To: Karina Johnston[kjohnston@santamonicabay.org]
Cc: Tom Ford[tford@santamonicabay.org]; Marcelo Villagomez[mvillagomez@santamonicabay.org]; Guangyu Wang[GWANG@waterboards.ca.gov]
From: Yelensky, Erica
Sent: Sat 12/2/2017 12:08:49 AM
Subject: RE: SMBNEP semi-annual report submittal- APPROVED

Hi Everyone,

Pls consider your report accepted and approved.

Thanks for gathering answers to my questions and for the call this afternoon.

Best,

Erica Yelensky

415-972-3021

Watersheds Office, US EPA

75 Hawthorne San Francisco 94105

I use voice-recognition software. Please excuse creative grammar that may result from this.

From: Yelensky, Erica
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 5:37 PM
To: Karina Johnston <kjohnston@santamonicabay.org>
Cc: Tom Ford <tford@santamonicabay.org>; Marcelo Villagomez <mvillagomez@santamonicabay.org>; Guangyu Wang <GWANG@waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: SMBNEP semi-annual report submittal

Karina,

Thank you for gathering answers from everyone. This is very helpful.

I have additional questions about number 14 below and will send a separate note to you and Guangyu to follow up.

Best,

Erica

From: Karina Johnston [mailto:kjohnston@santamonicabay.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:35 PM
To: Yelensky, Erica <Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov>
Cc: Tom Ford <tford@santamonicabay.org>; Marcelo Villagomez <mvillagomez@santamonicabay.org>; Guangyu Wang <GWANG@waterboards.ca.gov>; Karina Johnston <kjohnston@santamonicabay.org>
Subject: RE: SMBNEP semi-annual report submittal

Hi Erica –

Here are the compiled responses from staff, below, in blue. I've also included the person who responded to each of your questions to help facilitate follow up if needed. Let's check in briefly on the phone sometime soon to make sure that your questions were addressed with the right amount of detail and/or if you have any broader follow up about the format or structure or anything else. Thanks! -Karina

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1. Thank you for including hyperlinks to report as well as the summary narratives- these are

helpful.

You're welcome! ☺

2. Task 1.1 B: what subregion steering committees? How is this different than the other meetings you have listed? It says SMBRC, so does this mean Guangyu and Jack?

Guangyu: Those are Subregional committees established under the IRWMP. There are five subregional groups in the LA County, two of the five (South Bay and North SM Bay) cover our Bay watershed. SMBRC is an official member of these two groups in addition to being the open space representative on the Leadership Committee, and Guangyu attends these groups' meetings representing SMBRC.

3. Task 1.2 a: what are "FIB" trends?

Karina: Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB). This study is compiling data from the early 90's through 2016 to identify long-term bacteria trends Bay-wide for beaches across almost 35 years. This is a really important data gap that was identified in State of the Bay and in other avenues to see how the water quality has changed over time for bacteria counts. It is also looking at localized bacteria trends on beaches after different Low Flow Diversions (LFDs) came online in several areas of the Bay.

4. Are there any other known sources of used oil recycling funds?

Grace: CalRecycle is the main source of competitive used oil recycling funds for non-profits for California. There are probably ways to acquire funding through other sources like private foundations, companies, etc. However, with limited time and resources, we have not delved into researching other sources.

5. Copper outreach – it says work will begin winter 2017. Does that mean now or is that

supposed to say winter 2018?

Grace: It means now. For the past several months, we have been working with LA County Beaches and Harbors on finalizing contract language. Currently, we are waiting for the final contract from LA County Beaches and Harbor that requires Tom's signature.

6. Task 1.2 C what is involved in annual inspector training? Who are the monthly program meetings with? Restaurants or stormwater inspectors?

Grace: At the annual inspector training, we review each certification requirement from the checklist with inspectors (new and old) to explain environmental context, what to look for, common issues and questions from restaurants, and for inspectors to share/learn from each other's experience in the field. The training is about one hour. Monthly program meetings are with TBF staff to ensure we are on target with timelines and completion of tasks.

7. 2.1 a acoustic telemetry network: "no tags were detected"- what does this mean? Was this expected? Abnormal?

Heather + Tom: No tagged sharks or other fishes were detected by the sensors, but Chris is happy to share his full data set for California and Mexico. We can contact Chris Lowe to ask if this is expected or normal but the answer will likely be unknown. The reason for putting the sensors in those areas is because there weren't any and activity is unknown for those locations. They were deployed there to fill a gap in the sensor array that spans southern California with a few more in central/northern California and Mexico.

8. 2.1 B: is the stream protection ordinance a setback ordinance?

Karina: Short answer, yes.

