



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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April 12, 2013

Agenda Items 3c & d

To: SMBRC Governing Board, SMBRC

From: Shelley Luce, Executive Director

Subject: Review of Watershed Advisory Council Recommendations and Draft Bay Restoration Plan Update

Action Requested of the Governing Board:

None. This is a report and summary only.

Summary

As reported at the last Governing Board meeting, the SMBRC plans to update the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP) through a public process later this year, with involvement of the Governing Board, the Watershed Advisory Council (WAC), and other interested stakeholders. As a first step of this process, the WAC held its annual meeting on February 13 to review progress in implementing the BRP and solicit ideas and suggestions regarding how to update the goals, objectives, and milestones included in the existing BRP. Twenty-three WAC members and more than ten members of the public attended the meeting and provided staff with many valuable comments and suggestions during the breakout session.

Attached for your information is a draft summary of comments and suggestions received at the WAC meeting. At the April Governing Board meeting, we will present an overview of the summary and the process to incorporate WAC recommendations into the BRP. At the same meeting, we will also present and receive feedback from Governing Board members on the major issues and areas of the BRP considered for updating based on input we received from the WAC. To ensure the most effective use of the limited time, we suggest that the discussion at the meeting be focused on an identified set of “top ten” issues. These issues are:

- TMDL implementation (Nutrient load reduction in Malibu Creek, metals reduction in Ballona Creek Watershed)
- Promoting LID/green infrastructure for urban runoff pollution control
- Wetlands protection and restoration
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Monitoring and Management
- Fishery management and sustainable seafood
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Storm water pollution source control (include strategy for plastic ban, and other trash and runoff reduction measures)
- Regional funding mechanism for storm water quality improvement

our mission: to restore and enhance the santa monica bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the bay's benefits and values





- Rocky reef/kelp habitat restoration (including reuse of Rindge dam material)
- Beneficial use and management of natural sediment (including beach nourishment)

The matrix below provides further background on how these ten issues are related to objectives of the current BRP, what progress have been made to date, and what changes are being proposed.

Attachment: 2013 Watershed Advisory Council Meeting Comments Summary



Issue (Top Ten)	What's in the Current BRP	What Progress has been Made	What Changes We are Proposing
TMDL implementation (Nutrient load reduction in Malibu Creek, reduction of metals and other pollutants in Ballona Creek)	Develop and adopt TMDLs scheduled for waterbodies in the Santa Monica Bay watershed and Achieve waste load and load allocations of adopted TMDLs. (Objective 1.1)	Development of TMDLs in the Santa Monica Bay watershed under the consent decree is near completion. Several adopted TMDLs are already out of compliance or behind schedule. The LARWQCB adopted a new MS4 permit in 2012 as the key mechanism for achieving TMDL compliance.	Shift focus from developing and adopting TMDLs to TMDL implementation and compliance. Conduct assessment of TMDL implementation progress and prioritize TMDLs based on status of compliance. Participate and contribute to development of watershed management plans under the new MS4 permit.
	Decrease nutrient loads to Malibu Creek from both point and nonpoint sources through enhanced groundwater movement study and implementing the existing Malibu Creek nutrient TMDL and additional regulatory measures.(Objective 1.2)	EPA is in the process of updating the nutrient TMDL for Malibu Creek and incorporating public input.	Facilitate and participate in the new nutrient TMDL development and implementation. Involve the Malibu TAC and work with EPA, LARWQCB, and watershed cities/districts to provide input in the TMDL process. Drop the groundwater movement study milestone. Emphasize implementation of new nonpoint source control measures such as improved fertilizer management.
Promoting LID/green infrastructure for urban runoff pollution control	Incorporate green infrastructure into standard street design and maintenance practices. Develop and adopt model LID ordinances by at least five cities. Establish policies to standardize use of green infrastructure. Develop policies directing a portion of public works budgets to green infrastructure. Implement green infrastructure pilot projects. (Objective 2.1)	LA County and a few cities in the watershed have adopted LID ordinances. But many cities have not. Many pilot LID projects were implemented. But the total numbers and scale were very small to be effective comparing to the size of the watershed.	Put more emphasis on adoption of LID ordinances and promotion of more LID projects. Ensure new LID standards are incorporated into local redevelopment plans. Promote and fund more LID projects such as new rain barrel program and rain gardens. Replicate Culver City rain gardens program where appropriate. Work with the Park agencies to do master LID planning in SMMs. Evaluate suitability LIDs best for different settings and conditions.



