



# City of Malibu

23825 Stuart Ranch Road · Malibu, California · 90265-4861  
Phone (310) 456-2489 · Fax (310) 456-3356 · [www.malibucity.org](http://www.malibucity.org)

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Sent via email to [commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

Jeanine Townsend  
Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Comment Letter - Storm Water Resource Plan and Proposition 1 Funding Guidelines

Dear Ms. Townsend:

The City of Malibu appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Storm Water Resource Plan Guidelines (Plan Guidelines) and the Draft Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program Funding Guidelines (Funding Guidelines). The City understands that the Plan Guidelines are intended to establish guidance for the development of Storm Water Resource Plans in accordance with the requirements of SB 985, and the Funding Guidelines are intended to establish the process and criteria that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will use to solicit applications, evaluate and select proposals, and award grants for the multi-benefit stormwater management projects through Proposition 1. As a thankful recipient of numerous State Water Board grants over the years, Malibu has first-hand experience in complying with grant guidelines and recognizes the importance of having a clear and efficient application process. The City is supportive of a process that is not overly prescriptive and offers the following comments on the draft documents.

The City supports having development of Storm Water Resource Plan be a requirement for receiving Proposition 1 grant funds. The Guidance Plan clearly and explicitly states that existing planning documents, such as Watershed Management Programs (WMPs) and Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs) as set forth in the Los Angeles County MS4 permit, can be utilized as functionally equivalent plans. It is important that any additional changes to the Guidance Plan as a result of comments received from the public or State Water Board members not complicate this clarity and that approved WMPs and EWMPs will continue to entirely comply with the Plan Guidelines.

State Water Board staff has shown that they recognize and understand the importance of WMPs and EWMPs in the Los Angeles region. WMPs and EWMPs have undergone an extensive public participation and review process that took significant time and resources to complete. Therefore, the City strongly believes that these plans meet the intent of SB 985 and that that the proposed Plan Guidelines would not intend to require the modification of these already-completed plans. Accordingly, the City requests that WMPs and EWMPs approved by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) be automatically deemed functionally equivalent and, thus, in full compliance with the requirement of SB 985. In fact, the primary goal of these

plans is to maximize stormwater capture and use through implementation of multipurpose projects. The effort and resources that have already gone into development of these plans will continue as they are implemented and adapted based on knowledge gained. This will ensure long-term, ongoing compliance with the MS4 permit using integrated programs that include the elimination of wasteful and polluting dry-weather runoff and the capture of stormwater for reuse. Any redundant requirements that result in another layer of approval would take resources that are better used moving projects forward to meet our shared goals of protecting water quality and treating stormwater as an important resource.

The Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) process is one of great value to this region, and Malibu has been an active participant in the Los Angeles region IRWMP since its inception. The City agrees that projects competing for funds should be incorporated into the local IRWMPs, which is similar to other funding programs. The final Plan Guidelines and Funding Guidelines should be clear about whether individual projects seeking funding are required to be added to the project list in the local IRWMPs.

Finally, municipalities have invested extensive resources and hired top consultants to calibrate and run approved stormwater models used in the development of EWMPs and WMPs for identifying appropriate projects for each watershed in its jurisdiction, often in the absence of any actual water quality data in the subwatershed. These models were approved by the Regional Board as an effective method to evaluate pollutant loading due to stormwater runoff and identify areas that warranted runoff capture and treatment projects. As Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs are implemented and provide a more robust data set, the information will be incorporated into the model for a more accurate calibration and model results. Malibu recommends that in sub-watersheds or project areas without historical monitoring data, approved water quality models could be used in lieu of actual monitoring data for the purposes of a grant application. In addition to the model results, if monitoring data from adjacent watersheds with comparable land uses to the project area is available, it may be provided to support model results. Grant agreements for funded projects could still include pre- and post-project monitoring as a condition to demonstrate the effectiveness of the project.

The City of Malibu looks forward to the opportunity to apply for Proposition 1 funding and being a part of this process. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Voccola Brown, Senior Environmental Programs Coordinator at (310) 456-2489 extension 275, or [jbrown@malibucity.org](mailto:jbrown@malibucity.org).

Sincerely,



Vic Peterson  
Environmental Sustainability Director

cc: Jim Thorsen, City Manager  
Jennifer Voccola Brown, Senior Environmental Programs Coordinator  
Barbara Cameron, Grants Consultant