

January 16, 2024

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute a Memorandum of Agreement, No. SMC-2024-01, including any subsequent amendments, with the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition, to develop scientific and technical studies necessary for the implementation of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit compliance, for an annual amount not to exceed \$100,000 for a five-year term. (Citywide)

DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to execute a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Southern California Stormwater Monitoring Coalition (SMC) to continue implementation of the cooperative Stormwater Research Needs Program (SRNP). The SRNP develops scientific and technical tools for stormwater implementation, assessment, and monitoring to support the implementation of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. The objective of the proposed agreement is to identify data gaps that inhibit effective stormwater management and/or regulation and prescribe specific studies to address the gaps. Each study is intended to result in specific actions or recommendations that benefit water quality and comply with mandatory requirements of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). The studies will aid the City of Long Beach (City) in complying with our own NPDES permit.

The proposed MOA will be the latest agreement executed by the City with the SMC to continue implementation of the cooperative SRNP. The SMC was created by formal agreement (D99-072), signed in 2001 by the Phase I Municipal Storm Water NPDES lead permittees, the NPDES regulatory agencies in Southern California, and Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). That agreement expired in February 8, 2006. These parties subsequently approved Agreement D06-049 to continue the work started for an additional five-year period through June 4, 2013. Agreement D13-014 was subsequently executed to continue the implementation of the SRNP for an additional five-year period through June 30, 2019. Most recently, Agreement MA-080-19010685 was executed for an additional five-year period through June 30, 2024.

The City desires to continue working collaboratively with the SMC to develop technical tools for implementation, assessment and monitoring, and sharing knowledge about urban stormwater and non-stormwater impacts on receiving water.

The SRNP continues to be a multi-agency effort with participation from the County of Orange, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, County of San Diego, Ventura County Watershed Protection District, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, San Bernardino County Flood Control District, City of Los Angeles, City of San Diego, Regional Water Quality Control Board - Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Regional Board), Regional Water Quality Control Board - Santa Ana Region (Santa Ana Regional Board), Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Diego Region (San Diego Regional Board), State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP). Per the agreement each participating agency contributes funding for identified projects.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Vanessa S. Ibarra on December 1, 2023 and Budget Management Office Nader Kaamoush on December 4, 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY

The information, tools, and support gained from participation in this MOA are critical to the City's efforts to comply with US EPA TMDL and NPDES permit requirements. The results help identify and abate pollutants, bacteria, and hazardous materials, which will lead to improved water quality in the City's beaches, harbors, rivers, and bays.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on January 16, 2024, to ensure the MOA is in place expeditiously.

FISCAL IMPACT

The annual cost for the City's portion of this MOA will not exceed \$100,000 over the five-year term. The cost for the contract is currently being supported by current appropriation in the General Fund Group in the Public Works Department. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact with this recommendation.

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SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Eric Lopez in blue ink.

Eric Lopez
Director
Public Works

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Thomas B. Modica in blue ink.

THOMAS B. MODICA
CITY MANAGER

ATTACHMENTS: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)