Wetlands protection and restoration	Restore Ballona Wetlands. Conduct and complete feasibility study, baseline monitoring, and EIR/EIS. Secure funding source for Phase I restoration. (Objective 7.1)	Ballona Wetlands feasibility study and baseline monitoring completed. EIR/EIS process is ongoing.	Update existing milestones to reflect the latest restoration planning status. Complete Ballona EIR/EIS process. Develop and implement long-term monitoring plan. Continue to raise funds for implementation of the preferred restoration alternative.
	Fully implement the restoration plan for Malibu Lagoon. Acquire and restore additional lands surrounding the Lagoon and along the lower Malibu Creek. (Objective 7.2)	Malibu Lagoon restoration is near completion.	Shift focus to post-restoration monitoring & maintenance for Malibu Lagoon.
Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) monitoring and management	Conduct and complete data gap analysis and monitoring for MPA. Complete the state MLPA process and establish an MPA network in the Southern California Bight by 2011. (Objective 4.2)	Two MPAs were established in Santa Monica Bay. State initiated a monitoring program of the new MPAs since 2011 for the next five years. The SMBRC is conducting Lighthawk flight surveys of fishing activities in and out of MPAs and contributing to subtidal SCUBA based biological monitoring of MPAs.	Shift focus to monitoring and enforcement of established MPAs. Incorporate into BRP the Lighthawk survey and long-term habitat surveys. Participate in future MPA assessment and promote an adaptive MPA management strategy.
Fishery Management and sustainable seafood (Objective 4.3)	Develop reliable population estimates for fish and invertebrate species with heavy fishing pressures. Develop reliable assessment of recreational fishing effort. Prioritize and establish fishery management plans (FMPs) for key fish species of concern. Establish more stringent restriction on collection of native species. (Objective 4.3)	SMBRC has conducted several research projects helping recovery of fish species important to local fishery. SMBRC also initiated outreach to local fishermen.	Significantly expand the work in this area by promoting programs to increase the supply of healthy local sustainable seafood and promote involvement of local fisherman in fishery management issues. Also, evaluate and create programs to develop sustainable healthy aquaculture options for seafood.

Climate Change Adaptation (Objective 4.5)	Develop maps projecting impacts of sea level rise in Santa Monica Bay and compile information and develop white papers on potential impacts of global warming and adaptive strategies.	The SMBRC completed a study of the climate change impacts on restoration of coastal wetlands using Ballona as a case study. SMBRC has also been participating local climate change adaptation initiatives such those by LARC and IRWMP and hosted/co-hosted information exchange forums.	Significantly expand the work in this area and shift focus to facilitating collaboration in vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning. Work with LARC and other regional effort to facilitate development of climate change adaptation plan by coastal cities along the Bay. Promote adaptation strategies using "soft solutions."
Storm water pollution source control (including strategy for plastic ban and other trash and runoff reduction measures)	Enact and enforce residential and commercial runoff bans through improved information exchange, education, and audits of watering regimes and equipment. Enforce local prohibitions on dry-weather runoff. (Objective 1.7)	SMBRC sponsored LID workshop and provided grant to water conservation project. Some local agencies such as LVMWD has done audit of water use within the district. Dry-weather runoff prohibitions are required under MS4 permit and are in place in many municipalities in the watershed.	Continue to facilitate enforcement of dry-weather runoff prohibitions with more emphasis in promoting good housekeeping practices for conserving water.
	Restrict the use of disposable plastics by adopting bans or establish fees on plastic fast-food containers and plastic bags at all retail stores.(Objective 2.2)	The state failed to pass the legislation to ban plastic bags in 2010. But several local municipalities adopted the ban.	Continue to support new state legislation and plastic bag bans enacted by watershed cities. Also, support product take back and packaging minimization programs.
	Reduce generation and discharge of trash, oil and grease, and other pollutants from commercial areas through installation of catchbasin capture devices and improved trash cans design, placement, and pick-up in high-trash areas. Install cigarette butt receptacles in front of all restaurants and bars. Expand the restaurant certification program to include all watershed municipalities. (Objective 2.5)	The County and cities in the watershed have installed thousands of catch basin screens/inserts. Restaurant certification program has expanded to seven cities: Manhattan Beach, Torrance, Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Malibu, Santa Monica, Rancho Palos Verdes and more restaurants.	Continue to support installation of more storm drain pollutant capture devices but put more emphasis on source reduction measures and more effort in expanding the restaurant certification program and increasing value of the program to restaurants and to customers.

