



Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission **Annual Report 2012**



Bay Restoration Plan

The comprehensive plan of action for protecting and restoring Santa Monica Bay, known as the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP), was approved by the State of California and the U.S. EPA in 1995 and updated in 2008. The BRP includes goals, objectives, and milestones that guide SMBRC restoration programs and projects in three priority areas: water quality, natural resources, and benefits and values to humans. The BRP also identifies the responsible lead and partner entities, and the roles of the SMBRC in supporting, promoting, and implementing Bay restoration work.

Actions identified in the BRP have improved the environmental quality of the Bay, effectively and efficiently, but full recovery of the Bay is far from certain. Steady and long-term efforts along with consistent funding are necessary to ensure that we realize the BRP's goal of a healthy and restored Santa Monica Bay.



SMBRC joins the Mar Vista Green Committee at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market to teach the public about rain water harvesting and rain gardens.

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission (SMBRC) is a non-regulatory, locally-based state entity established by an act of the California Legislature in 2002. The SMBRC is charged with overseeing and promoting the Bay Restoration Plan by securing and leveraging funding to put solutions into action, building public-private partnerships, promoting cutting-edge research and technology, facilitating stakeholder-driven consensus processes, and raising public awareness.

The SMBRC brings together local, state, and federal agencies, environmental groups, businesses, scientists, and members of the public on its 35-member Governing Board. Watershed stakeholders are also represented on the SMBRC's two main advisory bodies: the Watershed Advisory Council and the Technical Advisory Committee. The SMBRC, along with its non-profit partner, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, is a member of the U.S. EPA's National Estuary Program. (www.smbrc.ca.gov)

Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) is an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1990. The purpose of the Foundation is to contribute to the restoration and enhancement of the Santa Monica Bay and other coastal waters and to complement the work of the SMBRC, with a focus on obtaining and expending funds not otherwise available to the SMBRC. (www.santamonicabay.org)

2012 was another exciting year of continuous progress toward the goals and objectives of the Bay Restoration Plan (BRP). It was especially rewarding because several important milestones were achieved. After clearing the last legal hurdle, the construction phase of the Malibu Lagoon restoration project got off the ground in June and has proceeded smoothly, heading toward a grand re-opening in 2013. We also saw the formal kick-off of the environmental review and permitting process for the Ballona Wetlands restoration project - a huge step forward, after many years spent acquiring and surveying the land, working with the public on needs and preferences, and conducting initial feasibility studies.

We also started a new phase in the ongoing kelp restoration project, which is bigger and more inclusive than ever. The project will cover a larger area, and for the first time will involve local commercial fisherman. This new phase is a culmination of years of collaboration and partnership-building among agencies, nonprofits, volunteers and the local fishing community.

At SMBRC, we don't stop at undoing past damages and mitigating ongoing pollution sources. We recognize the need for adapting to future environmental changes in our local coastal areas. Of course I am talking about climate change. Despite the deep concerns of more and more people, little in the way of planning for climate change has occurred in our Bay. We advanced understanding of the potential impacts by completing a novel modeling study on the implications of climate change on wetlands restoration planning.

In 2012, we continued to make the SMBRC still more robust and capable as an organization. In this financially challenging environment, we have been building a stable cash reserve for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF), thanks in part to Governing Board member contributions and the increased support of our SMBRF Board members. The SMBRF also passed an audit by the State Department of Finance, of state grants funded in the last seven years, with flying colors, thanks to our in-house team and the excellent management of our State Coastal Conservancy partners. On a personal note, we sent off two long-time and valuable staff members to explore new endeavors, knowing that we will miss them and they will continue to do great work for the environment. We also welcomed a new Communications Specialist who is helping us to reach out more effectively to our many and varied stakeholders and partners.

In 2013, we have a lot to look forward to! This year marks the 25th anniversary of Santa Monica Bay as a National Estuary Program and we are planning a great party to celebrate. I am starting a two-year term as Chair of the Association of National Estuary Programs and looking forward to working with our sister Estuaries and our EPA partners to keep our programs funded and growing.

We continue to evolve to meet changing needs -Honey Pot day becomes "Honey Pot Unlimited"; a new project is underway to remove dysfunctional stream crossings that degrade trout streams in the Santa Monica Mountains; and the environmental community joins forces to help secure a well-managed funding stream for cleaning up urban runoff by greening our cities in the form of LA County's Clean Water, Clean Beaches ballot measure. It's going to be a great year.



