



# ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission



*Our mission:*

*To restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay through actions and partnerships that improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resources, and protect the Bay's benefits and values.*

## **Letter From the Director**

Welcome to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's Annual Report for 2007! I am pleased to present the results of a year of hard work and significant change.

New plans for restoring Ballona Wetlands, a community-driven Ballona Greenway design, the amazing comeback of the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly, a new comprehensive monitoring plan for Santa Monica Bay, and a ground-breaking summit of international experts on the economic importance of the Bay are all described in this report.

We are also proud of a major open-space purchase in the Santa Monica Mountains, which will preserve the beautiful Corral Canyon for public use; the completed Las Virgenes stream restoration, where the City of Calabasas removed 400 linear feet of concrete from Las Virgenes Creek and created a meandering stream with native vegetation and walking paths; a re-structured and revitalized Technical Advisory Committee that will take the lead developing our upcoming State of the Bay report; and the strong leadership and technical advice we have provided to numerous collaborative efforts in our region such

as the LA County IRWMP, the Legacy Park Advisory Committee, the Clean Beaches Task Force, and the Wetlands Recovery Project Science Advisory Panel.

The progress made in all areas of Bay Restoration in the past year could not happen without the combined efforts of our many stakeholders. The very nature of the Bay Restoration Commission means that our accomplishments are really the accomplishments of everyone who works toward common solutions to difficult problems, who is committed to collaboration and partnership, and who puts the long-term benefit of the Bay and the millions who depend on it ahead of all other interests. We are proud to work with those people and together we will build on our successes and restore our Bay.

*Sincerely,*



*Shelley Luce*  
*Executive Director*

## Major Programs and Projects of SMBRC in 2007

### *Proposition 50 Grant Program*

Ballona Creek Mid-City Pollution Control Retrofit  
Go Wild! Nativescaping at Schools  
Malibu Lagoon Restoration  
Low Flow Diversion at Boone Olive Pump Station in Marina del Rey  
Low Flow Diversion at 28th Street in Manhattan Beach  
Grand Avenue Tree Wells Storm Water Infiltration in Venice  
Baldwin Hills to Ballona Creek storm water diversion, treatment, and reuse  
Permeable Beach Parking Lots construction in Manhattan Beach  
Bicknell Green St. Urban Runoff Treatment BMP Demonstration Project in Santa Monica  
Sapphire Storm Drain Low Flow Diversion in Redondo Beach  
Catch Basin Trash Excluders Installation throughout Santa Monica Bay Watershed  
Culver City's City-Wide Best Management Practices (BMP) Treatment training  
Mar Vista Recreation Center Retrofit in West Los Angeles  
Chili Cook-Off Land Acquisition Purchase at Malibu Civic Center\*

### *Proposition 12 Grant Program*

Kelp Restoration Project  
Upper Topanga Creek Pond Turtle Habitat Restoration and Population Study\*  
Centinela Storm Drain BMP Retrofit  
Rindge Dam Removal Feasibility Study  
Madrona Marsh Restoration and Enhancement  
Ballona Creek Watershed Trash Removal and Monitoring Project  
Redondo Beach Bluffs Pilot Restoration\*  
Ballona Outdoor Learning & Discovery (BOLD) Project\*  
Nicholas Canyon Creek Restoration  
Malibu Civic Center Stormwater Treatment, Legacy Park\*  
Invasive Vegetation Removal at Solstice Creek  
Invasive Vegetation Removal at Zuma Creek  
Las Virgenes Creek Restoration Phase II  
Topanga Creek Rodeo Grounds Berm Removal

### *Watershed and Wetlands Restoration*

Support and facilitation of Ballona Wetlands restoration plan development and interim management  
Stream Restoration hydrological modeling (regional curves). Stream Restoration policy development. Stream protection ordinance development support  
Ballona Creek Greenway Master Plan development  
Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force and watershed coordinator support  
Stream Assessment and Restoration Design workshops

