



# 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 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 March 28, 2013 at 9:35am at the Westchester Community Room, 7166 West Manchester Ave, Westchester, CA 90045. Round robin introductions followed.

#### *TAC Members*

Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Present
Steve Bay (Vice Chair)	Present
Mas Dojiri	Present
John Dorsey	Present
Rainer Hoenicke	Absent
Karen Martin	Present
Dan Pondella	Present (left at 11am)
Eric Stein	Present

#### *Staff Present*

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

#### *Members of the Public*

John Wolfe, Limno Tech, Inc.	Shelly Walther, LACSD
Eric Miller, MBC	Steve Santen, MDR Anglers
Barbara Cameron, City of Malibu	

### PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public comments.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- Order of the Agenda. Items 4 and 5 were moved to the end.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes. The meeting minutes were approved with minor edits submitted by Mas Dojiri.
- Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff. There were no reports from the Chair or Subcommittees.

Staff recognized Eric Stein's appointment at the last Governing Board meeting and thanked John Dorsey for representing the TAC at that meeting. Staff mentioned the presentation to the Governing Board on the status of fishing in Santa Monica Bay, the Executive Committee discussion about the Veterans Park issue, a meeting between staff and the Center for Ocean solutions regarding their report on incorporating ecological principles into State Government. Staff also relayed that the Sequestration of federal dollars will likely have a significant impact on our operating budget beginning in October 2013. Staff gave an update on the progress being made on the wetland white paper. Staff also announced that the Governing Board elected Bob Godfrey of the Marina Del Rey Anglers to be the at large member on the Governing Board and that Malibu Lagoon is now open to the public and there will be an official ribbon cutting in May. SMBRF is required to monitor the site for a year

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following the restoration and intends to find funding for more years. The TAC expressed interest in seeing the newly restored site. Staff also announced that the latest EPA study of the DDT levels on the Palos Verdes Shelf found that the levels are dramatically lower.

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

Members noted that all San Diego County lagoons are likely to be affected by the I5 and railway corridor improvement project. There is an interagency panel advising on the project, which includes North County Transportation District, US Fish and Wildlife, California Coastal Commission, Cal Trans, and San Diego County. John Dorsey is beginning a study on feral cats at White's Point in partnership with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Steve Bay mentioned that the Southern California SETAC meeting will be April 18 and 19 at Cabrillo Aquarium and will have a session on Contaminants of Emerging Concern. Eric Stein received a scientific collaborative grant with the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve to conduct restoration planning in the context of sea level rise, historical ecology, and ecosystem services model.

### *Public Comment*

Barbara Cameron noted that the lagoon breached the day before on a high tide and recommended someone keep track of these events.

Shelley Walther noted that the change in DDT levels on the Palos Verdes Shelf is not reflected in the surface sample monitoring conducted by LACSD and the Palos Verdes Shelf group is considering possible sources of error including the lab analysis and the core locations.

### AGENDA ITEM 6. Presentation and Input: Bay Restoration Plan Update (Guangyu Wang)

Guangyu gave a short presentation about the Bay Restoration Plan, the revision made in 2008, the progress made on the plan, and the remaining challenges. The plan will be updated this year. The Watershed Advisory Committee has already looked at it. The Executive Committee and Governing Board will look at in the coming months. The TAC feedback will fit in with their review and is very much desired by the Governing Board.

### *Discussion*

The TAC discussed the need to include goals and milestones related to fishing resources. Dan and Dave Caron spoke to the Redondo Beach City Council about the health of the Marina, and the fish resources. There are believed to be declines in halibut and bass and concerns about the impact that commercial seining for squid and sardines have on sport fish. These seiners may be violating the ban on commercial fishing inside the Santa Monica Bay. In general fish and wildlife enforcement needs to be improved. They noted that some issues could be added regarding the new State policies on wetlands, hydromodification, numerical endpoints for nutrients, and biological objectives for freshwater streams. Other issues that could be added include ocean acidification, localized effects of nutrient inputs, fracking, additions to the CMP, pollutants of emerging concern, public health goals, and water supply goals. The TAC expressed concern over the timeline and asked for a special meeting for their review and recommended the same for the Governing Board. Staff agreed to schedule a special meeting for the TAC specifically to review the Bay Restoration Plan.

