



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 June 5, 2014 at 9:45 am in Pereira 128, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, CA 90045. Round robin introductions followed.

TAC Members

Rich Ambrose (Chair)	Present
Steve Bay (Vice Chair)	Present
Mas Dojiri	Present (left at 1:45pm)
John Dorsey	Present
Rainer Hoenicke	Absent
Karen Martin	Present
Dan Pondella	Absent
Eric Stein	Present

Staff Present

Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager	Ivan Medel, Watershed Program Manager
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director	
Tom Ford, Executive Director (left at 10:15am)	

Members of the Public

Laura Nunez (MBC)

PUBLIC FORUM

None.

GENERAL BUSINESS

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

The Chair had nothing to report. Staff reported on the MRAC's progress on the Wetland White Paper. It is still relevant, although well behind the original timeline. Staff reported on the hiring of a new Executive Director and the EPA site visit and 5-year program evaluation. Guangyu also noted that the Comprehensive Monitoring Plan needs to be reviewed and possibly updated.

Karen Martin brought a student video about sea star wasting disease to show. The TAC decided to play this during the lunch break.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Presentation: Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program

Presentation. Ivan Medel gave a presentation on the Culver City Rainwater Harvesting Program. Goals are to stimulate a discussion about the related LID story in the State of the Bay Report and get some feedback on a new project that builds upon this one and will include monitoring.

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Discussion. The TAC identified several areas relating to rain barrels and rain gardens that could benefit from additional study including: the extent that rain barrels replace potable water use, the pollution removal and infiltration potential of sand vs clay soils, and reuse of water captured from a rain garden. The TAC also noted that the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition just received a grant to monitor LID infrastructure in Orange County and suggested coordinating with this group. Regarding the LID story in the State of the Bay Report, the TAC suggested writing it with an emphasis not on replacing potable water, but on how the reduction in water use and runoff leads to improved water quality downstream. They also suggested pulling data from as many LID projects as possible including: Prop 84 projects, the Santa Monica Library, the City of LA's rain barrel program and other projects, Tree People, and the Stormwater Monitoring Coalition.

Public Comment. None.

AGENDA ITEM 5. Discussion: State of the Bay Report

Discussion. Staff led a discussion about the story outline drafted by TAC members, their staff, or colleagues. General comments were given and revisions will be completed before the next meeting along with the remaining story outlines. Select specific comments are described below.

- Water Resources – Water Supply and Use – Overview (Mas Dojiri)
 - o The TAC will read this draft and decide whether this can be used as the intro to the Beach Bacteria testing story and whether a new overview should be written to discuss how conservation and infiltration measures decrease demand on water supply and also decrease runoff.
- Water Resources – Existing Water Quality Programs – Focus: Bacteria TMDL – LFDs (Mas Dojiri)
 - o This story should emphasize the shift to automated systems. Also, John Dorsey will write the companion piece on how wetlands can act as a sink for bacteria and other BMPs like rain gardens can also remove bacteria from surface water.
- Water Resources – Existing Water Quality Programs – Focus: Bacteria TMDL – Sidebar: Epidemiological study (Steve Bay & Ken Schiff)
 - o A diagram detailing the risk pathways may help the reader understand the issue better. The broader story is that better detection is moving us toward risk-based assessments of impaired water quality. Epidemiological studies are part of this. If human illness and fecal indicator bacteria are not correlated, then there is something else going on. Steve Bay will work on writing a story for the looking ahead section about new methods and a risk-based approach to assessing impairment. This story will focus on the results of the epidemiological study and sets the stage for risk-based assessments.
- Water Resources – Existing Water Quality Programs – Focus: Trash TMDL (Eric Stein)
 - o This story would be much stronger if we can include additional data, perhaps comparing the locations of trash capture devices to locations of high and low trash measured in the watershed monitoring and the trash collected by the trash net at the mouth of Ballona. Staff will also gather additional data on beach trash to include in the story.
- Water Resources – New Water Quality Issues – Overview (Steve Bay & Rainer Hoenicke)
 - o The high priority CEC table will be updated to include a common name and what the CEC is a risk to (e.g. pyrethroids are believed to harm crustaceans due to their close relationship to terrestrial insects). In addition, Steve will add a sidebar on the effluent monitoring that is currently being done in response.
- Living Resources – Habitat – Upper Watershed – Stream bioassessment (Eric Stein)
 - o The figure will be updated to include the Ballona site in addition to the sites in the Santa Monica Mountains and will include algae. The analysis will compare the Malibu subwatershed, the Ballona watershed, and the non-Malibu, Santa Monica

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Mountains subwatershed. It will use data on algae and bugs. There is also an opportunity to tie this story to the changing land use story in the Looking Ahead section.

- Living Resources – Habitat – Coastal – Malibu Lagoon restoration (John Dorsey)
 - o This story should focus on the before and after, and less on the process of getting there. All data and photos need to be updated in the spring of next year.
- Living Resources – Biodiversity – Coastal – Grunion – Sidebar: Climate Change (Karen Martin)
 - o This story needs to talk a little more about coastal armoring. In addition, Karen will write a focus story on Grunion as follows: they were doing poorly, beach management practices have been changed to protect grunion, the grunion began to respond, but other problems associated with climate change, sea level rise, and the timing of the fishing season are causing grunion runs to decline again.
- Looking Ahead – Upper Watershed – Stream cyanotoxins (Eric Stein)
 - o The point of this story is to say that this is an issue that should be watched. There is only one year of data and without a longer time series, there is no way to understand if the patterns are temporal or environmental.
- Looking Ahead – Marine – Focus: Ocean Acidification (Mas Dojiri, Ashley Booth)
 - o Interactions between upwelling nutrients and PCO₂ exasperate the problem in Santa Monica Bay can be discussed in the introduction. In addition, more emphasis on how this might impact southern California fisheries would be useful. Graphics showing the risk to the Bay would be good.
- Looking Ahead – Marine – Focus: Nutrients & Hypoxia (Mas Dojiri, Ashley Booth)
 - o A pie chart showing the sources of nitrogen in the bay will help visually describe the issue. Also the article should include a description of how the different sources are tracked.
- Looking Ahead – Marine – Focus: Nutrients & Hypoxia – Sidebar: HABs (Mas Dojiri, Dave Caron)

Public Comment. None.

AGENDA ITEM 6. Member Comment

Karen Martin played a student video about the sea star wasting disease at Leo Carillo State Beach. This sparked a short discussion about sharing data with Pete Raimondi who is tracking it and the lack of impact on other echinoderms.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

The September meeting has not yet been scheduled.