Shelley L. Luce, D. Env. - Executive Director

Wetlands and Coastal Habitats

Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program - A two-year comprehensive biological, physical, and chemical assessment of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) was completed. First- and second-year reports were released. *Ongoing and expanding.*

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Planning - A multi-year program with Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and State Coastal Conservancy partners, to prepare technical studies, engineering plans, CEQA/NEPA documents and permit applications (which began in summer 2012) for this significant regional wetland restoration project. *Ongoing.*

Ballona Creek Watershed Hydrology Study - An assessment of present-day water sources and uses within the Watershed. *Completed.*

Malibu Lagoon Restoration - Implementation of the construction phase of the Lagoon Restoration Project through removing excess sediment, re-contouring the western channels to improve water flows, and replacing invasive plants with native vegetation. Began in summer 2012. *Ongoing.*

Arroyo Sequit Creek Restoration - A Proposition 50 grant-funded project that removes two Arizona crossings and one check dam to improve southern steelhead trout habitat. *Ongoing.*

Rindge Dam Removal Study - Partnering with The Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies to assess the feasibility of using materials behind the dam to create reefs and notching the dam to allow natural transport. *Ongoing.*

Stone Creek Restoration - A monthly community restoration and education program on this tributary to Ballona Creek, working with UCLA and an adjacent elementary school. *Ongoing.*

Mudsnail Survey - An annual survey of New Zealand mudsnails, tracking this invasive species in streams throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. *Ongoing.*

Coordinated Monitoring Program for Southern California Estuarine Wetlands - Partnering with EPA Wetlands Program to develop and expand a site-specific, coordinated monitoring program for Southern California estuarine wetlands. *Ongoing.*

Green Neighborhoods

Proposition 84 Grant Program - City of Torrance storm water detention basin, Manhattan Beach green belt park project, City of Inglewood trash capturing devices installation, City of Los Angeles University Park Rain Gardens, City of Santa Monica In-line Storm Drain Treatment and Infiltration Pilot project, City of Calabasas Catch Basin Trash Inserts, County of Los Angeles Oxford Basin enhancement project. *Ongoing.*

Proposition 12 Grant Program - Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Abalone Cove Beach bluff restoration. *Ongoing.*

Clean Bay Restaurant Certification Program - Partnering with watershed cities to certify restaurants that comply with stormwater permit requirements and the Program's additional pollution prevention practices. *Ongoing and expanding.*

Ocean

Kelp Forest Restoration - Partnering with NMFS, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Vantuna Research Group, and California Science Center on kelp forest restoration off Long Point, Palos Verdes; and planning a new rocky reef habitat restoration program in the Palos Verdes area. *Ongoing and expanding.*

Socio-economic Research Related to Marine Spatial Planning - Mapping the location, type, and activity of boats along the Southern California coast to track boater responses to establishment of the Marine Protected Areas network. *Ongoing.*

MPA Outreach - Continued outreach efforts including meeting with resource agencies and NGOs to facilitate progress in MPA enforcement and monitoring. *Ongoing.*

Green Abalone Genetic Study - Partnering with NOAA to define extent of populations of green abalone in Southern California and inform restoration plans for the species. *Completed and expanding.*

Eelgrass Restoration - Partnering with NMFS, SCCWRP, and others to plan survey, assessment, and restoration of eelgrass bed in Santa Monica Bay. *Ongoing.*

Sustainable Local Fisheries - Partnering with CSU Dominguez Hills and local commercial fishermen to develop local markets for sustainably caught local seafood from the Santa Monica Bay. *Ongoing.*

Halibut Study - Partnering with Marina Del Rey Anglers and Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop better data on halibut in Santa Monica Bay to improve management of this species. *Ongoing.*



El Segundo Girl Scout Troop #3345 pulled invasive weeds from the wetlands with the BWER monitoring team and their partners, the Friends of Ballona Wetlands.