*Public Comment.* Taken in the course of the discussion.

### AGENDA ITEM 7. Discussion: State of the Bay Report 2015 (Lia Protopapadakis)

Lia gave a brief overview of the last State of the Bay Report and opened the discussion up to a brainstorming session for what stories might be included in the 2015 Report.

### *Discussion*

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The TAC identified many areas where important work has been completed since 2008, which could be developed into stories. These include:

- A report on the sediment budget for Southern California
- The analysis and digitization of the t-sheets for southern California and the historical ecology report.
- Restoration of Malibu Lagoon
- Several years of monitoring data from Ballona
- Increased monitoring related to sea level rise, the OPC commissioned predictive report, and adaptation planning activities.
- The fish contamination synthesis report which also makes comparisons to other areas possible
- More data on the occurrence and impacts of Contaminants of Emerging Concern, such as the identification of toxicity in the Ballona Creek sediments, the horny head turbot at the LACSD outfall, bio accumulation of toxins in the Bay vs statewide (can also do historical perspective), toxins in bottlenose dolphin blubber.
- Development of rapid indicators for fecal coliform bacteria related to beach water quality, which may become a required method.
- The completion of an epidemiological study by SCCWRP looking at the areas worst beaches, Doheny, Avalon, and Surfrider.
- Special studies in Bight '08 and Bight '13 by Hyperion and LACSD looking at nutrients and how they relate to coastal hypoxia and harmful algal blooms.
- The impact of the recession on restoration efforts in the Santa Monica Bay.
- The development of a beach habitat health assessment
- The work done by MARINE to develop a rocky intertidal habitat health assessment
- The creation of MPAs and some monitoring.
- The recent paper on green abalone genetics in southern California
- The USFWS' termination of the Sea Otter relocation program

Possible "Looking Ahead" stories include:

- Cyanotoxins
- Climate Change and how it relates to invasive species, novel ecosystems, Marine Protected Areas, water supply, and patterns of urban runoff

## *Public Comments*

Barbara Cameron suggested doing a story on the progress that's been made on watershed planning.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Presentation: Biological Assessments and Scoring Systems in California (Eric Stein)

Eric gave a presentation on his work. Biological Assessments are integrative and closer to the end point of management. These assessments will be used in relation to the statewide bio objectives, nutrient regulation, sediment objectives, the wetland policy, and the hydromodification policy. Eric also talked about two scoring tools: one for benthic invertebrates called the California stream condition index and the other is the algae index of biotic integrity (IBI). The stream condition index is a robust ambient monitoring program of wadeable streams and includes over 2500 sites. Human impacts that effect benthic invertebrates were used to define the reference conditions. There are no reference sites in the Santa Monica Mountains because of the impacts caused by roads and trails. The algae IBI is not yet complete. It looks at diatoms and may also include soft-bodied algae and cyanobacteria. The focus is on toxin forming taxa. The reporting is integrative and multifaceted including summaries, indices of a healthy watershed, and report cards. It could also produce

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watershed vulnerability maps. The SWAMP program is actively looking at developing a report card.

## AGENDA ITEM 5. Presentation: Beach Metric Development (Karen Martin)

Karen presented her work with her coalition of researchers and managers to answer the question: What is a healthy beach? They looked at a number of factors such as: are there piers or jetties, which change the sand movement and wave action? Is there kelp offshore, which provides habitat and food for birds? Are there tire tracks, which indicate sand compaction and disturbance? Is the beach raked, which indicates it may be sterile? Are dogs allowed? How is the beach water quality? Are bluffs present? How easy is it for people to access? What activities occur? How many visitors does the beach receive? The goal is to include citizens through training programs.

### *Discussion*

Once Karen has a solid draft and the coalition has reviewed it, she will send it to the TAC for comment.

### *Public Comment*

Barbara Cameron noted that beaches are vulnerable to coastal erosion and grading increases that vulnerability and that there is a big interchange between kelp and beaches, so the investment in kelp restoration helps out the beaches too.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

The dates for the next two meetings have not been determined yet.

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