### *Marine Habitats Protection and Monitoring*

Updated Santa Monica Bay Comprehensive Bay Monitoring Program  
Nearshore rocky reef habitats baseline assessment project  
Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) data gap analysis project  
Baseline economic data collection on non-consumptive uses of the Bay  
International workshop on economic valuation of non-consumptive uses  
Ecology and behavior of marine mammals and seabirds in the Bay  
Surveys to assess the extent of mudsnail infestation in the Northern Bay watershed (Santa Monica Mountains)

### *Planning and Policy Development*

Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IR-WMP) implementation  
Feasibility study of Countywide funding sources for water quality improvement and study of potential green solutions  
California Clean Beach Task Force

### *Public Outreach*

Storm Water BMP Restaurant certification program in South Bay area  
Southern California Boater Education Programs  
Invasive Species Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Planning Workshop. Invasive Species Threats Resource Book  
Palos Verdes Shelf Fish Contamination Risk Communication Program support

\* Completed in 2007





*As the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) initiative continues to design and establish new marine protected areas in California, and with a view to MLPA work soon to begin in southern California, we have embarked on a research effort to better understand the potential impacts of marine protection to private coastal users.*

*Accurate measures of the value of private use of coastal resources have been difficult to estimate. As a result, the Marine Life Protection Act has never incorporated spatially resolved, quantitative data on non-consumptive private coastal uses and non-commercial recreational fishing into its MPA design process. Because of the large number of southern Californians that live within an hour of the coast and make frequent use of its resources, we believe that it will be critical to rigorously quantify private coastal and marine uses, and thus the potential impacts of marine protection on these uses.*

## **Economy of the Bay Matters**

In 2007, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission launched a study to provide better information about the use of the Bay by local coastal visitors, with particular attention paid to estimating the economic values of those uses. These data will help the Bay Restoration Commission to better target restoration actions that can improve the recreational quality of the Bay. The data will also help local agencies (e.g. Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors), state agencies (e.g. Department State Parks, Department of Boating and Waterways, Department of Fish and Game), and federal agencies (e.g. EPA) better account for coastal recreational needs.

While we envision many end users of the data from this study, the most immediate policy need is for the future implementation of California's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in the Southern California Bight. With the potential data needs of the MLPA in mind, we held a two day workshop on assessing and monitoring private coastal uses at the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies on Catalina Island beginning with a tour of Santa

Monica Bay. The Bay Restoration Commission invited staff from the State MLPA Initiative, the Department of Fish and Game, and experts on coastal user surveys to help us identify specific, practical ways of collecting data on private coastal users. During the workshop, participants discussed practical methods for collecting finely-resolved spatial baselines of such important coastal and marine uses as diving, kayaking, beach going, bird watching, whale watching, and recreational fishing.

The results of our workshop will also help guide current research that includes the use of agency-level data on beach and park attendance, parking data, commercial passenger fishing vessel data, etc.

Not only do we hope to create a model for southern California, but we will provide a template for the collection of baseline and monitoring data on private non-consumptive coastal and marine uses for use in coastal regions around the world.





## **Taking the Pulse of the Bay through Comprehensive Monitoring**

Monitoring is the basic means by which we can assess the environmental state of Santa Monica Bay and how it is changing over time. Traditionally, monitoring has been the primary mechanism by which regulatory agencies, resource managers, and permitted dischargers have evaluated the condition of the Bay and the effectiveness of regulatory programs. Past monitoring that focused on major discharges left many acknowledged data gaps. A lack of coordinated, Bay-wide information has hindered efforts to restore and protect Bay's habitats and resources. This new Program combines existing monitoring efforts with new monitoring efforts, and will produce a more complete picture of the status of important habitats in the Bay.

In April 2007, the Governing Board of the Bay Restoration Commission adopted a new comprehensive monitoring program for Santa Monica Bay. This new program culminates efforts that began in the mid-1990s with the identification of key management questions and monitoring priorities. It lays out new monitoring designs for five major habitat types within the Bay:

- Pelagic Ecosystem
- Soft Bottom Ecosystem
- Hard Bottom Ecosystem
- Rocky and Sandy Intertidal
- Wetlands

Design for each habitat includes a core motivating question, a number of related objectives, specific monitoring approaches, indicators, and data products. Detailed sampling designs for each habitat include number and locations of stations, sampling frequency, and measurements to be collected. The program also includes a monitoring schedule, cost estimates for individual Program elements, and recommendations on the Program's management structure, including data management and assessment strategies.