Outreach

Ballona Wetlands Outreach - A wide variety of outreach activities including monthly Open Houses, Farmer's Markets, nature tours, bird walks, and more. *Ongoing.*

Boater Education Program - A multi-faceted program including publication of the Southern California Boater's Guide, a statewide Motorized Boater Survey, expanded Honey Pot Day program, and management of the statewide boating education and outreach efforts. *Ongoing.*

Coastal Clean-up Day - Annual kayak clean-up in Marina del Rey coordinated by SMBRC staff. *Ongoing.*

Internship Program - Program coordinates student and post-graduate volunteer efforts through multiple restoration and scientific data collection projects. *Ongoing.*

Urban Coast - A multidisciplinary journal providing a forum for information exchange and highlight research on pressing issues and policies that affect the conditions of urban coastal resources. *Ongoing.*

Wetlands Research Symposium - Annual symposium focusing on research in estuarine and adjacent habitats and catering to scientists, agency representatives, elected officials, students, and members of the public. *Ongoing.*

Palos Verdes Shelf Fish Contamination Education Collaborative - Partnering with EPA, local agencies, and CBOs to educate local fishermen and consumers about the health risks of contaminated seafood. *Ongoing.*

Planning and Policy Development

Financial Strategy Development and Implementation - A program to increase SMBRF's cash reserve and diversify funding sources, including annual contributions from Governing Board members. *Ongoing.*

Habitat Health Index Development - Collaborating with UCLA, SCCWRP, USC, Vantuna Research Group, and Pepperdine University to develop habitat health indices for major habitats in the Bay. *Ongoing.*

Climate Ready Estuary Program - Modeling and analysis of climate change impacts including sea level rise and rainfall patterns on Ballona Wetlands and Ballona Creek watershed. *Completed.*

Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and Sediment Management Plan - Development of the Open Space for Habitat and Recreation section for the IRWMP Plan Update. Participation in the County's Sediment Management Strategic Plan. *Completed.*

Wetland Habitat Valuation - A literature review and development of a wetland mitigation white paper on the value of vegetated coastal marsh in compensatory mitigation for lost subtidal habitat. *Ongoing.*



Upland and seasonal wetland habitat in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project Enters the Environmental Planning Stages

2012 was a busy year for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project. The formal environmental review and permitting process for the proposed restoration project kicked-off at a public scoping meeting for the EIR/S on August 16, 2012 at the Fiji Gateway to the Wetlands. Over 70 stakeholders attended, along with members of partner agencies. Staff also helped the Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) to prepare and circulate public notices and press releases to local and regional media.

The restoration design team continued to refine the plan with guidance from the scientific advisory committee, including alternatives for removing creek levees in the western portion of the property, and monitoring plans for long-term adaptive management. Field teams including Native American monitors, State Parks archaeologists, and biologists conducted geotechnical surveys to determine the quality and strength of the soil and levees throughout the site.

SMBRF continues to facilitate the collaboration among all the partner agencies, including DFW, the State Coastal Conservancy, the Army Corps of Engineers and LA County Flood Control District. Staff led site visits at the Wetlands for Army Corps legal and technical staff, to enhance understanding of the project's needs and goals. We continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure a transparent and technically sound process for designing and permitting the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.



Sunrise at Malibu Lagoon, which will feature multiple viewing areas.

Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Project is Underway!

On June 1, 2012, California State Parks and its project partners began construction of the Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement Project. The Restoration Project is led by California State Parks and includes the California State Coastal Conservancy, the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, LA Waterkeeper, and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation. The Lagoon was used early in the last century as a dump site for debris and construction waste and has suffered high levels of pollution and severe oxygen depletion. This exciting restoration project is the result of nearly 20 years of rigorous scientific study and a planning process that engaged a diverse set of stakeholders, including multiple government agencies, scientific experts, residents, property owners, respected environmental organizations, the City of Malibu and other elected officials. The project start was delayed for one year by a lawsuit - when a California judge found in State Parks' favor earlier this year, the project was a go and we haven't looked back!

State Parks and SMBRF staff worked tirelessly to direct and coordinate construction crews, interns, and a team of dedicated volunteers working throughout the site. During construction, biologists relocated fish, lizards, and other animals to safe areas that were not disturbed by construction. Water quality testing was conducted daily



Malibu Lagoon water quality monitoring by SMBRF's Mark Abramson.



Panoramic view of a high tide in the western channel at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve.

throughout the dewatering period to make sure that the water leaving the site was cleaner than the water entering.

The restoration continued throughout the summer and fall, removing excess sediment, re-contouring lagoon channels to improve water flows, and replacing invasive plants with native vegetation. The three original channels in the lagoon have been reconfigured into a single branched channel that angles toward the ocean, which improves water flows and will enhance oxygen concentrations and prevent excess sediment accumulation in the future. By the end of the summer, volunteers and Interns were planting thousands of wetland plants throughout the tidally influenced habitats. Hundreds of native plants like *Jaumea* and *Salicornia* have been taking root in carefully marked elevation gradients.

