

## **Solicitation of Proposals for Supplemental Environmental Projects and Qualification Criteria**

Under the authority of the California Water Code (CWC), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) may issue administrative civil liability complaints (ACLs) to dischargers in response to violations of waste discharge requirements, discharge prohibitions, enforcement orders, or other orders of the Boards. Assessments collected through the ACLC process are required by the CWC to be paid to the SWRCB Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) or other account as specified in law. The SWRCB administers the CAA, and funds are used to address important water quality cleanup and abatement activities throughout the state.

As an alternative to depositing ACLC assessments in the CAA, the SWRCB's Water Quality Enforcement Policy recognizes that ACLC assessments may be used for important and valuable water quality improvement projects within the Region in which the assessment was made. These are known as Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs). SEPs have been used in every region in the state. SEPs are projects that (1) enhance the beneficial uses of the waters of the state, (2) provide a benefit to the public at large, and (3) are not otherwise required or would be greatly accelerated by the funding provided by the ACLC assessment. Examples of SEPs include pollution prevention projects, environmental restoration programs, environmental auditing, public awareness and education activities, watershed assessments, watershed management facilitation services, and non-point source program implementation.

The State Board Enforcement Policy states: "Any public or private entity may submit a proposal to the SWRCB (or to the RWQCB for transmittal to the SWRCB) for a SEP that they propose to fund through this process. Staff at the SWRCB shall evaluate each proposal and maintain a list of candidate SEPs that satisfy the general criteria in subsection C of this section. The list of candidate SEPs shall be made available on the Internet along with information on completed SEPs and SEPs that are in-progress. When a RWQCB is considering allowing a discharger to perform a SEP in lieu of some or all of a monetary assessment, the RWQCB should direct the discharger to the list of candidate SEPs. The discharger may select a SEP from the list of candidate SEPs or may propose a different SEP that satisfies the general criteria for SEPs."

The SWRCB is accepting project proposals for SEPs from interested parties and the general public. Proposals should include a project title, identification of the entity that would be responsible for project implementation, a brief description of the project, including an explanation of how the project satisfies the general criteria listed in Attachment A to this letter, the estimated cost for project completion and contact information. As appropriate, proposals should also identify the particular water body, beneficial use and/or pollutant to be addressed by the project. A suggested format is included as Attachment "B" to this letter. Proposals will be accepted on an on-going basis. Proposals should be submitted by mail, email or fax to:  
State Water Resources Control Board ,CAEU, ATTN: SEP Proposal  
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812  
[myoungs@swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:myoungs@swrcb.ca.gov) fax: 916-341-5896

For questions regarding the SWRCB list of SEPs, contact Margie Youngs at 916-341-5890

## Attachment A

### From Section IX.C of the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Enforcement Policy:

#### **“C. General SEP Qualification Criteria**

All SEPs approved by the SWRCB or RWQCB must satisfy the following general criteria:

- (a) An SEP shall only consist of measures that go above and beyond the obligation of the discharger. For example, sewage pump stations should have appropriate reliability features to minimize the occurrence of sewage spills in that particular collection system. The installation of these reliability features following a pump station spill would not qualify as an SEP.
- (b) The SEP should directly benefit or study groundwater or surface water quality or quantity, and the beneficial uses of waters of the State. Examples include but are not limited to:
  - (i) monitoring programs;
  - (ii) studies or investigations (e.g., pollutant impact characterization, pollutant source identification, etc.);
  - (iii) water or soil treatment;
  - (iv) habitat restoration or enhancement;
  - (v) pollution prevention or reduction;
  - (vi) wetland, stream, or other waterbody protection, restoration or creation;
  - (vii) conservation easements;
  - (viii) stream augmentation;
  - (ix) reclamation;
  - (x) public awareness projects (e.g., industry specific, public-awareness activity, or community environmental education projects such as watershed curriculum, brochures, television public service announcements, etc.);
  - (xi) watershed assessment (e.g., citizen monitoring, coordination and facilitation);
  - (xii) watershed management facilitation services; and
  - (xiii) non-point source program implementation.
- (c) The SEP shall not directly benefit the SWRCB or RWQCB functions or staff. For example, SEPs shall not be gifts of computers, equipment, etc. to the SWRCB or RWQCB.
- (d) The SEP shall not be an action, process or product that is otherwise required of the discharger by any rule or regulation of any entity (e.g., local government, California Coastal Commission, United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, etc.) or proposed as mitigation to offset the impacts of a discharger's project(s).”

## Attachment B

**Project Title: Pismo Beach Area Water Quality Environmental Studies and Training**

**Geographic area of interest (circle 1): (Link to map of Regional Board boundaries)**

North Coast Region (1)	Central Valley Region (5)	San Diego Region (9)
San Francisco Bay Region (2)	Lahontan Region (6)	Statewide
<b><u>Central Coast Region (3)</u></b>	Colorado River Basin (7)	Other _____
Los Angeles Region (4)	Santa Anna Region (8)	_____

**Name of responsible entity: City of Pismo Beach**

**Estimated cost for project completion: \$375,000**

**Contact information: Dennis Delzeit, Public Works Director**

**Address: 760 Mattie Road  
Pismo Beach, Ca. 93449**

**Phone (805) 773-7037 email: ddelzeit@pismobeach.org**

### **Pismo Beach Area Water Quality Environmental Studies and Training**

#### **Six Elements of the Project:**

1. Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study
2. Industry Specific Wastewater Biology Training
3. Pismo Creek Watershed Study
4. Identification of Bacterial Contamination Sources near Pismo Pier
5. Agricultural Short Courses
6. Implementation Bank

The above listed project with six elements is not independently required of the City nor, is it proposed as mitigation to offset the impacts of any projects ongoing by the City. Also the **Supplemental Environmental Project will not directly benefit the SWRCB or RWQCB functions or staff.**

This supplemental environmental project is comprised of six elements. Five of the elements address beneficial needs and/or uses concerning the area of the Pacific Ocean in direct contact with the Pismo Beach coastline, the Pismo Creek Watershed and adjacent watersheds within the region through three separate studies and two educational elements. It also provides administration for an implementation bank to distribute the funds to selected projects born from the studies.

