



# 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  
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax santamonicabay.org

## MEETING OF THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Contact: Lia Protopapadakis (310-216-9826)

Thursday, September 2, 2010  
9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
Loyola Marymount University, Bird Nest (map included)

Note: *Public comments are italicized*

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Rich convened the meeting at 9:45am. Round-table introductions followed.

#### **Announcement** - Ballona Symposium, Karina Johnston

Karina announced that SMBRC will be holding a Ballona Symposium in December and asked for speaker and topic suggestions from the TAC. The goal of the symposium is to connect restoration science to the research and monitoring being done at Ballona.

Steve noted that the City of Los Angeles's upcoming public meeting on 9/21 to give an update on the City's work to develop TMDL implementation plans for the Ballona Creek Watershed, may be a good source of ideas.

Mas added that the City has been monitoring Ballona and the Lagoon for many years and may be worth talking to.

### 2. Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes

The TAC approved the minutes with a few minor corrections and a caveat that staff give the presenters at the last meeting an opportunity to edit the short summaries of their talks before they are published on the website.

### 3. Chair and Staff Reports

Rich briefly discussed his recent trip to Australia. He was in the northern territories and noted that their wetlands are very different from the wetlands we have here. They are more closely related to the wetlands in the Gulf Coast. He recalled from a previous trip, that the wetlands in New South Whales are more similar to our wetlands.

#### MRAC Report

Dan announced that AB 2503, the Rigs to Reefs bill is not past the California Senate. To his knowledge, they have only made one change: Now the savings will be split 55:45 for initial decommissioning and 85:15 for later decommissioning. This may result in a maximum of \$500 million in revenue for the Ocean Protection Council and the Coastal Commission. Rich

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noted that the OPC's Science Advisory Team feels that they have not been used effectively. They only provide reviews, which are not necessarily integrated into the decision making. Now, they will be involved in the upcoming strategic planning. Hopefully this will improve the funding process and improve the projects being funded.

The MRAC has identified that they are missing expertise in oceanography and requested that the TAC consider appointing someone with this expertise permanently or temporarily, and give recommendations for who that person may be. The TAC agreed and Burt offered to participate on a Ad Hoc basis. The question of a permanent oceanographic seat will be re-evaluated later.

The MPA Monitoring Plan development is moving along. The Monitoring Enterprise has had three public meetings and two science meetings to date. At the science meetings, they focused on statewide metrics and how to assess ecosystem health. Questions directly related to management decisions were dodged. The direction they appear to be heading in is to monitor ecosystem health indicators and put these on a gradient (like the Trophic Guilds). Mas wondered how they would sum up the different scores for different indicators.

Dan announced that the MRAC has a new member, Dr. Ana Pitchon, a Cultural Anthropologist at Cal State University Dominguez Hills. The MRAC is working on comments for the Monitoring Plan and SMBRC's potential Baseline Monitoring Proposal.

## Staff Report

Rich was unable to attend the August Governing Board meeting, so Guangyu gave that report. SMBRC's boater education program is going to be working state-wide to reduce boat-based water pollution in coordination with the California State Department of Boating and Waterways. West Basin MWD, LA County Waterworks, and Los Virgenes MWD presented on their very successful conservation efforts. SMBRC partners are holding a Rainwater Harvesting symposium on October 13<sup>th</sup> for municipalities.

Lia noted that Proposition 21 on the November ballot would add a fee to vehicle license plates. The money would fund the OPC and DFG.

Lia identified a conflict with the December TAC meeting. She will post a doodle poll to reschedule the December meeting. Lia suggested that she will only schedule meetings 6 months out because of the academic calendar. The TAC thought that they would have their schedules for March and June by October or November, and their schedules for September and December by July.

## MPAs – Standing Item

Mas wondered if SCCWRP was coordinating at all with the MPA Monitoring Enterprise. Steve responded that there was no outward communication between the groups.

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Rich noted that for the Baseline Monitoring in the North Central Coast, not all pieces will be monitored.

