



# 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

Contact: 310-953-7149 or [lprotopapadakis@santamonica bay.org](mailto:lprotopapadakis@santamonica bay.org)

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Ambrose called the meeting to order on September 23, 2013 at 9:45am in Malone 112, Loyola Marymount University, 1 LMU Drive, 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	Absent
Dan Pondella	Absent
Eric Stein	Present

#### *Staff Present*

Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager  
Shelley Luce, Executive Director  
Victoria Ippolito, Grants and Programs Coordinator

#### *Members of the Public*

Joe Gully (LACSD)	Gerry Greene (CWC)
Bob Godfrey (SMBRC & MDRA)	Tim Pershing (ADSO)
Ana Petrlc (MRCA)	Eric Miller (MBC)

### PUBLIC FORUM

Joe Gully announced a paid internship opportunity with LACSD.

### GENERAL BUSINESS

- Order of the Agenda. Approved with no changes.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes. Approved with minor edits.
- Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff.

There was nothing to report from the Chair or Subcommittees. Shelly gave the staff report. She gave an update on the Ballona Wetlands restoration project EIS/EIR process. The EIR is being developed by consultants who report to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), paid by the State Coastal Conservancy, and managed by SMBRF. DFW has sole authority to approve the EIR. DFW has decided to select a preferred alternative after the draft EIR is complete. The range of alternatives is also being developed as new information becomes available. For this reason, the description of the alternatives being considered is not available. An additional suite of alternatives is being developed for the proposed Annenberg Center, including not having a center and alternative locations for the center. This is the main reason that the expected release of the Draft EIR has been pushed to the end of this year. SMBRF's role will be to coordinate the production of the Draft EIR and to continue

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monitoring the site. The SMBRC Governing Board is not involved.

Shelley also mentioned all the press the SMBRF has been receiving regarding the Kelp Restoration Project and discussed the method permitted by DFW to cull the urchins back to 2/m<sup>2</sup>, the monitoring being done to assess the number of urchins removed and the recovery of the kelp forest.

The SMBRF is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 17, 2013. Shelley is hoping to be able to invite all members of the TAC. The celebration is on the same day as the Governing Board meeting, which will be canceled as a result.

The BRP Update is going well. Since the October Governing Board meeting has been canceled, approval of the BRP Update is expected to take place at their December meeting. A final draft will be completed for the Executive Committee review mid-November.

- d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*). There was no member comment.

## AGENDA ITEM 4. Review Monitoring Plans for Projects Funded under Proposition 84

### *Presentation*

Gerry Greene gave an overview of the Milton Street project and the proposed monitoring plan.

### *Discussion*

After some discussion, the TAC expressed concern over the limited number of storm events being monitored, the collection method, and constituents being monitoring. The TAC recommended:

- That the monitoring plan include an empirical measurement of the total volume captured in addition to the calculation planned.
- That the number of storms sampled be increased to at least three, to better monitor performance over a variety of storm events. The TAC saw this as a higher priority than collecting multiple samples from similar sites within the same storm.
- The collection method should be reconfigured so that the sample collected is representative of the entire storm and to avoid possible problems interpreting samples once the collection bucket has overflowed. Suggestions include emptying the collection buckets throughout the storm before they overflow and combining all samples into one composite sample.
- At minimum, the following standard parameters should also be included: turbidity, specific conductance, and total suspended solids.

The TAC also noted that the question that the monitoring plan should be trying to answer is “what is the seasonal mean load reduction through the bio swales? In addition, Eric Stein offered to work with the project proponent to identify an appropriate statewide database for the monitoring data, in addition to CEDEN, which isn’t designed to accept these data.

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

## AGENDA ITEM 5. Presentation and Discussion: Testing a non-lethal method for determining sex in California halibut.

### *Presentation*

Lia gave a short presentation on the background, methods, results, and next steps of a project to determine whether veterinary ultrasound could be used by DFW to sex California halibut.

### *Discussion*

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The TAC recommended including details about the equipment used and the methods followed so that others could repeat the experiment on other fish. They suggested developing a standard reference material that the ultrasound could be calibrated to. They also suggested identifying how much training it would take to train someone to perform the assessment reliably. Rich noted that ultrasound could be used to reduce the number of fish killed when a certain number of each sex of fish is required, e.g. to meet permit requirements for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station reef mitigation project.

The TAC also expressed an interest in SMBRF's next halibut project to develop citizen science methods of collecting essential fishery information that is reliable and trustworthy.

## *Public Comment.*

Eric Miller questioned the size at maturity reference and suggested looking at the Fish Bulletin on Halibut. He also suggested comparing images between January and April for differences, to assess differences in season vs out of season. Finally, he recommended working with Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute to assess more fish that were out of season and increasingly smaller immature fish.

Bob Godfrey noted the importance of getting data to support a stock assessment and Fishery Management Plan for California halibut and was supportive of the project SMBRF is conducting in partnership with the Marina Del Rey Anglers to develop citizen science methods of collecting essential fishery information for California halibut.

## AGENDA ITEM 6. Data and Indicators for the State of the Bay Report 2015

The TAC walked through the outline for the State of the Bay Report 2015 and discussed possible sources of information for each of the stories identified. Lia will refine the outline based on the conversation and will assign stories to different TAC members based on expertise. At the next meeting, each story will be fleshed out into a paragraph that also identifies the data and indicators that will be used for illustration.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on December 17, 2013.

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