



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax www.smbrc.ca.gov

THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Temporary Chairman Mas Dojiri called the meeting to order on June 19, 2012 at 9:47am in ECC 1857 of Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, CA 90045. Round robin introductions followed.

TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Present (on phone; not chairing meeting)
Steve Bay (Vice Chair)	Absent
Dave Caron	Absent
Mas Dojiri	Present (Chairing meeting)
John Dorsey	Present
Rainer Hoenicke	Present
Terrie Hogue	Resigned
Karen Martin	Present
Dan Pondella	Absent

Staff Present

Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director
Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager

Members of the Public

Eric Miller, MBC Katherine Rubin, LADWP
Charlynn Rachell, LADWP

PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public and representatives of organizations/agencies wishing to comment must fill out a comment card at the meeting and will be allowed up to 3 minutes to address the Committee and to provide public testimony on items not otherwise on the agenda. Speaker time may be reduced depending on the number of speakers or otherwise at the discretion of the TAC Chair.

There was no public comment.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Order of the Agenda. Approved.
- b. Approval of Meeting Minutes. Approved with minor edits from Mas Dojiri.
- c. Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff.

The Chair had nothing to report. Lia reported that the MRAC is about half way toward a white paper considering the value of coastal vegetated marsh for subtidal marine life in the context of compensatory mitigation. Staff gave an update on the now-underway Malibu Lagoon restoration. The Regional Board will host a series of stakeholder meetings to determine gaps in the implementation of the Comprehensive Monitoring Plan. This summer, staff will be starting a

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new project to test a non-lethal method for determining sex in California halibut. Staff will be looking into options for replacing Terrie Hogue, who just took a job at the Colorado School of Mines. Staff also alerted the TAC that LMU plans to start charging for parking this fall. SMBRC is considering options for reimbursing TAC members for parking for events at LMU. Mas offered the use of Hyperion.

- d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*)

Mas noted that the Urban Coast advisory board met last week and decided upon a tentative theme for the next issue. The focus will be on the LA River and will examine different aspects of its use, restoration, and management, including competing uses and management goals.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

AGENDA ITEM #4. Update and Discussion: Habitat Health Assessment Framework Development

Update

Lia described staff's proposed next steps on completing the Habitat Health Assessment Framework by the end of the year. SMBRF will host a series of separate workshops focusing on each habitat type identified in the framework. Six to fourteen experts will be invited to participate for each workshop. The purpose of the workshops will be to fill in the indicator matrices and gather recommendations on which indicators should be selected to be used in the assessment.

Discussion

The TAC recommended that the experts be given an informational and homework packet in advance of the meeting that contained the following:

- A description of the objectives of the assessment (identify trends in habitat health and drivers of these trends, evaluate or develop management actions based on the assessment, and identify data gaps/needs)
- Selection criteria for indicators in the matrix as well as for the overall assessment
- A blank framework and indicator matrix
- A survey sheet asking for recommendations for improving future workshops
- A list and references for previously developed indices

The TAC thought that a resource manager should be represented on each habitat type to ensure that this perspective is included. The TAC also gave several recommendations for additions and changes to the list of experts for each habitat. They agreed with staff that the expertise represented could extend beyond Santa Monica Bay, but recommended that SMBRF consider paying the travel expenses of out of town participants.

The TAC approved a prioritized list of criteria for selecting indicators from the matrix to be used in the overall assessment as follows:

- Tier 1 (required)
 - The indicator is capable of distinguishing poor and good health; preferably the indicator is connected to a numerical target.
 - Data for the indicator are feasible to obtain.
- Tier 2 (desired)
 - The indicator provides some ability to evaluate management actions, either directly or indirectly.
 - The indicator can distinguish between anthropogenic and natural impacts.

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- The indicator can be applied across the full range of the habitat (ie cobble to boulder fields in rocky intertidal).
- Changes in the indicator are detectable in the reporting timeframe (ie 5 years)

The TAC recommended taking Soft Bottom first, followed by Rocky Reefs, Coastal Wetlands and Lagoons, and Creeks and Streams, in that order. The recommended holding the Rocky Intertidal workshop after the MARINE network and the Beach Ecology Working Group meet again to finish their respective health assessment exercises. The workshops on Sea Grass Beds and Coastal Dunes and Bluffs can be held as part of the Rocky Intertidal and Sandy Beach workshops, respectively, or separately depending on how much overlap exists in the attendees, the difficulty of the material, and the scheduling needs.

Open Ocean is very different from the others in that it is data rich, but little has been done to develop assessments that cross disciplines (physical, chemical and biological oceanography; ichthyology; marine mammal biology; etc). The TAC recommended holding separate or concurrent workshops for each indicator category (habitat extent & vulnerability, structure & ecological disturbance, and biological response) or at least separate the physical oceanography from the chemical/biological oceanography, from the ichthyology, etc.

Public Comment

Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM #5. Discussion: Prop 84 Monitoring Framework

Discussion

Guangyu described the changes made to the Prop 84 Monitoring Framework since the last meeting. The TAC thought it was now very good overall, but made a few more recommendations as follows:

- The Primary and Secondary objectives as listed are more the method of implementing the primary objective, which is not really appropriate for the framework. Secondary objectives should be other objectives that will be met as a result of meeting the primary one.
- The list of project and site characteristics should be carefully considered as they will provide the means to analyze the potential success of future projects. Soil type and the identification of the groundwater basin should be included. Also, it may become necessary to have a first tier of characteristics that are required for all projects, and a second tier that are only required of certain types of projects.
- The Justification for Substitution description needs to be better described in a way that will allow collaborative monitoring between similar projects.
- The monitoring plan should be a required part of the project proposal and should be evaluated as part of the project evaluation.

They also suggested that staff conduct a cost assessment of what monitoring under our framework is likely to cost in a generic way and consider adapting this monitoring framework to types of projects other than those funded under Prop 84. Staff will also look into whether the term of the grant preclude projects from conducting their monitoring or analysis of monitoring data past three years.

Public Comment

Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM #6 & 7. Presentation, Review, and Recommendation: Milton Street Storm Water Treatment Project

Presentation

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Ana Petrlc, the project manager for the MRCA, gave a presentation on the history of the project development, previously completed complementary projects, and the project itself.

Discussion

The TAC reviewed the Milton Street project for its technical merits. They raised questions about the irrigation and maintenance of the multi-use lawn and encouraged the MRCA to consider on-site harvest and storage of water for irrigation in the dry season. A cost comparison may show the financial benefit. They recommended contacting Wing Tam, the Division Manager of the City of Los Angeles Watershed Protection Division, to explore a partnership and determine the feasibility of replicating rainwater harvesting and reuse approaches already implemented elsewhere on or near the park site.

They noted that the project is designed for a 3/4" storm event, which is the design standard for the regional board. They indicated that the project only treats 3.21 acres of drainage. While it may substantially reduce the amount of pollutants being expelled from that storm drain, it is unlikely to significantly reduce the amount of pollutants presently being expelled directly into Ballona Creek. However, they thought it is a great project and exactly the type of project that SMBRC should be considering for Prop 84 funds.

They suggested the design incorporate features that would facilitate monitoring for project effectiveness. A sampling well added in one of the vegetated stormwater curb extensions, for example could also be used by science teachers from the adjacent school and elsewhere. The cost of this was not discussed.

Finally, the TAC noted that the monitoring plan is not developed and recommends that it meet the standards set in the TAC's newly developed Prop 84 monitoring framework.

The TAC endorsed the project unanimously (with 5 of 8 members present)

Public Comment

Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Staff will send out a doodle poll in the next few days to select dates for the upcoming September and December meetings.

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