

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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July 19, 1996

TO: California Coastal Commissioners

FROM: James W. Burns, Chief Deputy Director *JWB*
Gabriela Goldfarb, Federal Programs Manager*W86*SUBJECT: ***Recommended Approval of an Agreement with the City of Monterey to take part in the City's Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP) project (for consideration at the Commission's August 1996 meeting)******Staff Recommendation***

The staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the City of Monterey under which the Commission would receive \$61,035 to perform services related to the City's contract with the State Water Resources Control Board (Standard Agreement - SWRCB No. 5-139-253-0) to develop a model urban runoff program. Specific Commission staff responsibilities are described under "Scope of Work" below.

Staff Summary

While nonpoint source pollution has long been recognized as a threat to coastal water quality, water quality protection efforts in the past have focused primarily on controlling pollutants from identifiable "point" sources. Nonpoint source pollution, also known as polluted runoff, differs from point source pollution in that it does not originate from a distinct, identifiable point such as a sewage treatment plant or an industrial discharge pipe. Generally, coastal polluted runoff results when rain or irrigation water picks up and transports sediments and contaminants from land surfaces and carries the pollutants into coastal surface and/or groundwater, and eventually to the ocean. This polluted runoff can result in significant adverse impacts to coastal ecosystems, public use, and human health including, among other problems, ground and surface water contamination, damage and destruction of wildlife habitat, and the loss of coastal recreational opportunities.

While identifiable point source discharges have been regulated for many years through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), nonpoint source pollution control programs over the years have relied primarily on voluntary compliance. Recent efforts to manage nonpoint source pollution have included federal amendments to both the CWA and the 1972 Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). Pursuant to the 1987 amendments of the CWA, Congress enacted Section 319 establishing a national program to control polluted runoff. In order to receive federal funds, Section 319 requires each state to develop a nonpoint source management program. In California, programs under the *Nonpoint Source Management Plan* have focused primarily on financial incentives, technical assistance, and public educational efforts. Furthermore, with the 1990 Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments, Congress added Section 6217 which required, among other things, the preparation of a coastal nonpoint source pollution control

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program and an integration of the state coastal zone management program with state and local water quality plans and programs, particularly the state nonpoint source management program.

In order to address urban polluted runoff problems in the Monterey Bay Area consistent with the nonpoint source pollution goals of the CWA and the CZMA Section 6217 requirements, the City of Monterey has been awarded Section 319(h) set-aside funds by the State Water Resources Control Board to be used in the development of a Model Urban Runoff Program (MURP) for small municipalities. The project involves a collaboration between the Coastal Commission, the Cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments and will result in the development of the model program as well as developing and implementing an individual program for each of the cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz. The MURP project will implement strategies from the Urban Runoff Action Plan of the MBNMS's Water Quality Protection Program as well as integrating elements from both the Commission's Section 6217 efforts and the Coastal Commission's recently completed procedural guidance manual for addressing polluted runoff in the coastal zone.

The main emphasis of the MURP project is to develop and implement a watershed management approach for addressing urban runoff. Watersheds provide the fundamental resource unit for managing polluted runoff since runoff from precipitation and irrigation, along with any contaminants and sediments that they may be transporting, will eventually flow or percolate into surface and/or ground waters and eventually to the ocean. By focusing on interrelated land use activities affecting water and sediment quality and transport within watersheds, integrated management measures are based upon the overall natural resource setting as opposed to purely political boundaries.

While the MURP project has been designed to implement specific programs in the Cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz, the model program itself will be developed as an off-the-shelf reference for other small municipalities. It is likely that this model reference tool will help to shape programs that have yet to be developed throughout the California Coastal Zone and, as such, offers an opportunity for the Commission to provide early polluted runoff guidance to the Commission's local government partners.

Scope of Work

Under the proposed standard agreement with the City of Monterey, the Coastal Commission would receive \$61,035 (\$57,220 to pay for Personal Services and \$3,815 for Operating Expenses) over an eighteen month period for Commission staff to perform specific tasks pertaining to the development of the model urban runoff program as well as individual programs for each of the cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz. Specifically, Commission staff would develop a watershed approach for identifying and prioritizing watershed resources and problems in the participating jurisdictions. This watershed analysis would involve a review of existing watershed management efforts as well as the development of potential additional management, maintenance, and monitoring options. Staff would further assist in the development of new planning tools and procedures including potential new CEQA criteria, model ordinances, and Local Coastal Program/General Plan policy language. Finally, staff would assist in the development of a urban runoff training element which would provide public

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education for citizens, businesses, and decision makers, as well as specific technical training for municipal employees to address problems of urban runoff.

The term of the agreement with the City of Monterey would commence on July 2, 1996 (the date the City executed its award letter), with work to be completed by January 1, 1998.