The Program relies on data from existing sources and proposes new monitoring efforts to fill key data gaps. An important aspect of the Program is its focus on taking maximum advantage of existing data gathering and analysis efforts already being conducted by other parties.

*The Comprehensive Monitoring Program for Santa Monica Bay is a catalog of detailed monitoring designs for five major habitat types within the Bay. These designs focus on specific scientific and management questions. In addition, sampling design, intended data products, and the selection of environmental indicators are explicitly linked. The goal of the Program is to provide a regional, long-term picture of the status of the various ecosystems in Santa Monica Bay.*





### **Marina del Rey Survey Says...**

Sewage is a significant concern in Marina del Rey, the largest small craft harbor in the Santa Monica Bay and the largest revenue-generating project owned by the County of Los Angeles. Marina del Rey consists of approximately 403 acres of waterways, and can accommodate up to 6,000 wet slip tenant boaters. The Marina is subject to a Total Maximum Daily Load for bacteria, which impacts thousands of recreational boaters and swimmers annually. Research has shown personal watercraft to be a significant source of fecal coliform bacteria, and a possible cause of decreased dissolved oxygen levels in small craft harbor areas.



*What are the motivations for properly or improperly disposing sewage? What do boaters know about the effect of sewage on water quality, public health, and marine life? How do we make sewage disposal more convenient? Do boater education and outreach positively influence behavior? With the information gathered by the Marina del Rey Boating Study, we hope find answers to these questions.*

Starting in 2006, the Boater Education Program of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, with a grant from Cal Boating, conducted the Marina del Rey Boating Study to survey the knowledge, attitudes, and perceptions of boaters related to sewage disposal and pumpout use in Marina del Rey. The purpose of the study was to understand how the primary users of Marina del Rey – recreational boaters – manage their sewage, so that we can devise ways to decrease bacteria loading to the Marina from those users.

The Marina del Rey Boating Study consisted of three main components: mail-back survey, intercept interview survey, and facilities monitoring. With the help of marina managers and community boating organizations, SMBRC distributed 3,426 “Marina del Rey Boating Study” survey booklets to capture the entire boating population of Marina del Rey. Six hundred nine booklets were mailed back, constituting a 19.5% rate of response. Respondents were asked about their familiarity with boater education materials, methods of sewage disposal, experience with sewage disposal over the last boating season, as well as basic questions about their boat, boating experience, and demographic information.

The interview survey captured the population of boaters who used pumpouts in the harbor. Boaters using pumpouts were interviewed about their experience with pumpouts, opinions on Marina del Rey’s water quality, knowledge of boating regulations, level of exposure to boater outreach, boating habits, and demographic information.

The facilities monitoring quantified frequency of pumpout usage and rates of user error. Data for this portion of the study were collected at all pumpouts in Marina del Rey. Units were checked for length of time to evacuate five gallons of water, whether the unit turned on, and general condition of the unit and its parts.

## Welcome Back, El Segundo Blue Butterfly!

In July 2007, the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly made headlines throughout the local media with its surprise comeback on beach bluffs at Redondo Beach and Torrance, where it had not been seen in decades. The comeback was a success story of a grass-roots habitat restoration effort, which the Bay Restoration Commission proudly helps to spearhead and supports with funding through its Proposition 12 grant program.

The South Bay beach bluffs consist of the steeply-pitched sand dunes rising abruptly on the seaward portion of the coastal beaches from Ballona Creek south to Malaga Cove in the South Bay. Sandwiched between the sandy beaches and city streets, beach-front housing, businesses and industrial facilities, the beach bluffs represent one of the largest remaining open spaces in the heavily urbanized South Bay area, visited by millions of people each year. The beach bluffs are also valuable habitats that support a host of plant and animal species unique to this environment, including the El Segundo blue butterfly. However, the loss of habitat through development and native plant replacement by exotics have greatly damaged the butterfly population from that led to the federally-listing of the butterfly as an endangered species.

