

**Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Watershed Advisory Council  
Meeting  
March 19, 2014**

**Summary of Comments and Suggestions**

**General**

- WAC should meet more frequently and identify committees to work on specific tasks.

**State of the Bay Report**

- The habitat condition graphics are very helpful but should be more quantitative.
- Look at and report on longer trends beyond a 5 year period when possible.
- There should be an Accomplishment section, especially the establishment of MPAs should be celebrated.
- The report should be more general instead of marine-centric.
- Include more discussion on implementation status of TMDLs, including the toxic TMDL for Marina del Rey and how it is linked with the boating community.
- Highlight the pre and post monitoring results of Malibu Lagoon.
- Newer science should be incorporated into the assessment and report such as research done on historical wetlands.
- Include and discussion on the set of restoration alternatives for Ballona Wetlands.
- Report on more non-marine species including the California red legged frog and steelhead in the Species Conservation section.
- Report on status of California Gnatcatcher in local dunes and the Tidewater Goby.
- Develop and include a list of top-five invasive species.
- Include a map showing areas within the watershed preserved through acquisition as well as areas lost to development.
- Report on the status of the State and cities in promoting LIDs through enacting new laws and regulations.
- Show and discuss preliminary data from MPA implementation and monitoring.
- Place more emphasis on harmful algal blooms.
- Growth of agriculture in the North Bay watershed and mudsnails should be included in the Threats section.
- Climate change discussion should focus on the present, instead of “looking ahead” like in the 2010 plan.
- Discuss potential alternative sources of water supply – including desalination, the impacts of its intake and brine discharge on marine life.
- Discuss the trend and impacts of more infiltration projects as they are now a part of building codes and will make a big difference in water resource management.
- Discuss the issue of regulations for reclaimed water uses as reclaimed water is drinking water quality but not allowed to be used for applicable purposes.
- Make the TAC and the review process for the State of the Bay report more often to the public.

## **Work Plan**

### **1. Water Resources and Quality Improvement**

- Encourage our stakeholders to participate in the municipal storm water permit NPDES process, to help develop project ideas and locations under EWMP.
- Working with various groups for new funding mechanisms to comply with TMDL requirement.
- Oxford Basin should be restored as it is vital to the health and well-being of the area and is an opportunity for freshwater flushing and an adjunct for existing fish nurseries.
- Support copper TMDL for Marina del Rey.
- More emphasis on LIDs for retrofitting existing buildings instead of new developments.
- Install more tree wells instead of trees because they use a lot of irrigated water.
- Bond funding should be made available for other options (such as mechanical diversion) besides infiltration types of projects.
- Promote application of DNA analysis to TMDL to identify human or avian sources of bacteria and their health risk to swimmers.
- Address the mismatch between nitrogen-level requirements in storm water and drinking water standards in Palos Verdes area.
- Provide more incentive to get cities to ban Styrofoam, bags and smoking to comply with trash TMDL.
- Staff should spend more time on hands-on work versus issues with low pay-off such as climate change.

### **2. Wetland and Coastal Habitat Restoration**

- More recognition that MDR is a vital part of fish nurseries and work to close at least the back area to fishing.
- Put more emphasis on assessing the impacts of invasives on stream habitats rather than just their presence/absences. More coordination for outreach on invasives control and have crayfish added to the 303D list or banned as bait.
- A group should be formed for interested parties to discuss Ballona Wetlands restoration.
- Recommend that SMBRC be removed from participating Ballona Wetlands restoration planning because there are too many errors in the process.

### **3. Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration**

- Expand kelp restoration sites within the Bay and address the concern (altered wave pattern) of constructing artificial reef using dam demolition materials.
- Should work on implementation of protection plan for halibut and white sea bass instead of lobsters.
- More work should be done to understand why Algae bloom is occurring.
- Work with municipal communities on Palos Verdes Peninsula on the impacts of wasting disease on local starfish population.

- More work should be done to address the huge amount of sediment that rain causes and its effects on the tide pools on the PV Peninsula. Also, work to find more ways to discourage people taking tide pool species including hiring a ranger in the Abalone Cove area.
- Develop a wildlife taskforce to alert the community(-ies) about the risks of species loss, and be a way to stop small, regional disasters.
- More work should be done to investigate sediment movement and beach enhancement and reduce coastal armoring in the Bay.

#### **4. Public Education and Outreach**

- Engage school boards and develop outreach for curriculum for infiltration alternatives. One suggestion is to pick three smaller school districts (for example starting with Culver City) and progress to a larger State program after.
- Facilitate and coordinate curriculum development for watershed education.
- Partner with more organizations for outreach events in the Ballona Wetlands. Get more high schools on tours to sample and monitor.
- Solicit cities to contribute to PIE Funding as PIE participation help them to comply with the storm water permits.
- Opposing points of view and conflicts should be included in publications such as *Urban Coast*.

#### **5. Planning, Monitoring, and Research**

- Support more comprehensive monitoring. Bring more NGOs to participate in the comprehensive monitoring program instead of just the governmental entities.
- Establish working relationship with beach managers and develop mechanisms to make them be part of the managing/monitoring process for offshore habitats, intertidal beaches, etc. which are often missed by water monitoring agencies.
- Develop and participate comprehensive monitoring of runoff pollution by watershed cities to help assess TMDL compliance.