#### **Water Body, beneficial use and/or pollutant addressed by this project**

Pacific Ocean in direct contact with the Pismo Beach coastline, the Pismo Creek Watershed and adjacent watersheds within the region

# **Exhibit A to Attachment B**

## **Additional Details of Proposed SEP**

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### **Element #1: Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study**

Estimated Cost - \$30,000

Estimated Time – Nine (9) months

This study would be conducted by John Wallace and Associates (JLWA) to provide a determination and recommendation for the feasibility of providing reclaimed water. It will identify the desirable recycled water quality with respect to key agronomic parameters such as sodium adsorption ratio, chlorides, TDS and electrical conductivity, nitrogen compounds, boron and others.

JLWA will also conduct a recycled water market assessment, which will include a review of parks, schools, golf courses, Caltrans right-of-way, and potential new commercial/hotel development (for dual plumbing).

JLWA will prepare a proposed upgrade to wastewater facilities, a treatment process train, and treatment plant cost for a tertiary upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant to meet Title 22 unrestricted effluent for reuse. Alternative analysis of various options for treating and conveying recycled water to identified markets will be conducted. A cost analysis to include alignment, piping and pumping and payment options will be part of the final recommendations.

**Element #2: Industry Specific Wastewater Biology Training**

Estimated Cost - \$40,000

Estimated Time – 12 months

Wastewater biologist/educator Michael H. Gerardi (resume and references attached) will provide four two (2) day sessions covering wastewater biology for activated sludge plants, wastewater biology for trickling filter plants, wastewater laboratory practices, anaerobic digestion, and aerobic digestion.

Some classes could be conducted at the San Luis Obispo Regional Board facilities for maximum attendance. All Classes would be free of charge to operators throughout the region.

This education program will provide training beyond textbook theories. It will provide operators cause and effects understanding of wastewater biology and wastewater chemistry. This training will enable better quality control and optimization of the treatment process and outline modification parameters helping to maintain compliance. The training will help build confidence of operators therefore decreasing the potential for operator errors.

This training and the knowledge gained from one session in April 2003 enabled the operators at the Pismo Beach Wastewater Plant to implement modifications that kept the plant from violating during the entire summer of 2003.

**Element #3: Pismo Creek Watershed Management Plan**

Estimated Cost - \$100,000

Estimated Time – 18 months

The Central Coast Salmon Enhancement group will develop a comprehensive management plan for the Pismo Creek Watershed, including upper reaches and tributaries that will include assessment of current conditions, community outreach and identification of projects and methods to improve water quality.

A minimum of six monitoring sites will be established and monitored monthly. Examples of parameters to be tested are turbidity, temperature, nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen and pH. Data will be input into the Regional Water Quality Control Board's CCAMP water quality database and used in the development of a watershed management plan. Deliverables will include 5 copies of the management plan and a list of priority projects developed from the plan.

**Element #4: Microbiological source tracking of contamination and its sources near the Pismo pier**

Estimated Cost - \$30,000

Estimated Time – 12 months

The City of Pismo Beach will work with County Health and Regional Water Quality Control Board staff to locate and secure an individual, agency (such as Heal the Bay) or firm that will provide sampling and commercial laboratories that can perform testing of samples at various points north and south of the Pismo Beach pier to determine types of contaminations, their intensity, any event related elevations of the contamination, seasonal relations and sources. Methods may include genotype and or phenotype, such as those approved by the EPA, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, California State Water Resources Control Board, and National Water Research Institute following their February 2002 workshop, to distinguish human from non-human waste. Frequency and number of samples will be determined by a cooperative effort

among City, County and Water Quality Control Board staff along with the experts or researchers that are funded to perform the sampling and or testing. Deliverables will consist of a detailed report of the findings with suggested solutions. Quarterly reports of the test results will also be provided for review and discussion.

**Element #5: Farm Water Quality Planning Program (Ag. Short Courses)**

Estimated Cost - \$75,000

Estimated Time – 24 months

The Farm Water Quality Planning program is a coordinated effort by the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources cooperating with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to improve water quality education to the irrigated agriculture industry in California.

Through this program, growers adapt resource conservation practices to their individual farming operations. The short course teaches the basic concepts of watersheds, nonpoint sources of pollution, site-assessment techniques, and techniques for evaluating the success of management practices. Crop-specific management practices are offered to address each nonpoint source pollutant along with technical and financial assistance available for implementation of those management practices. Working with a template water quality management plan, course participants complete nonpoint source site-assessments that integrate production goals with water quality, habitat conservation, and soil conservation goals.

**Element #6: Implementation for projects resulting from the studies**

Estimated Cost - \$100,000

Estimated Time – 4 years

The City would work with the Bay Foundation to set up an account to provide funding of each of the other five elements. This account would also be used to provide funding for prioritized projects resulting from the studies to eliminate contaminations, improve watersheds or begin implementation of a project to recycle water from the treatment plant.