EPA Region 9 National Estuary Program CWA §320

San Francisco Bay-Delta

Morro Bay

Santa Monica Bay

SMBRC Governing Board Meeting
August 17, 2017

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Discussion Topics

* National Estuary Program (NEP) CWA §320
* Why Revise the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan?
* What does a BRP revision include?
* Lessons learned from other NEP Plan revisions
* EPA's Role & Expectations

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National Estuary Program
Community-Based Watershed Management

* Origin
  * Modeled after the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay Programs
  * 1987 CWA Amendments: Section 320
    * Governor nominations: 28 estuaries
    * Each forms a management conference, develops plan & implements
    * EPA provides financial & technical assistance, & reviews program performance
      * Approves CCMP & concurs on revisions
* Key Principles
  * focus on watersheds
  * integrate science into the decision-making process
  * foster collaborative problem solving
  * involve the public

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EPA R9 National Estuary Programs

	SFEP	MBNEP	SMBNEP
Designated	1987	1995	1988
Size	5.2k sq. mi.	94 sq. mi.	2.4k sq. mi.
Host	ABAG	TBFMB	TBF
Staff	12	10	13
Annual Budget	$35.6m*	$1.2m*	$16.4m*
Water Board Support	- RB2 office space - Tom Mumley	- Jennifer Epp	- 1.5 staff (DD) - RB4 office space - legal/admin - Jon Bishop
CCMP	2016	2012	2013
HQ Review	2015	2015	2015
Director	Caitlin Sweeney	Lexie Bell	Tom Ford

**CWA §320 national allocation to each NEP = $600,000*

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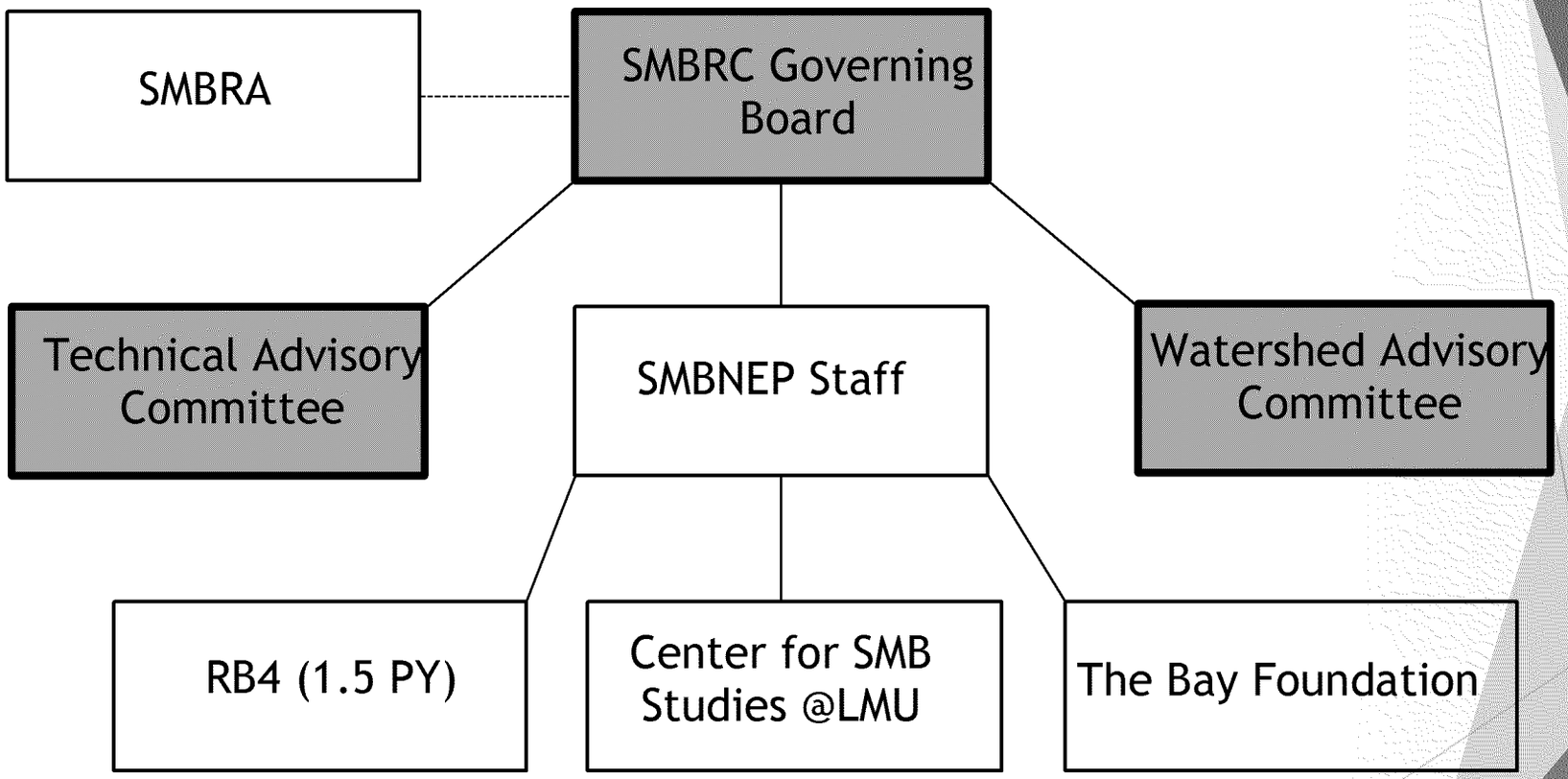
Santa Monica Bay NEP



