



# bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4<sup>th</sup> street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013  
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## THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY

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### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Dan Pondella called the meeting to order on April 23, 2012 at 1:00pm. The meeting was held online via Citrix Go To Meeting. Members of the public were invited to join staff at 1 LMU Drive, Pereira Annex, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Lia read through the list of participants.

#### *MRAC Members*

Dr. Dan Pondella (Chair)	Present (on phone)
Gerald McGowen (Vice-chair)	Absent
Dr. Jim Allen	Absent
Dr. Rich Ambrose	Absent
Dr. Ana Pitchon	Absent
Shelley Walther	Present (on phone)

#### *Ad Hoc Members*

Christine Whitman	Present (on phone)
Larry Simon	Present (on phone)

#### *Staff Present*

Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director (on phone)  
Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager (on phone and at location)  
Letise LaFeir (on phone)

#### *Members of the Public*

Adam Obaza, NOAA (on phone)  
Charlynn Rachell, DWP (on phone)  
Eric Miller, MBC (on phone)  
Jack Malone, Anchor QEA (on phone)  
Kat Prickett, Port of Los Angeles (on phone)

### AGENDA ITEM 1. Review and Discussion of Draft White Paper

Lia updated the group on changes to the timeline. The new goal is to have a draft Literature Review ready for the May meeting, and a draft White Paper in June or July. Lia walked through the outline of the relevant information collected from the literature and then asked for feedback from the group on a few points.

#### *Discussion*

The MRAC suggested including water purification, sediment deposition, protective buffer, and carbon sequestration (as it pertains to energy flow) in the functions considered in the literature review. They acknowledged that there are several functions on the list that involve utilization, and emphasized the need to focus on non-traditional, long-term functions and linkages and the new ecosystem created. They identified an inherent challenge with this project in that at some level the services and linkages are site specific, but to be useful, the white paper needs to be general. The group thought the list of habitats was good and agreed with the conclusions. They discussed direction for the white

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paper and how quantitative it should be. While suggestions about how the analysis can be quantified should be included, the White Paper should not go so far as to do the quantitative analysis. This would be too site specific. Larry pointed out that the Coastal Commission does not use quantitative methods because the inconsistency in available data deemphasizes important components of an ecosystem because they have not been studied.

The group gave Letise feedback on the species list, particularly on how species studied in other regions relate to southern California wetlands.

## *Public Comment*

Eric thought the Huntington Beach generating stations developed some methods to compare mid-water to wetland habitat.

Kat agreed with the conclusions of the literature review as presented but was concerned with the goal of providing a quantitative analysis in the white paper, as this is what an Interagency Review Team would do. Rather, the Port of LA are hoping for literature-based scientific support for a decision to credit areas higher in the salt marsh.

Adam supported Kat's comment and added that NOAA is looking for a way to justify mitigation agreements that include entire coastal wetland ecosystems, not just the intertidal portion.

## AGENDA ITEM 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

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.

Eric Miller asked that the SMBRC consider making GoToMeeting and option for public participation at all meetings.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

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