



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE BEACH CITIES WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COORDINATED INTEGRATED MONITORING PROGRAM (CIMP)

(Environmental Programs Manager Douglas Krauss)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council:

1. Approve an amendment to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Administration and Cost Sharing for Coordination and Implementation of the Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Program (CIMP) for the Beach Cities Watershed Management Group (WMG) (**Attachment 1**) to extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2026, with the option to further extend the term in increments of one calendar year at a time, up to two additional years; and
2. Authorize the Mayor to execute and the City Clerk to attest to the proposed amendment, subject to approval by the City Attorney.

Executive Summary:

Since 2016, the WMG has collaboratively implemented the CIMP with Manhattan Beach serving as lead. The CIMP utilizes a professional firm to perform the sampling and testing of water quality and a separate firm to administer the program and various WMG reporting and programs. The current agreement is set to expire on December 28, 2025 and WMG agencies discussed an extension of the MOU to ensure monitoring services continue and so that the WMG can respond to the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board) new monitoring requirements.

Background:

The cities of Hermosa Beach, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District formed the WMG to develop a Watershed Management Program (WMP) to comply with the Regional Board's 2012 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4 Permit). The Beach Cities WMG entered into an MOU to cost share the development of the WMP and CIMP in 2013.

The MS4 Permit requirements include a monitoring and reporting program applicable to City of Hermosa Beach and the other parties to the CIMP MOU. The monitoring program

requirements described in the MS4 Permit provide flexibility for Permittees to coordinate monitoring efforts on a watershed or subwatershed basis to increase cost-efficiency and effectiveness and to align the CIMP with the WMP.

Upon approval of the WMP and CIMP by the Regional Board in 2016, the Beach Cities Group executed an MOU for the joint implementation of the CIMP in order to carry out the monitoring and reporting program requirements of the Permit (**Attachment 2**). The CIMP MOU also included regular administration of the WMP and coordination of the member agencies for meetings and regular communications.

The proposed amendment to the existing CIMP MOU would ensure implementation and WMP administration for the WMG. At its February 9, 2016 meeting, City Council approved the an MOU to implement a CIMP with the Beach Cities WMG (**Attachment 2**). At its December 8, 2020 meeting, Council approved execution of amendment one (**Attachment 3**) extending the term through December 28, 2025. A separate MOU for a comprehensive update of the WMP was approved by Council at its October 27, 2020 meeting (**Attachment 4**).

Past Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
November 26, 2013	City Council approved an MOU to develop a WMP with the Beach Cities WMG
February 9, 2016	City Council approved an MOU to implement a CIMP with the Beach Cities WMG
December 8, 2020	City Council approved an MOU to amend and extend the MOU for monitoring services related to the CIMP
October 27, 2020	City Council approved an MOU for WMP implementation with the Beach Cities WMG

Discussion:

The CIMP Implementation MOU provides for the hiring of a:

- CIMP Implementation Consultant to accomplish the CIMP; and
- CIMP Coordination Consultant to assist the WMG in watershed planning and coordination.

The CIMP MOU further provides that the parties to the MOU contribute funds to the City of Manhattan Beach, which acts on behalf of the Beach Cities WMG (or Parties) to contract with the respective CIMP Coordination consultant and CIMP Implementation consultant. The City of Manhattan Beach contracts for these services with McGowan Consulting (Coordination) and Geosyntec (Implementation). Each firm served in these

capacities for the Beach Cities WMG since 2016. Their familiarity with the WMG's WMP and CIMP makes them ideal consultants to continue performing these professional services and the City of Manhattan Beach staff secured approval from its City Council to proceed with the MOU amendment.

The City's cost for the additional year is estimated at \$37,201. The cost for the previous year was \$24,791. The cost increase is due to a number of new monitoring requirements which were recently implemented including a requirement for higher resolution testing of storm water samples. The increase also reflects the WMG's supplementary efforts to gain approval from the Regional Board for its updated CIMP, a compliance time extension order completing, and an adaptive management process for waste discharge monitoring. These additional costs are split proportionally between the various member agencies, as shown in the draft amendment. The City of Manhattan Beach's fee for administering the contracts would be 10 percent.

Staff recommends City Council approve the amendment to allow for an extension of the agreement. If approved, the extension would allow the WMG to continue required monitoring activities and other efforts to meet Regional Board requirements.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

The proposed action does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, as it can be seen with certainty that it will have no impact on the environment. Thus, this matter is exempt under CEQA.

General Plan Consistency:

This report and associated recommendations have been evaluated for their consistency with the City's General Plan. Relevant Policy is listed below:

Infrastructure Element

Goal 5. The stormwater management system is safe, sanitary, and environmentally and fiscally sustainable.

Policy:

5.7 Stormwater permits. Strictly implement, enforce, and monitor MS4 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) Permit requirements through stormwater ordinances.

Fiscal Impact:

The City's cost share for the 2026 MOU extension is estimated to be \$37,201. The final amount may change depending on actual consultant labor costs. Sufficient Storm Drain funds would be budgeted for the cost share.

Since the 2026 MOU extension would start in Fiscal Year 2025–26, the MOU would be budgeted as part of the Fiscal Year 2025–26 budget.

Attachments:

1. Draft Amendment
2. 2016 CIMP MOU
3. Current CIMP MOU
4. WMP Update MOU

Respectfully Submitted by: Douglas Krauss, Environmental Program Manager

Noted for Fiscal Impact: Brandon Walker, Administrative Services Director

Legal Review: Pat Donegan, City Attorney

Concur: Angela Crespi, Deputy City Manager

Approved: Suja Lowenthal, City Manager