receive input from SMBRC Governing Board on the refined draft structure.
October 2025	Complete the draft update to the CCMP.
December 2025	Present draft update to the CCMP and receive input from the SMBRC Governing Board.
January 2026	Receive input from SMBRC Executive Committee on the draft; prepare final draft.
February 2026	Propose final draft update to the CCMP for the SMBRC Governing Board's consideration of approval.

Quality Assurance Project Planning

Quality Assurance Project Planning and the specific Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) are produced to create successful environmental programs or projects. Within USEPA's Pacific Southwest Region 9 there are numerous online resources including Guidance, Templates, and Management Planning to support the development of QAPPs. Ongoing ecological restoration, coastal

resilience, and environmental monitoring efforts of the SMBNEP may require QAPPs if they produce data that will be used to define the success of a given program or project. In addition, data are often generated to comply with permit requirements, assess the success of a given project, and inform adaptive management. QAPPs are in process for kelp forests, abalone, and nearshore monitoring associated with the Santa Monica Pier Breakwater.

Prioritization for these efforts will be based upon readiness and the priorities identified in the FY26 SMBNEP Work Plan. Input is being gathered in the first two quarters of 2025 to develop the final FY26 Work Plan. This period of plan development will influence the direction of the SMBNEP's efforts for FY26 including QAPP development.