Regional funding mechanism for storm water quality improvement	Complete a feasibility study of a county-wide property assessment. Identify other financing mechanisms. Implement a funding mechanism, e.g. property assessment. (Objective 1.6)	The proposed County-wide funding measure was not put on the Ballot in 2013 as originally planned. It will be reworked and set for vote in a future date, possibly in 2014.	Explore new strategies and continue to support municipalities and agencies in developing reliable, long-term funding mechanisms.
Rocky reef/kelp habitat restoration (including reuse of Rindge Dam material)	Restore two acres of kelp habitat by 2009 and restore five acres of kelp habitat by 2012. (Objective 9.1)	Kelp restoration acreage targets in existing BRP were exceeded through work done over the last five years. New urchin removal project funded by MSRP is initiated this year and will result in more acres of restoration. The use of boulders from Rindge Dam removal for rocky reef restoration was proposed and being reviewed under the Rindge Dam removal feasibility study.	Set new target and expand the existing program to restore more kelp habitat through urchin removal. Also, develop a new project to use reusable materials (e.g. from Rindge dam removal) for rocky reef restoration.
Beneficial use and management of natural sediment (including beach nourishment) (new)	n/a (New)	The Los Angeles County Flood Control District is in the process of developing a long-term strategic sediment management plan for the Region. A multi-federal and state agency workgroup is developing a state coastal sediment master plan and regional coastal sediment management plans including one for the Los Angeles County.	Add new objective/milestones to address this important but overlooked issue. Promote new policy and strategies for keeping sediment in the natural system for protecting waterways, floodplains, beaches and reefs. Promote implementation of studies and pilot projects for restoring natural sediment transport process.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission
Watershed Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Dockweiler Youth Center, Playa del Rey

Summary of Comments on the Bay Restoration Plan

Main overarching and cross-cutting comments

- **Facilitate and enhance coordination, information exchange, and spreading ideas among agencies and stakeholders.**
- **Integrate the goals and objectives of the BRP with that of partner public agencies and show how what the SMBRC and partner public agencies are mutually beneficial.**
- **Implement outreach and education campaign about the work being done in the Bay Restoration Plan and partner organizations. Engage in more types of media and communicate with simple more effective messages.**
- **Conduct more education on the value of the natural resources in the Bay and the Bay watershed to users and the general public, especially intersection of science, cost, benefits to humans, and why the public should care. Make the SMBRC the repository of unbiased, accurate public knowledge base for the watershed, water quality, etc.**
- **Assess impact of emerging issues such as fracking, ocean acidification, outcome of MPAs, and continued monitoring of ground water.**

SECTION 1. WATER QUALITY

RECOMMENDED NEW GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

- Improve water quality through enhanced coordination and implementation among regional partners to maximize regulatory compliance and encourage information exchange.
- Strengthen and improve our knowledge of contaminants that drive impact to ecosystems in the Bay for improved policy development.
- Improve understanding of water quality by conducting more ground water monitoring and hydrology studies.
- Encourage more studies on understanding the impact of natural oil seepage and investigate the use of recovery programs by oil companies.
- Facilitate and promote monitoring effort to understand local acidification impacts and establish baseline information.
- Support and facilitate policies that identify acceptable numerical limits for brine disposal generated by wastewater treatment.

RECOMMENDED NEW AND REVISED MILESTONES:

Revised and new milestones under Goal #1, Improve water quality through treatment or elimination of pollutant discharges regulated under the current federal and state regulatory framework:

Milestone 1.1b. Conduct more comprehensive assessment of TMDL compliance and next steps for L.A. County and watershed cities.

Milestone 1.2a. Move toward action and not just monitoring and expand study area.

Milestone 1.2b. Add benthic macroinvertebrate to Malibu Creek TMDL.

Milestone 1.2b. Give input on implementation plan of Malibu nutrient TMDL

Milestone 1.3c. Participate and support State Water Resources Control Board with desalination policy development and assessment of local desalination proposals.

Milestone 1.5a & b. Shift priority from SUSMP to LID. Prioritize LID concept by encouraging cities to implement LID ordinances and review city code conflicts.

Milestone 1.6. Support Clean Water and Clean Beaches Initiative with outreach and education for county measure.

Milestone 1.7c. Enforce local prohibitions on dry-weather runoff.

New Milestone 1.Xx. Participate and support policy and legislation to change brake pad composition.

Revised and new milestones under Goal #2, Improve water quality through pollution prevention and source control

Milestone 2.2a. Support all coastal cities to enact plastic bag bans, product take back programs, corporate sponsorship, and minimizing packaging.

SECTION 2. NATURAL RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED NEW AND REVISED MILESTONES:

Revised milestones under Goal #4, Create/support policies and programs to protect natural resources:

Milestone 4.1a. Identify constraints to adoption of stream protection ordinances and policies.

Milestone 4.2b. Monitor Fukushima fall-out and debris. Need to identify data gaps and continue monitoring for informing adaptive management of Marine Protected Areas.