The restoration will continue through early 2013 with planting upland vegetation and installing new educational and interpretive features throughout the site. The restored habitats will allow cleaner water to sustain a greater diversity of fish, bird, and invertebrate species. We are looking forward to a grand opening celebration for the restored Malibu Lagoon in spring 2013.

SMBRC Releases Ballona Watershed Hydrology Study

SMBRC and the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) released a report in early 2012 detailing a contemporary and historic hydrologic analysis of the Ballona Creek Watershed. This study investigated the partitioning of native and

non-native water sources in this highly urbanized system within the Los Angeles Basin. The goal was to evaluate the impact of imported water on hydrologic cycling and to develop conceptual models of the system as it has evolved from pre-development to contemporary times.

Researchers at UCLA and SCCWRP measured seasonal flows in Ballona Creek to understand how rainfall and irrigation each contribute to the total runoff in the creek. Information on natural springs in Ballona, such as the Kuruvungna Springs on the campus of University High in west Los Angeles, was also analyzed for their contribution to creek flows. Results show that the water balance has changed a lot since pre-European times, with an overall reduction of natural recharge across the basin. For example, runoff ratios (runoff/precipitation ratio) more than doubled during the 73-year study period, increasing from 0.07 (pre-development) to around 1.0 (present day). The study also shows that the amount of imported water doubled, and outdoor landscape volumes tripled, over the 73-year study period and that about 98% of dry season runoff was from non-native sources.

This study tells us that most of the water entering the storm drains and creeks of the Ballona watershed is potable water, imported from far away and used for irrigation, which runs off our lawns and enters the storm drain system. Understanding the changing hydrology of the watershed helps us to determine where we can conserve water, to plan creek and wetlands restoration projects, and to educate stakeholders about local water sources and how to enhance and preserve them.



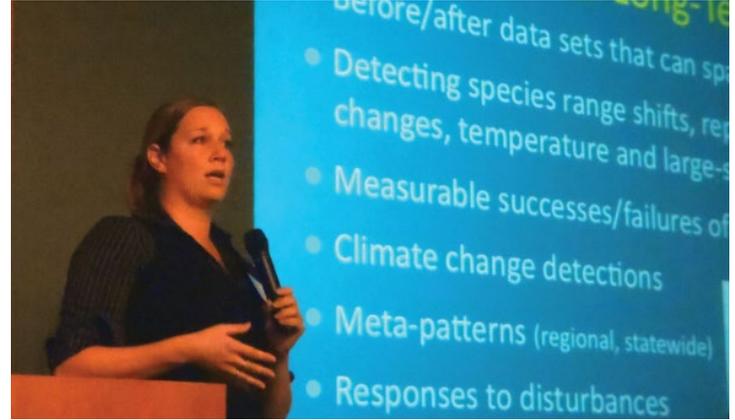
Sold-out 2nd Annual Wetland Research Symposium.

Another Well-Received Wetland Research Symposium – More to Come!

On Monday, March 12th, 2012, the SMBRC, Loyola Marymount University, and the Center for Urban Resilience (CUREs) co-hosted a scientific symposium—entitled “Southern California Urban Wetland Research Symposium”—to highlight research at the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and throughout Southern California wetlands.

Almost 200 attendees enjoyed keynote speaker Dr. Joy Zedler, whose presentation, “Restoring Urban Wetlands: Novel Approaches for a Novel Future” captivated the audience. Dr. Zedler explained wetland restoration strategies and how to develop restoration goals, drawing on her decades of experience in Southern California. Other wetland scientist presenters included: Karina Johnston, Gary Kuleck, Terri Hogue, Eric Stein, Sean Anderson, Christine Whitcraft, Victor Carmona, and Eric Strauss. Topics ranged from antibiotic-resistant bacteria to historical analyses of wetland habitats to ecosystem services.

Awards were presented To Lisa Fimiani, Executive Director of Friends of Ballona Wetlands, to honor her outstanding commitment to ecological education and restoration at the Ballona Wetlands, and to Jessica Hall, now Director of the Humboldt Baykeeper, in recognition of her passionate dedication to understanding and



SMBRC's Karina Johnston presents at Symposium.

communicating the importance of creeks and wetlands in the urban environment. The most dedicated SMBRF intern of 2012, Amy Hodges, was also presented an award in recognition of her outstanding volunteer effort for the Ballona Wetlands Baseline Assessment Program.