Long answer: The LA City Department of Public Works has spent several years working on a

stream protection ordinance that has been stalled for some time. Based on Watershed Protection Division analysis, there are approximately 462 miles of riparian habitat that would receive some level of protection under the draft ordinance. The ordinance would protect the city's remaining stream habitat by requiring development buffer zones of 100 feet for soft-bottomed habitat and 30 feet for concrete-lined channels. TBF helps by participating and encouraging (support role) our partners at Heal the Bay and others (Women of Water, Ballona Creek Renaissance) when possible in conversations and at meetings, but to my knowledge we have yet to see the mayor's office commit to tackling this directly and don't really have staff time to allocate to active policy development without funding. I think it's important that it stays in SMBNEP work plans and guidance docs so that our partners can refer to it as an identified priority of the SMBNEP.

9. Ocean vessel aerial monitoring: can you include a blurb in your next report about the trends you are seeing and what they mean? Perhaps you already have this in the manuscript you mentioned?

Heather: The annual report from March 2017 is on the website describing the trends. Let me know if you need more information.

10. Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing: I couldn't find this in your work plan. Can you provide more background on this project? Is this related to the Pumas I've heard Tom talk about?

Tom: Liberty Canyon was an opportunity to support the RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains in a project that will support the construction of a large wildlife crossing under the 101 freeway. The ultimate goal is safe passage of pumas (mountain lions), as they are inbreed in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Los Angeles region and necessary for top down control of the ecosystem.

11. Lower Topanga Creek: is this project in design phase or predesign?

Jack: This project is currently in the pre-design phase.

12. Santa Monica beach restoration pilot project: can you include some of your monitoring results in the next report? For example, are you measuring the number of plants, sand deposition, public interaction with the site…?

Karina: The short answer is: Yes, absolutely we can add a results summary in the next report and we will have more data by then as well.

The long answer is: Right now, the best place to find the monitoring results is in the Year 1 Report. The monitoring section starts on pg 24. We survey the following parameters: vegetation, wrack, invertebrates, birds, weather, elevation and topography, sand deposition, grain size, and photo point surveys. We also track human use as part of other surveys. In summary, the site is tracking very well with expectations – slow vegetation growth over time (as expected for coastal strand habitats and on par with the sister project in Ventura County), slow formation of plant hummocks and an initial build-up of a sand berm along the fence lines and in the northwest and southeast corners of the project area, and a strong positive community and public response to the project site.

13. Task 3.1 B: Any early hydrodynamic and OA results you can share?

Heather: No results yet, kelp survey report will be written up for SCC in January and final report due in June 2018. The UCLA group produced a report on their findings with the water chemistry work but it's very preliminary.

14. Task 3.3 B incorporate comprehensive monitoring program into NPDES permit: is the NEP submitting progress reports? When is the permit up for renewal?

Guangyu: Yes, the NEP submits progress report to the Regional Board on annual basis, including the most recent one for 2016 mentioned in the semi-annual report (*KJ question/correction(?): the NEP summarizes the NPDES permit monitoring in the context of the CMP? Should we discuss?*). The requirement is included in the NPDES permits of three dischargers (City of LA Hyperion, LA County JWPCP, and Chevron refinery). The renewal schedule is different for each permit, which I do not know at this time, but I can get it from the RB if needed.

Karina Johnston

Director of Watershed Programs

The Bay Foundation

Office: (310) 216-9824

From: Yelensky, Erica [mailto:Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2017 10:00 AM
To: Karina Johnston
Cc: Tom Ford; Marcelo Villagomez
Subject: RE: SMBNEP semi-annual report submittal

Hi Karina,

Thank you for your report. I have a few follow-up questions and comments. Can we schedule a time to talk about these on the phone?

1. Thank you for including hyperlinks to report as well as the summary narratives- these are helpful.
2. Task 1.1 B: what subregion steering committees? How is this different than the other meetings you have listed? It says SMBRC, so does this mean Guangyu and Jack?
3. Task 1.2 a: what are "FIB" trends?
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13. Task 3.1 B: Any early hydrodynamic and OA results you can share?
14. Task 3.3 B incorporate comprehensive monitoring program into NPDES permit: is the NEP submitting progress reports? When is the permit up for renewal?

Thanks in advance.

Best,

Erica

Disclaimer: This message was written with voice activated software. It may contain errors. Some of them might be interesting. Observe the context and the meaning will, hopefully, be obvious.

Erica Yelensky
Direct: (415) 972-3021
Watersheds Office
U.S. EPA Region 9, Water Division
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
http://www.epa.gov/sfbay-delta/sf-bay-water-quality-improvement-fund

From: Karina Johnston [mailto:kjohnston@santamonicabay.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Yelensky, Erica <Yelensky.Erica@epa.gov>
Cc: Tom Ford <tford@santamonicabay.org>; Marcelo Villagomez <mvillagomez@santamonicabay.org>; Karina Johnston <kjohnston@santamonicabay.org>
Subject: SMBNEP semi-annual report submittal

Hello Erica –

SMBNEP is pleased to submit our semi-annual report for EPA review for the time period 1 April – 30 September 2017 (pdf attached). Please do not hesitate to contact Tom or I with any questions, comments, or edits.

Thank you!

Cheers,

Karina Johnston

Director of Watershed Programs

The Bay Foundation

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