Between 2004 and 2006, The Los Angeles Conservation Corps used Prop 12 funding from the Bay Restoration Commission to work cooperatively with the S.E.A Lab, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors and the City of Redondo Beach on a project to rehabilitate the beach bluff habitats of the South Bay. They hand-pulled non-native species – primarily ice plant – from the bluffs and planted native vegetation including dune buckwheat, California sunflower, deer weed, lupines, and ambrosia, which they cultivated at their own plant nursery located at the S.E.A Lab.

Even veteran biologists were surprised by the rapid re-colonization of the newly restored bluff habitat by the blue butterfly. Still, they warned that the species remains imperiled unless native vegetation can be expanded. Recognizing this need, the Bay Restoration Commission has also funded a Beach Bluffs Restoration Master Plan, which identified a total of 38 acres of potential sites in the South Bay region for future restoration. We plan to continue to support this important native habitat restoration work.



*Since October 2007, the Bay Restoration Commission has also expanded its effort further south by providing Prop. 12 grant funding to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy for a project to restore up to 4 acres of coastal bluff scrub habitat at Point Vincente fishing access.*



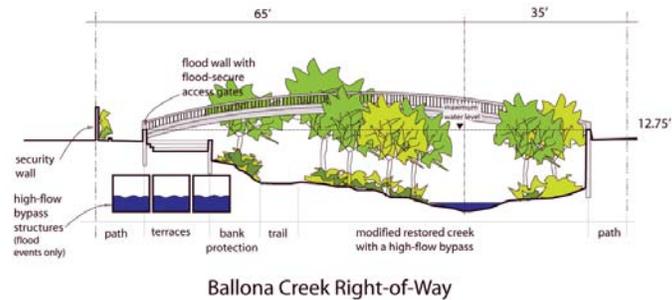
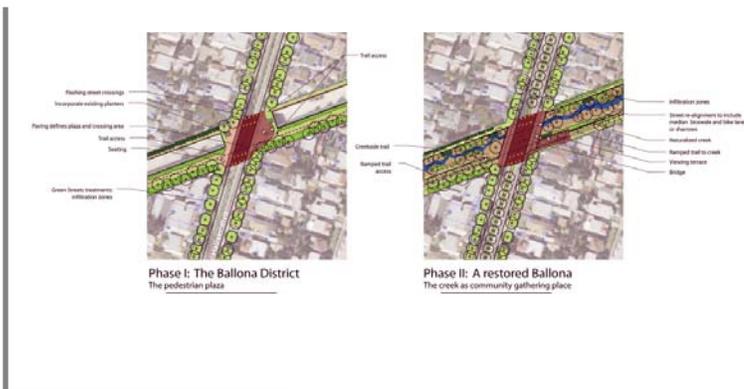


## Ballona Wetlands

The Bay Restoration Commission has provided support for the restoration efforts at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and its associated lagoons, canals and beaches through the Wetland Restoration Program Manager. The largest of these efforts, the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, will reestablish a variety of native habitats on a portion of the historic Ballona Wetlands. The project area includes approximately 600 acres owned by the State of California, along both sides of the Ballona Creek channel. Restoration of this property is one of the largest and best remaining opportunities to improve and expand coastal wetland habitat in southern California. The planning process is focused on the best available science, developed with technical and scientific expertise, and is based on an open forum that welcomes all stakeholder input. The Bay Restoration Commission has been a leader in this effort, providing expert technical support, project coordination and management, and funding.