Following the afternoon presentations, a student poster session and reception were enjoyed by all. This symposium was the second in a series focusing on research in estuarine and adjacent habitats and catering to scientists, agency representatives, elected officials, students, and members of the public. This series is quickly becoming the go-to annual event for wetland scientists throughout California; the SMBRC, LMU, and CUREs are looking forward to the 2013 symposium focusing on climate change in urban estuaries.

Ballona Wetlands Monitoring Program Continues to Engage Local Stakeholders Through Diverse Outreach

The goal of the Ballona Wetlands outreach program is to deliver knowledge to the community about our ecological monitoring, restoration programs, and community involvement opportunities. The Ballona Wetlands outreach program has continued to reach out to local stakeholders in a variety of ways to inform the public about this important resource and restoration project. Many people who live within one mile of the state-owned Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve do not even know that these habitats are near their own backyards.



State Coastal Conservancy and members of the public tour the upland habitats of Ballona.

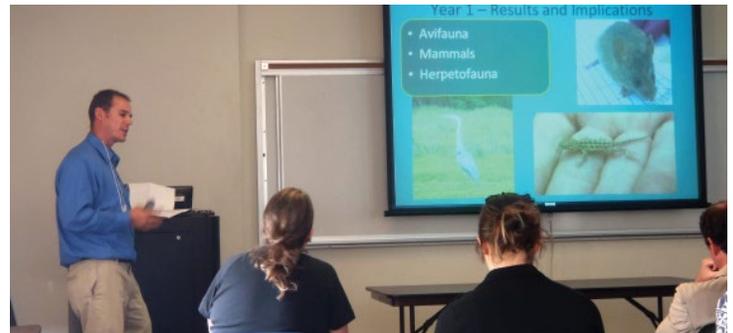
The outreach program staffed booths at local Farmer's Markets, partners with other outreach organizations, and coordinated educational tours and birding walks with partner agencies like the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), non-profits like the Friends of Ballona Wetlands, and university-affiliated organizations like the Center for Urban Resilience.

Our staff also organized activities aimed at reaching out to young people. One project involved partnering with the MRCA to coordinate their Junior Rangers - Wetland Unit program. MRCA and the Junior Rangers were escorted on site 11 times to learn about natural and cultural resources, basic outdoor skills, community service, team building, and leadership skills. Another project brought seventh grade students from Santa Monica Alternative School House (SMASH) on a field trip to Area A. Both the students and parent chaperons were engaged as they learned mammal, vegetation, and water quality monitoring techniques. They also received a presentation on wetland ecology and why restoration is important. Also in May, Girl Scout Troop #3345 (El Segundo) enjoyed a field trip to the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve led by the monitoring team. This educational experience was the culmination of their "Get Moving" Journey project which is a year-long study of energy and the environment. The 20 girls earned the "Take Action" portion of their Journey badge during their participation.



Santa Monica Alternative School House learns the fun side of mammal monitoring by helping to bait the motion cameras.

The program also continued to recruit students and interested participants for internships and volunteer opportunities. Opportunities include working on research and restoration projects throughout the watershed, wetlands, and ocean. 2012 saw a huge jump in participation in the SMBRC internship program. Additional independent projects, such as an evaluation of the invertebrate biomass in several habitats at the BWER, were given to dedicated students who went on to present at scientific conferences like the Southern California Academy of Sciences.



SMBRC's Ivan Medel at Southern California Academy of Science's Annual Meeting.

Tankers, Kayaks and Sport Fishers, Oh My!

Since September of 2008, SMBRF has partnered with the Los Angeles Waterkeeper and LightHawk to map the boats operating in coastal waters from Point Conception to the US-Mexican Border. This effort is supported by the Campbell Foundation and Resources Legacy Fund Foundation to provide information on the location, type, and activity of every boat - from kayaks to oil tankers - operating off the Southern California coastline.

The results of this work are useful for coastal resource management and can be applied to numerous regulatory and research efforts. One area of focus is the response of boaters to the new network of Marine Protected Areas, established in January 2012. Marine Protected Areas are essentially ocean parks or conservation areas that limit or prohibit fishing within their borders and thereby provide a refuge for fish and other wildlife.

