# baywire

News and Updates from the Governing Board of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

*Issue 6,*
*March 2008*

## WE'RE MOVING TO THE WATERSHED!

After several years in the Junipero Serra State Building in downtown Los Angeles, the SMBRC is moving. Loyola Marymount University (LMU) has presented us with a wonderful opportunity to move to their campus, which is in a central part of the Santa Monica Bay watershed. The move makes SMBRC staff more accessible to our Bay Watershed Council and Governing Board members, our grantees, and all our stakeholders. We look forward to maintaining our strong ties to the Regional and State Water Boards, while also partnering with LMU for more research and information sharing on watershed issues. Stay tuned for information on an open house in coming months!

## NEW STUDY OFFERS GREEN SOLUTIONS FOR URBAN RUNOFF PROBLEMS

Just how much land do we really need to treat or infiltrate stormwater runoff in our watershed? This is the question we have all been asking, and we are one big step closer to an answer, thanks to a new study partially funded by the SMBRC. At the SMBRC's February meeting, Esther Feldman of Community Conservancy International (CCI) presented the results of an extensive GIS analysis of publicly-owned land in our watershed that shows we have enough land already in public hands to treat approximately 40% of runoff generated by the ? inch storm. The analysis includes the location, size, slope, and land use of each parcel which allows us to determine its suitability for infiltrating or treating runoff. We hope to launch Phase 2 of the study in April of this year, to refine our analysis of

## MEETING UPDATE

The Governing Board of the Bay Restoration Commission convened on February 21st, at the Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina del Rey.

New office located at LMU

Green solutions for Urban Runoff

SMBRC Annual Report

## SAVE the DATE

2008 Commission Governing Board meetings will be held on:

- April 17
- June 19
- August 21

each parcel so we can prioritize parcels for retrofitting to treat or infiltrate stormwater. The ability to support projects that offer multiple benefits will be a major criterion in the prioritization. We also plan to expand the study in the future to include an analysis of privately-held parcels.

## NEW PROJECT CONCEPTS PROPOSED TO MEET BAY RESTORATION PLAN GOALS

Eight bay restoration project concepts were presented by SMBRC staff to the Governing Board at its February meeting. The eight projects address pollution and restoration issues throughout the Santa Monica Bay watershed.

The project concepts are summarized below. Staff strongly welcome any input you may have on these projects. The Governing Board is scheduled to consider funding the projects, under the Proposition 12 grant program, at its April meeting. Please contact Shelley Luce or Scott Valor with your comments or if you would like more information.

The eight projects are:

- *Historical Ecology Study of Ballona Creek Watershed ($300,000)*: This project would define the unique watershed characteristics that shape the Ballona Creek system and help guide future restoration work.

- *Development of Water Budget for Ballona Creek Watershed ($175,000)*: This project would identify water inputs and outputs for the watershed, including mapping natural springs and identifying natural flows in storm drains and stream channels.

- *Development of Ballona Greenway Planning Documents ($125,000)*: This project would complete the Ballona Greenway Plan that was initiated by the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force.

- October 16
- December 18

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320 west 4th street
suite 200
los angeles, california 90013

213 576 6615 phone
213 576 6646 fax

www.santamonicabay.org

- *Rindge Dam Removal Feasibility Study ($300,000)*: State Parks and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have been studying the various alternatives for removal of Rindge Dam, the furthest downstream fish migration barrier in Malibu Creek. The dam completely blocks the movement of endangered southern steelhead trout, which would otherwise have access to several miles of excellent spawning habitat upstream of the dam. It also causes severe sediment imbalances leading to excess erosion and deposition problems upstream and downstream of the dam. The USACE requires an additional $300,000 to complete its feasibility study of the dam removal.

- *SEA Lab Beach Bluffs Restoration ($200,000)*: The proposed project would build upon a successful SMBRC-funded beach bluff habitat restoration project by restoring an additional three acres of bluff. The project location was identified in the SMBRC-funded Beach Bluffs Restoration Project (BBRP) Master Plan and is one of four top priority restoration sites due in part to its proximity to other native plant habitat supporting the federally endangered El Segundo blue butterfly, and the availability of large areas that are relatively undisturbed by foot traffic.

- *Downspout Disconnect Program (City of Los Angeles) ($1,000,000)*: This project would be designed to significantly reduce the amount of storm water runoff within targeted areas of the city (approximately 600 residential property owners and numerous commercial properties). This will be accomplished by implementing a Downspouts Retrofit program which will provide incentives to residents and business owners to reroute roof runoff from the stormwater collection system to on-site areas via redirecting runoff to existing landscaping, installation of planter boxes and other retention devices.

- *Site Survey and Habitat Assessment for the*

*Recovery of the California Red-Legged Frog ($100,000)*: The California red-legged frog (CRF) has been designated as Federally Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The Angeles District of California State Department of Parks & Recreation (CDPR) is seeking grant funding to complete two critical action items in the recovery plan, including focused CRF surveys and habitat suitability assessments for over 40,000 acres of land within core habitat area in the Santa Monica Mountains. The surveys will delineate sites that currently support the CRF, identify habitats that have high habitat connectivity and increased opportunities for dispersal between frog populations, as well as the potential to support an eventual reintroduction of the species.

- *Stone Canyon Creek Restoration ($100,000)*: The Santa Monica Baykeeper, UCLA's Facilities Department, and the UCLA Institute of the Environment would coordinate the removal of non-native vegetation and the planting and care of native understory plants and trees along a 65 m x 20 m stretch of Stone Creek.

## SMBRC'S ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

SMBRC staff presented the SMBRC Annual Report at the February Governing Board meeting. You can find a copy of the report at our website or click here to be redirected.