

# History & Structure

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
June 16, 2011



**bay restoration commission**  
STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

# History

- Created by state legislation in 2002
- Codified in the Public Resources Code as a “non-regulatory state entity.”
- Law required development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- MOU established the structure of the SMBRC



# STRUCTURE of SMBRC

- Governing Board: “the key decision-making authority of the Commission.”
  - Establishes policies & priorities for the SMBRC
- Bay Watershed Council: “the broad stakeholder body of the Commission.”
  - Advises the Governing Board on priorities for funding, planning, etc. through the Bay Restoration Plan
- Technical Advisory Committee: “an unbiased scientific panel.”
  - Develops the State of the Bay Report, advises on technical issues, etc.



# Governing Board

- 35 Members—20 voting, 15 non-voting
  - 26 are *ex officio*
  - 9 are elected from the Bay Watershed Council
- The deliberative, decision-making body of the SMBRC.
  - Approves budgets & expenditures
  - Enters into legal agreements for SMBRC
  - Approves work products and Bay Restoration Plan amendments
  - Sets priorities & provides final project approval
  - Meets 6 times a year



# Bay Watershed Council

- Approximately 70 members
  - Diverse—federal, state, & local representation
- Primary responsibility: advise Governing Board on Bay restoration priorities
  - The Citizen Advisory Committee of the SMBRC
  - Promote participation by local governments, community groups, etc.
  - Promote collaboration among stakeholders



# Technical Advisory Committee

- Experts in Coastal & Watershed Sciences
- From Academia, Non-profits, & Gov't Agencies
- Appointed by Governing Board based on expertise & credentials
- Develops State of the Bay report
- Reports to Governing Board on Technical Issues



# SMBRC Partnerships

To Participate in the National Estuary Program

- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation
  - A Non-profit corporation (501 (c) (3), IRC)
  - Funded by US EPA as part of the National Estuary Program
  - Provides staff and other resources
- Santa Monica Bay Restoration Authority
  - Joint Powers Agreement between the SMBRC and LA County Flood Control District
  - Provides state and local funding opportunities
- State Water Resources Control Board
  - Provides some staff and administrative resources



# US EPA Approves our Structure & Partnerships

- A Work Plan is developed every year
- Requires Governing Board and US EPA review and approval before funding is issued
- Work Plan describes the history, structure of the partnerships, proposed budget, & activities
- Work Plan is a requirement for funding under the National Estuary Program
- Work Plan (and SMBRC Structure/Partnership Organization) continuously funded since the SMBRC's inception



# US EPA Approves our Structure & Partnerships

- Once Work Plan is approved, US EPA issues a Grant Agreement.
  - Project Title: National Estuary program - Santa Monica Bay
  - Explanation: The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation will continue to support the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission to implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP, also known as the Bay Restoration Plan). Specifically, this grant supports the work plan that implements activities and tasks in the CCMP.



# Similar Partnerships

## Within in the State of California

- Aquatic Science Center
  - A JPA between State Water Board and BACWA
  - All admin support comes from the *San Francisco Estuary Institute* (a 501 (c) (3) Non-profit)
  - JPA partners provide technical expertise
- Ca. Dept of Fish & Game
  - California Wildlife Foundation
- Ca. Dept. of Parks & Recreation
  - State Parks Foundation & Local Non-profits
- National Park Service
  - Golden Gate Parks Conservancy (for GGNRA)



# Governing Board Elections

- 9 Members Elected from the Bay Watershed Council
  - President of the BWC (1)
  - South Bay Cities (1)
  - Malibu Creek Watershed Cities (1)
  - Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (1)
  - Environmental/Public Interest Groups (2)
  - Business/Economic Interest Groups (1)
  - At-Large Members of the BWC (2)
- Two-year terms, no term limits



# Contact information

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