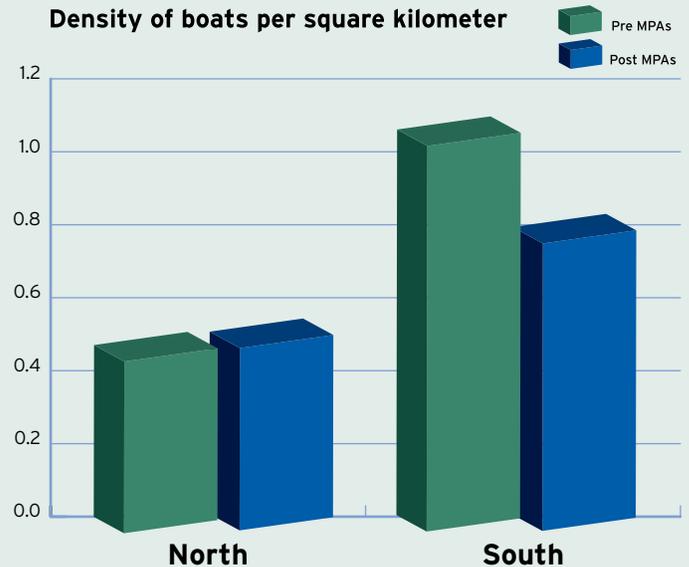
Understanding how ocean users are responding to Marine Protected Areas is the highest priority of this effort. Early trends suggest that the vast majority of boaters are not fishing within the boundaries of the new marine parks, and that the density of boats operating off of Ventura and Santa Barbara is significantly less than that off of southern Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego Counties.

Abalone Restoration - New Hope for an Endangered Species

Many species of abalone used to flourish along the Southern California coast. Likely you are familiar with their large ornate shells. Unfortunately, due to overfishing, coastal development, pollution and disease, we have lost most of the abalone in Southern California. Bringing these animals back is important for the ecology of our coast and if restoration efforts are successful, we will eventually be able to reestablish local fisheries for these marine mollusks. To this end, the SMBRF and partners throughout Southern California have collected tissue and mucus samples from green abalone. We can use these in genetic analyses to determine whether the green abalone off our coast are all members of one cohesive population, and if they have been exposed to "withering syndrome", a potentially lethal disease.

With this information, project partners with the National Oceanic

The number of boats operating from Los Angeles to the US Mexican border is roughly double that operating from Los Angeles to Point Conception, both before and following MPA establishment.



Green Abalone, *Haliotis fulgens* Southern California 2012. Photo: Jonathan Williams VRG

and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) are able to manage disease risk and respect existing population structure when restoring green abalone to our coast. Experimentation with outplanting techniques is expected to start in the spring of 2013. The lessons learned from these efforts will apply to the other species of abalone off our coast, and large-scale actions throughout the region can get these iconic species on the road to recovery.

Project partners include NOAA, DFW, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, Vantuna Research Group, Sea Lab (Los Angeles Conservation Corps), University of California, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles Waterkeeper, Orange County Coastkeeper, and Get Inspired.

Be Prepared for What Climate Change May Bring to Our Coasts

In December 2012, the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies published a study on the implications of climate change for restoration of the Ballona Wetlands. The study was supported by the U.S. EPA's Climate Ready Estuary Program (<http://water.epa.gov/type/oceb/cre/index.cfm>). The study fills a need to refine modeling techniques so we can understand likely impacts to coastal wetlands and plan restoration and long-term management accordingly.

The study focused on sea level rise (SLR) and extreme rainfall patterns, the two changes most likely to result from climate change and have the largest impacts on wetlands. It was the first study in Southern California to explore a new approach to integrate climatic and hydrological models for study of these impacts. The study used the Ballona Wetlands as a case study and applied multiple models to simulate the impacts of various sea level and precipitation scenarios to two possible wetland restoration alternatives.

The study demonstrates that in the event of SLR, habitats restored according to either alternative will experience various levels of impacts. But a restoration alternative that can accommodate the movement of habitats upslope may provide more sustainability and support more diverse marsh habitats in the long term.

The study also validates a widely-held assumption that tidal wetlands in Southern California, including the Ballona Wetlands, are inherently vulnerable to SLR because they typically exist within a very narrow elevation range, set primarily by the extent of the high and low tides, which is approximately two meters at the Los Angeles coastline. Finally and notably, the study demonstrates that the integrated modeling approach is feasible and can be applied to assessing the impacts of climate change on other coastal wetlands habitats.



Aerial view, made possible by LightHawk, of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve and the Ballona Creek flood control channel.