## Ballona Greenway

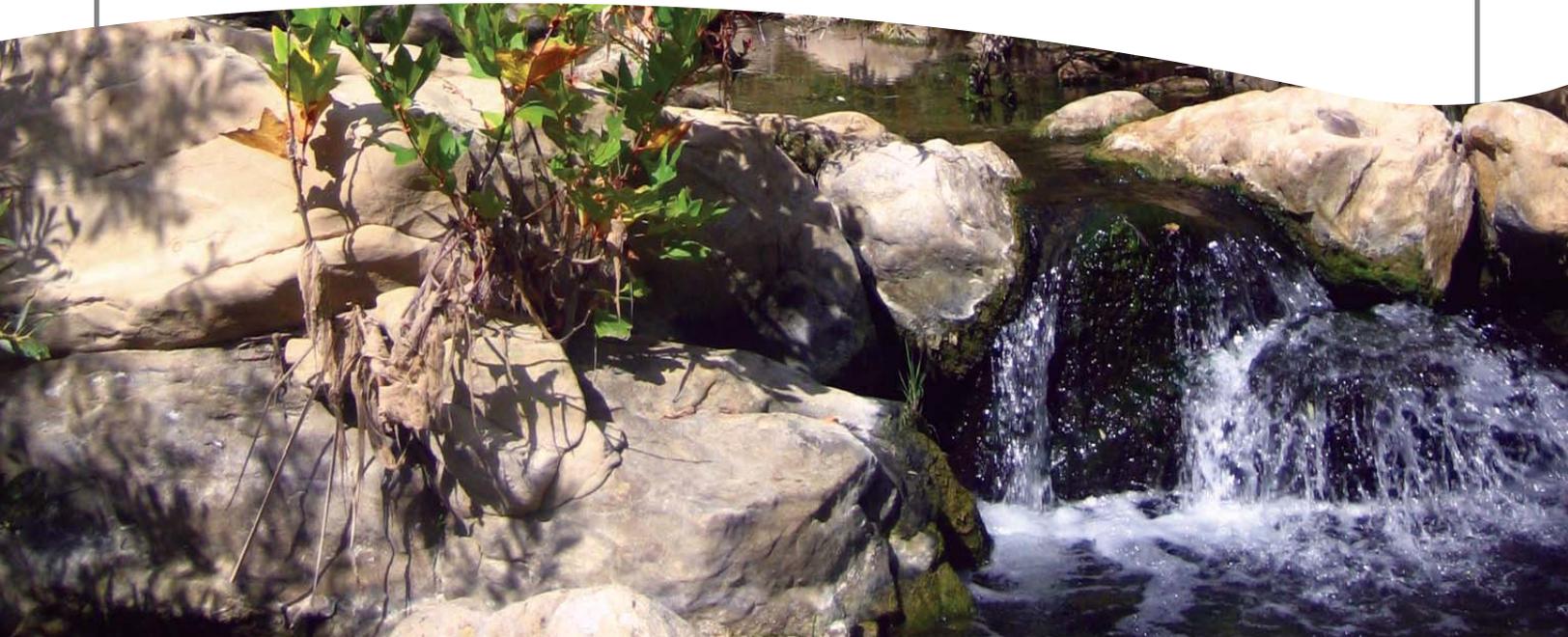
With many different stakeholders developing concepts for Ballona Creek, the Bay Restoration Commission, through the efforts of the Ballona Watershed Coordinator, initiated a Greenway Sub-Committee of the Ballona Task Force to encourage information-sharing and development of common vision, goals and objectives for short-term and long-term development of the creek. Under our leadership, Greenway Subcommittee members walked the entire nine-mile length of the concrete channel and participated in design charrettes to recommend landscaping and habitat improvement projects. A long-term vision is also being developed to support the US Army Corps' Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. This vision explores opportunities for a modified natural channel that maintains flood capacity. A planning document summarizing the concepts and findings of the Greenway Subcommittee is in development.



## **The Coming Year and Beyond**

We have major challenges in the year that lies ahead of us. We have worked pro-actively to build a technical framework and fill data gaps to support designation of Marine Protected Areas in southern California, and in 2008 that designation process will begin in earnest. We will work with our stakeholders to revise the Bay Restoration Plan, the guiding document of the Bay Restoration Commission. We will push the implementation of green infrastructure throughout our watersheds, to create urban runoff solutions and increase local water sustainability. And we will undertake a number of in-house research and restoration projects that will continue to keep the Bay Restoration Commission on the forefront of environmental progress in the Los Angeles region.

