



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

Chairman Ambrose called the meeting to order on December 14, 2012 at 9:40am at Loyola Marymount University, Malone 460C (The Hill), Los Angeles, CA. Round robin introductions followed.

TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Present
Steve Bay (Vice Chair)	Absent
Mas Dojiri	Present
John Dorsey	Present
Rainer Hoenicke	Present
Karen Martin	Absent
Dan Pondella	Absent

Staff Present

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

Members of the Public

Bob Godfrey, MDRA	Joe Gully, LACSD
Ken Kurtis, Reef Seekers	Susie Santilena, Heal the Bay
Eric Miller, MBC	Dana Murray, Heal the Bay

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.

Three members of the public submitted comment cards.

Ken Susilo on behalf of Reef Seekers & Susie Santilena, Heal the Bay (ceded time). In the fall of 2012, the Army Corps of Engineers dredged the entrance to Marina Del Rey. Sediments approved for use on beaches was deposited on the beach and just offshore of Redondo Beach as a beach nourishment project. Ken played a video showing the debris field and cleanup effort at Veteran's Park, Redondo Beach. The debris field extends from just south of the pier to the Topaz St. jetty. Reef Seekers, Heal the Bay, and others are concerned about the amount of debris covering the area. There are concerns that the Army Corps didn't take the proper steps to notify the public and didn't take proper precautions (divers who frequent the site were not notified, no observations underwater as fill being placed, no filter for sand going offshore). Does the TAC have any recommendations for mitigation and for future monitoring? A brief discussion followed in which the TAC noted that there were two issues: 1) what to do with the Trash and 2) how to prevent this from happening

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again. Regarding the second point, members of the TAC believed that it would be possible for the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to include dredge spoils as a possible source of trash in the Zero Trash TMDL for the Santa Monica Bay. They also suggested that staff put this on the Governing Board Agenda.

Bob Godfrey. The club has been concerned with the depletion of finfish in the Santa Monica Bay and believes this is in part due to a lack of nursery area. They believe that this can be found at Ballona and in Marina Del Rey, but think the plans to realign the Ballona creek will only work as a nursery if the water is deep enough and right now, the proposals appear to be too shallow.

AGENDA ITEM 3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3a. Order of the Agenda. *Item 3b moved to end of meeting. No other changes.*

3b. Approval of Meeting Minutes. *Approved, no changes.*

3c. Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

Chair Report. Rich Ambrose reported that he attended the 2nd MPA Monitoring Enterprise (MME) meeting on Expert Judgment. They are working on "Best Practices" for incorporating expert judgment into habitat assessments. They will start with kelp forest communities because these have the most data. He recommended that staff follow up with MME about their lessons learned.

At the OPC TAC meeting, the main topic was acidification and low dissolved oxygen, which we should consider adding to the State of the Bay Report. SCCWRP recently held a meeting on the topic. There is interest in conducting a spatially explicit assessment for California. Rainer commented that there are local "knobs" to be turned, such as nutrient inputs and discharges.

MRAC Report. Lia gave the report for Dan. The MRAC reviewed a draft presentation on Fishing in Santa Monica Bay; the TAC will be reviewing the revised draft later today. The MRAC continues to work on the Wetland White Paper; the TAC will also be receiving an update on that project later today as well.

Staff Report. Lia told the TAC she was planning on working on the indicator development workshops for the habitat health assessment starting in January.

The Malibu Lagoon restoration project is very nearly complete. The subtidal work is done and the barriers are out. The lagoon breached last week. Planting is occurring.

Tom reported some findings from our abalone project; we are seeing pinks and they appear to be exhibiting some recruitment. Unfortunately this is not the case for the greens. We have results on a population genetics study for green abalone and are working with NOAA to test a new, in-situ method for testing RLP (the bacteria that leads to withering syndrome).

The kelp project is still waiting on collection permits. In the meantime we are conducting baseline monitoring for fine-scale progress monitoring. Rich mentioned that he is now participating in an OPC sponsored subcommittee addressing scientific collection within MPAs. DFW would like to establish scientific research permits for the MPA areas.

Lia reported that 2013 will mark the 25th anniversary of the SMBRC; more information about how we are celebrating will follow.

Guangyu reported that SMBRC is also working to update the Bay Restoration Plan and we will get input from the TAC at the March meeting.

Guangyu sits on the Palos Verdes Superfund Site Information Exchange Group. The EPA has an update from their sediment monitoring and found that the DDT levels are very low compared with expectations and now they are reconsidering the idea of capping the site at all.