Milestone 4.2d. Change "Develop" to "Continue" monitoring for MPAs in the Bay and south coast network.

Milestone 4.3a. Include cumulative impacts such as habitat and pollution inputs in population assessments.

Milestone 4.3b. Promote more outreach to and involvement by fishermen regarding fishery management issues.

Milestone 4.3c. Clarify species of concern vs. endangered species which are already managed. Add lobster fishery management development by name.

Milestone 4.5b. Climate change is the central theme throughout the plan and should be highlighted. Assess the impacts and the need for change of human elements such as flood control practice. Encourage SMBRC participation in local climate change groups and development of state-wide climate change policy. Promote "soft solutions" as opposed to armoring. Promote establishment of buffer zones.

Milestone 4.6. Study the impacts of increasing agricultural use and vineyards in SMM and Malibu watershed.

Milestone 4.7a. Add new commitment to participate in Bight 13 regional survey.

Revised and new milestone under Goal #5, Acquire land for preservation of habitat and ecological services:

Milestone 5.2a. Assess land use changes and new land use patterns emerging that may alter prioritized properties for purchase in Ballona Creek Watershed. Identify and prioritize opportunities for acquisition of land parcels surrounding the Ballona Wetlands.

NEW Milestone 5.2a. Track and create acquisition database of parcels throughout Santa Monica Watershed for ecological functions, project leads, benefits to acquisition, constraints, etc.

Revised and new milestones under Goal #6, Manage Invasive Species:

Milestone 6.2b. Address the impact of feral cats on wildlife. Include projects related to control of marine invasive species.

Milestone 6.4. Develop and encourage watershed cities to adopt a policy against planting ice plants. Stop selling ice plant and other nonnative in local nurseries.

Milestone 6.5a. Clarify locations for riparian invasive species removal and native revegetation programs on 20 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Milestone 6.5b. Clarify locations invasive species removal and revegetation on 20 acres of coastal bluffs and dunes.

NEW Milestone 6.5x. Develop implementation strategy and outreach/education program to address fishing line and hook and cigarette butt debris along Ballona Creek.

NEW Milestone 6.5x. Fund invasive species removal in LAX and El Segundo dunes and plant native erosion control plants.

Revised milestones under Goal #8, Restore coastal bluffs, dunes, and sandy beaches:

Milestone 8.1b. Fund and conduct wildlife biodiversity and abundance survey in LAX El Segundo Dunes and ESB Reserve. Develop conceptual plan for nature center trails and volunteer and user amenities and programs in El Segundo Dunes. Replant bluff west of LAX El Segundo Dunes with native plants to address erosion and remove invasive species.

Milestone 8.2b. Reduce impacts of climate change through reducing beach hardening (ex. Broad Beach). Involve all beach cities, not just DBH in implementing best beach management practices. Map the impacts of the new sediment management plan on managed and non-managed beaches.

Revised milestone under Goal #9, Restore intertidal and subtidal habitats:

Milestone 9.1ab. Use reusable materials for reef creation. Take Rindge Dam sediment or old concrete rubble to create reef and reduce landfill.

SECTION 3. BENEFIT AND VALUES TO HUMANS

RECOMMENDED NEW GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Foster partnerships and coordinate an interagency committee to implement outreach and education campaign regarding mission and work of SMBRF and partners, and relay how humans benefit from improved ecological health.
- Conduct more public education/outreach to help people see big picture of how their choices affect things and what they should value (naturally). Demonstrate watershed connectivity. Demonstrate the benefits and values of natural habitats to people by showcase good vs. bad habitats.
- Conduct more public events and project in Ballona Creek similar to what have been done in Los Angeles River. Coordinate with County and the cities to create annual event like BC kayak , Earth Day celebration, and/or Adopt-a-Creek program with groups coming together to clean up creek.
- Promote water conservation by developing an outreach and education mechanisms for understanding the intersection of water use, supply, cost, energy, and the environment.
- Increase knowledge on fracking (i.e. public perception, evidence of harm/detriment/benefit).
- Expand the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies. Develop more collaboration with local universities. Look for and raise fund from potential donors.

RECOMMENDED NEW AND REVISED MILESTONES:

Revised and new milestones under Goal #13, Increase public access to beaches and open space:

Milestone 13.1a. Focus land acquisition on coastal access, buffer zones (15-20 acres of proposed Playa Vista Phase 2 site; end of Pacific Ave, near Del Rey Lagoon), and for additional parking.

New Milestone 13.4x. Implement more beach replenishment for areas lacking of beach sand. Increase year-round beach use opportunities.

New Milestone 13.4x. Focus acquisition of land that can provide more beach access and parking.