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Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plans (CCMP)

- CCMP = Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP)
- Review BRP every 3-5 years
- Plan Updates
  - Minor changes as needed
- Plan Revision
  - Every 10 years
  - Significant changes
  - Incorporate Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment by the end of FY 2020

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Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plans (CCMP)

- CCMP = Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan (BRP)
- A long-term framework for action
- It includes not only plans to manage and restore water quality and habitats, but should also include strategies for:
  - effective monitoring and tracking of environmental response to inform adaptive management
  - financing plan implementation, and
  - outreach and communication with stakeholders

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A revised BRP should include

* New priorities, goals, objectives, and action plans
* Action plans should indicate:
  * lead implementers,
  * a timeline and milestones, and
  * performance measures
* Monitoring approach
* Finance strategy
* Habitat Protection/Restoration strategy based on a climate change vulnerability assessment
* Communication/Outreach Strategy
* Identify changes between existing and revised draft BRP
* Consider & describe Management Conference
  * structure should best support BRP implementation.

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Lessons Learned/Suggestions from other NEPs

* Focus on fewer actions
  * less than 50 priority actions (down from 200)
* Increase coordination and integration within the planning area
* Build on new key regional plans and policy documents
* Consider and strengthen management conference structure
* Build in mechanisms to tack progress
* Consider online alternatives to a paper plan
* Integrate the State of the Estuary Report, State of the Estuary Conference, the Partnership's Strategic Plan, and the CCMP
* 35 year planning horizon with 5 year goals

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Take Home Messages

* CCMP = BRP
* SMBRC Approves BRP
* NEP Management Conference
  * SMBRC + TAC + Watershed Advisory Committee
* EPA has an oversight & assistance role
  * EPA early and ongoing consultation
  * No surprises/no problems > final EPA R9 & HQ concurrence
* The Plan is yours and we provide support

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Additional Information/Resources

* EPA Guidance
  * CCMP Content Checklist
  * NEP Funding Guidance
* EPA SMBNEP Program Review (2014)
* See SFEP and Tampa Bay
* EPA Region 9 Contacts
  * Erica Yelensky, Santa Monica Bay NEP Coordinator
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    * (415) 972-
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