This is an exciting time to be working for positive environmental change. There are uncertainties to reckon with and obstacles to overcome, but there are also successes to celebrate and opportunities to build upon. We look forward to working with you, our stakeholders, to restore and enhance Santa Monica Bay.

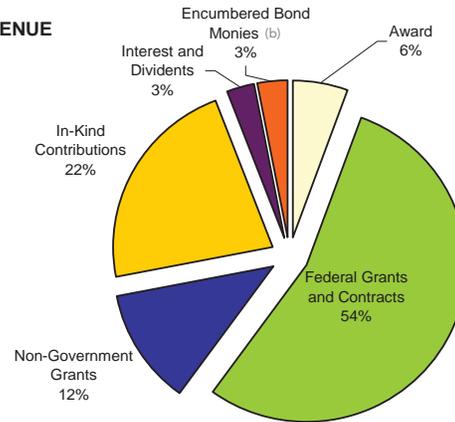


## FINANCIAL SUMMARY (July 1, 2006 - June 31, 2007)

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation and the Santa Monica Bay Authority partner with the Commission to make funds and resources available for restoration of the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed. Provided below is the financial summary for all three partners to reflect the total resources made available through these partnerships for the work of preserving, protecting and restoring these important natural resources.

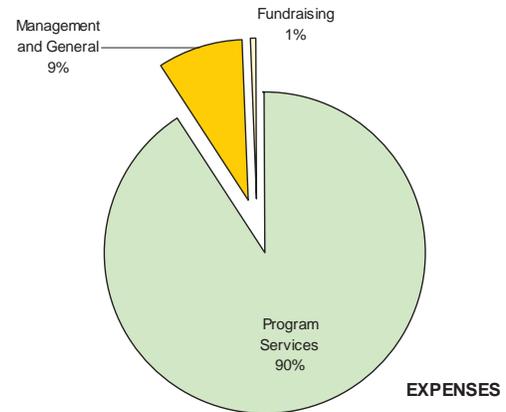
	Total	Commission (SMBRC) (a)	Authority (SMBRA) (a)	Foundation (SMBRF)
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Award	92,406	-	-	92,406
Federal Grants and Contracts	910,486	-	473,138	437,348
Non-Government Grants	203,388	-	-	203,388
In-Kind Contributions	372,877	294,291	-	78,586
Interest and Dividends	43,227	-	487	42,740
Bond Monies (b)	52,785	52,785	-	-
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>1,675,169</b>	<b>347,076</b>	<b>473,625</b>	<b>854,468</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Program Services	1,584,049	319,722	473,138	791,189
Management and General	149,035	-	-	149,035
Fundraising	10,126	-	-	10,126
<b>Total Functional Expenses</b>	<b>1,717,779</b>	<b>294,291</b>	<b>473,138</b>	<b>950,350</b>

### REVENUE



### FOUNDATION : Assets and Liabilities (c)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	32,348	-	32,348
Investments	654,424	302,074	956,498
Accounts Receivable	319,279	-	316,279
Prepaid Expenses	3,059	-	3,059
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,006,110</b>	<b>302,074</b>	<b>1,308,184</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	9,252	-	9,252
Accrued Liabilities	25,560	-	25,560
Deferred Revenue	49,500	-	49,500
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>84,312</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>84,312</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted	921,798	-	921,798
Temporarily Restricted	-	302,074	302,074
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>1,006,110</b>	<b>302,074</b>	<b>1,308,184</b>



(a) The financial summary provided for the Commission and the JPA were not prepared by a certified public accountant, but by administrative staff at the Commission. The numbers provided here are intended to provide a general overview of the resources of the Commission and JPA, and do not necessarily meet GAP standards.

(b) Bond monies are held in account by the CA State Coastal Conservancy and the CA State Water Resources Control Board for projects in Santa Monica Bay. The Bay Commission is responsible for soliciting, selecting, and overseeing the projects funded by these monies. The amount reported here reflects the total amount allocated by the Bay Restoration Commission in FY 06 for projects in the Bay and watershed.