Inundated native salt marsh vegetation at the Ballona Wetlands.



Native vegetation replaced invasive ice plant at Dockweiler Beach Bluff Restoration.



Pervious pavement and bioswales along Santa Monica's Bicknell Street.

Our Projects Are Working, But We Can Do Better

To date, the SMBRC has awarded approximately \$32 million in bond-funded grants via the California Coastal Conservancy and the State Water Resources Control Board for projects to protect and restore the Bay and its watershed. As of December 2012, thirty-three projects had been successfully completed. These projects fall into three broad categories: pollution control & prevention; habitat restoration, enhancement and protection; and research & education. Many also provide multiple benefits simultaneously such as stormwater capture and reuse and habitat enhancement, as well as open space and recreational opportunities.

In October and November 2012, SMBRC staff conducted site visits and met with partners who are responsible for completing and maintaining these projects. Staff visited several habitat restoration projects representing a variety of habitat types throughout the watershed. We also visited projects that showcase how the use of green infrastructure and low impact development can help reduce stormwater and dry-weather runoff pollution.

A partial list of sites visited includes:

- ✦ Vicente Bluffs and McCarrell's Canyon on the Palos Verdes Peninsula where the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy completed restoration projects totaling eight acres of coastal bluff, sage scrub and riparian habitats that were once dominated by invasive species such as acacia trees and ornamental grasses.
- ✦ At Dockweiler and Redondo Beach, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps removed non-native ice plant from beach bluffs, and replanted the sites with native species. Thanks to these efforts, the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly has recolonized both sites.
- ✦ The Resource Conservation District and State Parks removed a 1000' berm in lower Topanga Creek to help restore the creek's hydrology and protect endangered steelhead trout.
- ✦ Corral Canyon, where SMBRC funds contributed to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority's purchase of 116 acres of land and the removal of invasive species along 8,300' of Corral Creek.
- ✦ Bicknell Green Street in Santa Monica, where the City is using a combination of bioswales, permeable pavement, and subsurface infiltration basins to capture, treat, and infiltrate dry- and wet-weather runoff.
- ✦ Westside Park, where the City of Los Angeles has transformed an underutilized utility easement into a multi-benefit project that captures, treats, and reuses stormwater runoff to irrigate a rehabilitated community park.



Restored Malibu Lagoon will open Spring 2013.

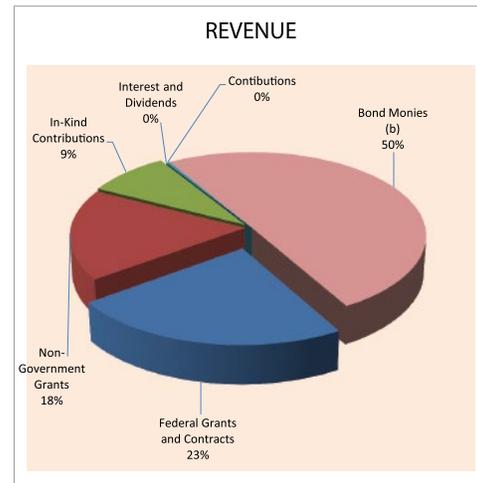
Overall, we were extremely impressed by the hard work and dedication of all of our grantees. Projects supported by the SMBRC and carried out by our partners have restored or protected thousands of acres of habitat, and prevented pollutants carried by millions of acre-feet of runoff from reaching our rivers and the Bay. Unfortunately, lean economic times, and the fact that grant funds cannot be used for operation and maintenance, have taken a toll on some projects. For example, a lack of funding and staff cutbacks has allowed invasive plant species to recolonize several sites. Reduced maintenance has impeded the ability of some pollution

control projects to function at full capacity. Additionally, human impacts such as trampling and trash deposition have had negative impacts at sites where public use is high. We hope that an improving economy will help us maintain hard-won habitat improvements, and that initiatives such as the L.A. County Clean Water, Clean Beaches measure will provide funding for implementation and maintenance of projects that clean up our water and protect public health in Los Angeles County waterways, including the coastal waters and beaches of Santa Monica Bay.

