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**Staff Report**

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1. Introductions and Updates
2. Public Comment
3. Agenda Revisions
4. **ACTION:** Consider Approval of August 18, 2021 Executive Committee (EC) minutes (see attached)
5. **ACTION:** Executive Committee Bylaw Approval (see attached)

Per our discussion in August regarding potential changes to the EC membership, staff has proposed an update to the EC bylaws. The changes were reviewed and approved by the Bay Foundation at their October meeting.

Additionally, staff has begun reaching out to potential individuals who might represent the agricultural community on the EC.

6. **ACTION:** Recommendations on Community Project Applications (see attached)

There are two Community Project applications for our consideration in this round. They are a Camp KEEP (Kern Environmental Education Program) effort to support watershed education and a city of Morro Bay Harbor Department effort to continue to support Oil Spill Containment and Response (OSCAR).

We have a total of \$15,000 to distribute for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The maximum amount for a project is \$10,000.

The project details can be found in the attached document *Community Project Applications for Fall 2021, Summary of Projects, Technical Review, and Staff Recommendations*.

7. **DISCUSSION:** Presentation of the Semi-annual Report (see attached)

Twice a year, the Estuary Program submits a semi-annual report to EPA, which provides the program status on budgets and tasks laid out in our workplan. This report covers our work for the second half of FY 2021, from April 1 to September 30, 2021. We have expended 94% of our current 320 grant and met 258% of our match requirement for the cumulative grant that started in FY2017.

8. **DISCUSSION:** Organizational Review

This is first meeting for the EC in the new fiscal year, FY22. It is a good time to review the organizational structure of the EC, its importance to the Estuary Program, and the roles, responsibilities, and goals of the group.

Every Estuary Program is required to have a Management Conference – a stakeholder-driven,

collaborative decision making structure that provides direction on how the goals and actions of the Estuary Program are implemented. Morro Bay's Management Conference is a collaboration between the EC and the Board of Directors of the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay. (The Bay Foundation is the nonprofit home to the Estuary Program.) These two groups reach consensus to guide the Estuary Program's efforts. In addition, the Management Conference includes Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) that provide technical input to the EC and Bay Foundation, as well as expert advice directly to staff.

The stakeholder groups represented on the EC include:

- The Bay Foundation
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- City of Morro Bay
- County of San Luis Obispo
- Los Osos Community Services District
- Agricultural Interests/Watershed Land Management
- Commercial Fishing
- Environment
- At-Large Government Agencies
- Recreation and Tourism
- Science and Research

The highest priority role of the EC is to guide and approve the development and update of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (Management Plan, or CCMP). The EC also approves actions being implemented as outlined in the annual workplan and provide general policy direction. Additional functions are described in the EC bylaws.

## 9. **DISCUSSION:** 2020 Baywide Eelgrass Map

In December 2020 and January 2021, Cal Poly flew its drone and collected high resolution imagery of the bay at low tide. Eelgrass was identified manually, and a baywide eelgrass map and acreage number were developed.

For 2021, we are again partnering with Cal Poly to conduct a drone flight to create a baywide eelgrass map.

## 10. **DISCUSSION:** Program Highlights

- **Community Project Updates:** We have three ongoing Community Projects. State Parks has completed construction of their Watershed Demonstration Station and will begin using it to train rangers, firefighters, docents, etc. They are focusing next on design and printing of curriculum that they've developed. The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District has completed two of their three planned volunteer work days for site restoration for monarchs and pollinators. They are working to develop an educational sign for the site and to plan two field tours of restoration sites. Dr. Nikki Adams and her students have conducted six months of monitoring for microplastics in Morro Bay sediments. They are finding microplastics in the bay at low levels.
- **Bioassessment Updates:** We recently began a partnership with the city of SLO and Cal Poly to develop a bioassessment monitoring effort in the SLO watershed, in conjunction with the Mioosi Charitable Trust. This will be a three-year project. Additionally, we recently completed a video to provide an overview of how the work is done and to recruit volunteers. You can view it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vTXb4yolmg>

- **Staffing Updates:** We recently welcomed two new employees to the Estuary Program. Nick Soares is joining us as a Monitoring Coordinator, and Annie MacDonald is joining us as a Communications and Outreach Coordinator.

11. Adjourn to next meeting of February 16, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., to be held remotely via Zoom.

**Attachments:**

- Minutes from August 18, 2021 EC meeting
- EC bylaws
- Community Project Applications
- Semi-annual report