



## **SMBRC APPROVES OVER \$2.5 MILLION FOR WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS**

Restoration of the Santa Monica Bay watershed received a big boost last week as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's Governing Board approved over \$2.5 million in funding for restoration projects, as well as assessments and planning that will improve local resource management. Projects ranging from a creek restoration, to replanting of native beach bluff vegetation, to retrofitting downspouts at hundreds of homes, to protecting an endangered frog, will now be funded by bond money made available by the SMBRC, in cooperation with the California State Coastal Conservancy.

"We are excited about getting these projects underway," said SMBRC Executive Director Shelley Luce. "Each project addresses key issues identified in our Bay Restoration Plan and represents progress toward a restored Santa Monica Bay watershed. In some cases, such as the downspout disconnection pilot program, we are breaking new ground in our region and leading the way on low impact development for already-built areas such as most of the City of Los Angeles."

Projects funded include the pilot downspout retrofit program to reduce urban runoff, the Stone Canyon Creek restoration, a water budget and historical ecology study in the Ballona Creek watershed, and finalization of the Rindge Dam removal feasibility study.

The projects will be funded through money available from Proposition 12. For more details and descriptions of the projects, go to [santamonicabay.org](http://santamonicabay.org).

## **MEETING UPDATE**

- The Governing Board of the Bay Restoration Commission convened on April 17th at the Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina del Rey.
- Approval of \$2.5 million for Water Quality and Habitat Restoration Projects
- New Members appointed to the SMBRC Board of Directors
- Approval of the 2008-2009 Work Plan



## **SAVE the DATE**

2008 Commission Governing Board meetings will be held on:

- June 19
- August 21
- October 16
- December 18





## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS WELCOMED TO SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION FOUNDATION**

The SMBRC Governing Board appointed seven of its members to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, a non-profit entity, at the SMBRC's April meeting. The seven appointees represent the diverse membership of the SMBRC, including state and local political representatives, as well as private business and environmental groups.

"The Foundation is vital in helping the SMBRC meet the goals of the Bay Restoration Plan," said Executive Director Luce.

"The Foundation is the administrative heart of our National Estuary Program and its Board members take on the responsibility of fiscal management as well as capacity-building and other key aspects of a healthy and growing program."

After their appointment, the seven new members convened a Foundation Board of Directors meeting to appoint two additional members, one from the business/consulting sector, another from academia.

"We are very happy to see the commitment displayed by the new members of our Board," said Luce.

The new members are:

- Sheila Kuehl, California State Senator (represented by Laurie Newman)
- Richard Bloom, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Santa Monica
- Fran Diamond, Chair, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Randal Orton, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
- Marvin Sachse, Brash Industries
- Mark Gold, Heal The Bay
- Tom Ford, Santa Monica Baykeeper
- Bob Hoffman, NOAA/NMFS
- Dr. Richard Plumb, Dean of the School of Science & Engineering, Loyola Marymount University
- Catherine Tyrrell, Malcolm-Pirnie Consulting

## **SMBRC BOARD APPROVES 2008-2009 WORK PLAN & BUDGET**

The SMBRC Governing Board approved an annual work plan and operating budget that will allow it to effectively tackle the challenges presented in its Bay Restoration Plan. The SMBRC is a National Estuary Program of the US EPA and receives its major operational funding through a grant from US EPA as specified in Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.

Each year, a work plan is prepared, detailing the issues the Commission will work on and the goals of each of its work plan tasks. The work plan allows SMBRC and US EPA to track the SMBRC's progress toward achieving its mission of a safer, healthier Santa Monica Bay.

For more information on the work plan, go to

[santamonicabay.org](http://santamonicabay.org).



*santa monica bay  
restoration commission*

*320 west 4th street  
suite 200*

*los angeles, california 90013*

*213 576 6615 phone*

*213 576 6646 fax*

[www.santamonicabay.org](http://www.santamonicabay.org)