How can SMBRC best participate and be involved in this process? Mas suggested holding an agency coordination workshop to discuss approaches, discuss questions, and determine metrics. Lia wondered if it would be better to submit one umbrella proposal or smaller, individual proposals. Burt thought that if SMBRC submitted an umbrella proposal, we would be taking on a larger leadership role. He added that if we submitted a complete proposal, it would force them to consider the question. Rich wondered how SMBRC staff would find the time to do the coordination. Steve thought that the argument for why SMBRC would want to take on a Regional project was unclear and suggested that we consider a local proposal. Guangyu countered that there are a few reasons we would take our work regional. One is that we are concerned that the RFP will be too ad hoc and may not cover MPAs in our region. The other is that our strengths are for coordination and administrative support. No other organization has the strength, except SCCWRP, and the willingness to provide the service. Finally, we are the only group that has funded socioeconomic studies for non-consumptive users and feel strongly that this should continue. Burt noted that a tight-knit effort would be difficult.

Steve suggested that if we are serious about our intentions, then we should try to influence the planning process. Find pressure points, write a letter, comment on the draft metrics, hold a joint meeting to discuss a better plan for the RFP, invite Cal Sea Grant, OPC, and OST. Dana questioned whether a letter would be listened to.

The TAC recommended that staff try to arrange a meeting with the Monitoring Enterprise to discuss our areas of concern and some specific ideas to fix them, without putting them on the defensive, before writing a letter.

*Dana suggested that we consider how we would design a monitoring project and then base all communication on these ideas.*

#### **4. Discussion:** Improving the analysis for the State of the Bay 2015 Report (Natural Resources, continued from last meeting)

The TAC identified that criteria for selecting stories for the Looking Ahead section should be based on the amount of detailed data, and the newness of the issue. They recommended that the stories on Harmful Algal Blooms and Containments of Emerging Concern be moved to the main report.

Steve noted that SMBRC could update the contaminants list in the Bay Restoration Plan. He suggested this be put on the TAC agenda in relation to new NPDES permits.





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Mas suggested tagging chapters with the names of TAC members we expect to write the stories so that the staff really just needs to coordinate the writing 1-2 years from now.

New stories suggested are:

- Hypoxia
- Artificial reefs
- Aquaculture (pacific lobster, abalone)/Sustainable Seafood
- Chevron Terminal/ Oil spill response
- Marine Spatial Planning/Ocean management policies
- Update notes on policies such as bag bans, once-through-cooling, and rigs to reefs
- Brine disposal from reclamation and desalination
- Wet weather contamination of stormdrains
- Bacterial source tracking
- Rapid indicator use (article) next generation
- Predicting challenges – related to topics previously discussed. For example: why do *P. nitzschia* produce domoic acid only some of the time? (The TAC recommended we discuss this in more detail at a later date, when the contents of the Report are more fleshed out.)

Steve mentioned that SCCWRP will be producing a summary report on the effectiveness of the Clean Water Act. He thought that it would be a great source of data.

## 5. Discussion: Index development and improved analysis of Habitat Conditions

In the interest of time, the TAC agreed to discuss this item at the next meeting.

## 6. Communications (Members may discuss correspondence or other Committee responsibilities)

Mas reported that the Daily Breeze had just ran an article claiming that with the reduction in state funding for water quality testing at beaches, sites in the Los Angeles area were monitored less. He clarified that testing at Cabrillo Beach is down, but by less than 2% and due to an agreement between the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Heal the Bay allowing a reduction in monitoring frequency at “A” beaches in exchange for more frequent monitoring at additional and problematic beaches. Overall frequency of beach monitoring remains essentially the same in the Santa Monica Bay and at Cabrillo Beach. Also the increase in beach closures at Cabrillo is related to construction closures not exceedances. However, Santa Barbara, Orange County, and San Diego County beach water testing is funded by the State, but in Los Angeles County, it is funded by the POTWs.

*Dana commented that she had heard that Malibu Surfside News was publishing anti-MPA and anti-Malibu Lagoon restoration letters. She also recommended that we consider a new story in the State of the Bay Report on Sea Otters and their distribution. Rich noted that currently they are more common on the Santa Barbara Coast.*





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- 7. **Public Comment** (This need not be related to any item on the agenda. Remarks are limited to three (3) minutes). Public Comment was taken throughout the meeting, in the course of discussion.
- 8. **Adjourn** – Rich adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm

## Attendance

	<u>TAC Members</u>	<u>Staff Members</u>	<u>Public Participants</u>
x	Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Lia Protopapadakis	Dana Murray (HtB)
x	Steve Bay (Vice-chair)	Guangyu Wang	
	Dave Caron		
	Rainer Hoenicke		
x	Mas Dojiri		
	Linda Fernandez		
	Jenny Jay		
x	Burt Jones		
	Karen Martin		
x	Dan Pondella		