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Public Comment. (No cards, taken in the course of discussion)

Joe Gully added to the discussion on ocean acidification, saying that one of the Bight '13 working groups is likely going to be looking into the links between nutrients, dissolved oxygen, and acidification. LA County Sanitation District and the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation will be asking what the impacts would be on dissolved oxygen, dissolved CO₂ (a proxy for acidification) under a worst case scenario, i.e., if all nutrients were taken up by algae using historical data.

Eric Miller commented that RLP came from an abalone outplanting attempt that was done poorly. He added that the urchin barrens within the Abalone Cove MPA were not restored, this would act as an interesting control site to see how fast the area would recover just through trophic controls.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Presentation: Update on Wetland White Paper

Lia described the progress being made on the Wetland White Paper. There are three major sections: Introduction & Background, Literature Review, and Recommendations. The MRAC has made the most progress on the Introduction and the Literature Review. Once those are complete (but not necessarily final) they will start working on the Recommendations for metrics that can be used to measure the functions and linkages described in the Literature Review.

Discussion. Rainer noted that the State Water Board just released a draft proposal for a "Wetland Area Protection and Dredged or Fill Permitting Policy".

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

Joe Gully asked whether the recommendations would go so far as to get at numerical values. The answer is no.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Presentation: Aerial Monitoring of Ocean Vessels in Southern California

Tom presented preliminary results from the aerial survey work SMBRF has been doing in partnership with LightHawk and the Los Angeles Waterkeeper. A total of 30 surveys were flown from 1-19-2009 through 6-29-2012 and recorded a total of 3,666 vessels. The density of boats operating south of Los Angeles is significantly greater than the density of boats operating to the north; boating activity is down in 2012 compared to prior years; and in relation to MPAs, recreational fishing sectors are demonstrating greater non-compliance with the new MPAs than commercial fishing sectors. In addition to the analyses of compliance with the new MPA regulations, this information will be very useful in monitoring and adaptive management of this network.

Discussion. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is interested in using this dataset to help them target their enforcement efforts. Examples of other uses include informing the EPA's institutional controls for the PV superfund site or fishery management.

Public Comment. None.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Review and Feedback on Presentation: The Status of Fishing in Santa Monica Bay

Lia gave her draft presentation on the status of fishing in the Santa Monica Bay. The purpose of this item is to receive feedback prior to giving the presentation at the Governing Board meeting later in December. The presentation looks at the economic picture; the species that are caught and where; commercial regulations specific to the Santa Monica Bay; the status of important fish stocks; and data gaps, research needs, and cumulative impacts.

Discussion. The TAC and members of the public provided valuable feedback including the following:

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- Spiny lobster are presumed sustainable, but there is no fishery independent data and poor information on the recreational fishery
- Data gaps include lost fishing gear, bycatch, pollution
- Think about whether stressor reductions are having an impact on fishing.

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 7. Discussion and Possible Action: New Members

Membership on the TAC is for a two-year term. There is no limit on the number of terms, but membership must be renewed. The TAC works with staff to nominate new members for approval by the governing board. Since 2008 the TAC has had 9-10 members. Currently the TAC is operating with 7. In particular, staff recommends adding 2-4 new members, with expertise in fields such as freshwater ecology, oceanography, hydrology, public health, and shoreline and coastal geology, to round out the existing expertise. Staff recommends the TAC nominate Dr. Eric Stein, now, for his expertise in freshwater biology and in-stream water quality and hydromodification.

Discussion. With a quorum (4/7) the TAC nominated Eric Stein to be the newest member.

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM 8. Meeting Dates for March and June of 2013

Lia will send around a doodle poll to pick dates for the March and June meetings.

Discussion. TAC members offered days which they are more likely to be available.

Public Comment. Public comment was taken in the course of the discussion.

3d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*)

Rainer announced an opportunity for technology transfer. The San Francisco Estuary Partnership will be presenting findings from their non-point source planning grant. They predicted cumulative outcomes of green infrastructure scenarios. These results are used to prioritize green infrastructure projects.

Mas announced that SCCWRP released a 40-year retrospective on the Clean Water Act and its effectiveness. Of particular interest is a chapter on the cost and benefits. The report is available on their website and has a southern California focus. He wondered if this was an item for the Governing Board. He also announced that in 2014, Hyperion would be diverting their treated wastewater from their 5-mile outfall to their 1-mile outfall for 2-3 weeks to replace the effluent pumping plant header at the base of the outfall. The problem was identified in Nov 2006 when they diverted their treated wastewater for 3 days to inspect the internal integrity of the pipe. They will be working with Dave Caron to time the diversion to avoid the peak *Pseudo-nitzschia* conditions (a common harmful algal bloom species).

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is yet to be determined.

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