(c) Assets and Liabilities are provided for the Foundation only.

## GOVERNING BOARD

### *Executive Committee*

Richard Bloom\*, Mayor, City of Santa Monica (Public Member, At-Large)  
Tracy Egoscue\*, Executive Director, Santa Monica Baykeeper (Public Member, Public Interest)  
Mark Gold\*, Executive Director, Heal the Bay (Public Member, Public Interest)  
Sheila Kuehl, State Senator, 23rd District  
H. David Nahai\*, Chair, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Jack Weiss\*, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles District 5 (President, Bay Watershed Council)  
Don Wolfe\*, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Linda Adams\*, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency  
Angus Alexander, Los Angeles County Fire Department Lifeguard Division  
Loris "Ryan" Broddrick, Director, California Department of Fish and Game  
Julia Brownley, State Assemblymember, 41st District  
Charles Caspary, President, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Michael Chrisman\*, Secretary California Resources Agency  
Ruth Coleman, Director, California Department of Parks and Recreation  
John Dorsey, Loyola Marymount University (SMBRC Technical Advisory Committee Chair)  
Joe Edmiston, Executive Director, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Mike Gin\*, Mayor, City of Redondo Beach (Representative, South Bay Cities)  
Bob Hoffman, Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation, NOAA Fisheries Southwest Division  
Jeff Jennings\*, Councilmember, City of Malibu (Public Member, At-Large)  
Ted Lieu, State Assemblymember, 53rd District  
Ann Notthoff\*, California State Coastal Conservancy  
Jenny Oropeza, State Senator, 28th District  
Jovita Pajarillo, US EPA Region IX  
Jeffrey Prang\*, Councilmember, City of West Hollywood (Representative, Ballona Watershed Cities)  
Rita Robinson\*, Director, Los Angeles City Department of Public Works  
Bill Rosendahl\*, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles District 11  
Marvin Sachse\*, Brash Industries (Public Member, Business Interest)  
Sandra Shewry, Director, California Department of Health Services  
Rod Spackman, Chevron, Corp. (President, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation)  
James Stahl\*, General Manager, Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
Antonio Villaraigosa\*, Mayor, City of Los Angeles  
Sara Wan, Commissioner\*, California Coastal Commission  
Dennis Washburn\*, Mayor, City of Calabasas (Representative, Malibu Watershed Cities)  
Stan Wisniewski, Director, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors  
Zev Yaroslavsky\*, Supervisor, County of Los Angeles 3rd District (Representative, Board of Supervisors)

\* Voting Member of the Governing Board.

## STAFF

Shelley Luce, Executive Director  
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director  
Scott Valor, Director of Government Affairs  
Joel Hanson, Administrative Director  
Jack Topel, Environmental Scientist  
Jessica Hall, Ballona Watershed Coordinator  
Sean Bergquist, Ballona Wetlands Restoration Coordinator  
Grace Lee, Boater Education Program Coordinator

*The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission is a public/private partnership—a locally-based, independent state entity charged with the restoration and protection of Santa Monica Bay. The Commission is committed to a restored and healthy Bay, and works to achieve broad consensus and implement innovative policies and projects based on the best available science.*

*Guided by a 35-member Governing Board representing a diversity of Bay stakeholders, the Commission oversees an ambitious agenda for Bay restoration. The Governing Board consists of 20 voting members, 11 non-voting members, and 4 legislative members and meets six times annually. The Governing Board also elects a 7-member Executive Committee which meets in the month prior to Governing Board meetings.*

*The Commission is advised by a Technical Advisory Committee, made up of scientists, engineers, and other experts, which meets six times annually. The broad stakeholder advisory group of the Commission is the 74-member Bay Watershed Council, which convenes once a year.*

*As one of twenty-eight National Estuary Programs, the Commission is also part of a national network of similar organizations working in some of the country's most important coastal waters.*

*A great thanks is owed to all those who participate in the Commission and its mission to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay.*



**bay restoration commission**  
STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

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