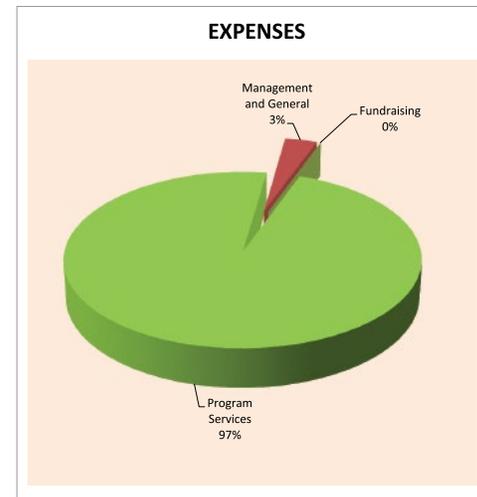
FINANCIAL SUMMARY (JULY 1, 2011 - JUNE 30, 2012)

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation partners with the Commission to make funds and resources available for restoration of the Santa Monica Bay and its watershed. Provided below is a financial summary that reflects the total resources made available through this partnership for the work of preserving, protecting, and restoring these important natural resources.

	Total	Commission (SMBRC) (a)	Foundation (SMBRF)
REVENUES			
Federal Grants and Contracts	1,291,916	-	1,291,916
Non-Government Grants	972,380	-	972,380
In-Kind Contributions	470,429	294,344	176,085
Interest and Dividends	-	-	-
Contributions	20,262	-	20,262
Bond Monies (b)	2,778,000	2,778,000	-
Total Revenue and Support	5,532,987	3,072,344	2,460,643
EXPENSES			
Program Services	5,271,729	3,072,344	2,199,385
Management and General	180,454	-	180,454
Fundraising	-	-	-
Total Functional Expenses	5,452,183	3,072,344	2,379,839



FOUNDATION: Assets and Liabilities (c)			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	443,335	220,791	664,126
Investments	9,775	-	9,775
Accounts Receivable	680,974	-	680,974
Prepaid Expenses	8,025	-	8,025
Total Assets	1,142,109	220,791	1,362,900
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	360,407	-	360,407
Accrued Liabilities	91,493	-	91,493
Deferred Revenue	71,882	-	71,882
Total Liabilities	523,782	-	523,782
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted	618,327	-	618,327
Temporarily Restricted	-	220,791	220,791
Total Net Assets	618,327	220,791	839,118



a) The financial summary provided for the Commission was 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 do not necessarily meet GAAP 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 12 for projects in the Bay and watershed.

c) Assets and Liabilities are provided for the foundation only.

BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION GOVERNING BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Micheál O'Leary, Chair of the Governing Board, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (Culver City)
Liz Crosson, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Mike Gin, South Bay Cities (City of Redondo Beach, Mayor)
State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District
Sarah Sikich, Public Member (Environmental/Public Interest), Heal the Bay
Ron Smith, At-Large Member, Director, West Basin MWD

Dennis Washburn At-Large Member (SM Mountains RCD)
Dayna Bochco California Coastal Commission
John McCamman California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Interim Director
Anthony L. Jackson California Dept. of Parks & Recreation, Director
Matt Rodriguez California Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary
Ann Notthoff California State Coastal Conservancy
Bill Rosendahl Councilmember, Los Angeles City Council, District 11
Enrique Zaldivar LA City Department of Public Works
Zev Yaroslavsky LA County Board of Supervisors (Supervisor, 3rd District)
John Kelly LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors
Gail Farber LA County Department of Public Works
Daniel Murphy LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Grace Chan LA County Sanitation Districts
Charlie Caspary Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
John Sibert Malibu Watershed Cities (City of Malibu)
Antonio Villaraigosa Mayor, City of Los Angeles
John Laird Natural Resources Agency, Secretary
Bryant Chesney NOAA-NMFS Southwest Division
Laurie Newman President, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation
Marvin Sachse Public Member (Business/Economic Interest), Brash Industries
Joe Edmiston Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Richard Bloom State Assembly Member, 50th District
Steve Bradford State Assembly Member, 62nd District
AI Muratsuchi State Assembly Member, 66th District
Fran Pavley State Senator, 27th District
Rich Ambrose Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Ephraim Leon-Guerrero US EPA Region IX
Fran Spivy-Weber Secretary for Environmental Protection (SWRCB)

VACANT At-Large Member (to be voted in on Feb 21)



SMBRC's Coastal Cleanup Day. Photo: Matthew Levin.

STAFF

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Grace Lee Boater Education Program Manager
Ivan Medel Field and Research Coordinator
Charles Piechowski Field and Research Technician
Lia Protopapadakis Marine Scientist / Project Manager
Jack Topel Environmental Scientist / Project Manager
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