



baywire

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

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Governing Board Elects New Chair and Vice-Chairs

Richard Bloom, Councilmember for the City of Santa Monica, was unanimously elected to his second term as Chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission.

"I am grateful for the support of the Governing Board and look forward to leading the Commission in this challenging time," Bloom said. He will serve a two-year term.

Six vice-chairs were also elected from the Governing Board. They are:

- Fran Diamond, Member, Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Tom Ford, Executive Director, Santa Monica Baykeeper
- Mike Gin, Mayor, City of Redondo Beach
- Mark Gold, President, Heal the Bay
- State Senator Fran Pavley
- Mark Pestrella, LA County Flood Control District

The Chair and vice-chairs comprise the Bay Restoration Commission's Executive Committee which works directly with staff to organize issues and plan agenda items on behalf of the Governing Board prior to each meeting. Vice-chairs serve one-year terms.

Bay Restoration Commission Adopts Work Plan Amendments

Plans to pursue new restoration and water quality programs were unanimously approved by the Governing Board's adoption of amendments to the Bay Restoration Commission's Work Plan.

Each year, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission prepares and adopts a work plan detailing the issues it will work on and outlines the program objectives, tasks, funding sources, and resource allocations for the work to be performed. The annual work plan is also used by US EPA to track our expenditures of the federal Section 320 of the Clean Water Act grant that provide major operational funding to the National Estuary Program, including the SMBRC.

The Work Plan for the current federal fiscal year (October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010) was developed and adopted by the Governing Board last June in order to meet the federal grant application deadline. Since that time, staff identified several new issues that needed to be addressed, as well as new opportunities and availability of resources to carry out projects that will further advance the goals and objectives of the Bay Restoration Plan.

New projects include working to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Ballona wetlands, following up on a proposed Marine Life Protected Act network, and development of restoration plans for rocky reef and kelp forest habitats.

MEETING UPDATE

- Governing Board Elections
- Work Plan Amendments
- Marine Debris TMDL
- Draft EIR - Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan
- New Governing Board Member

SAVE the DATE

2010 Governing Board meetings will be held on:

- April 15
- June 17
- August 19
- October 21
- December 16



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New TMDL Being Developed by the Regional Water Board

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is gearing up its effort to enact a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) aimed at significantly reducing the amount of marine debris entering Santa Monica Bay.

Dr. Eric Wu, Chief of the TMDL Unit at the Regional Water Board gave an update on these efforts at the February Governing Board meeting.

Regional Board staff have been reaching out and meeting with stakeholders to develop potential regulatory measures effective in controlling various sources, especially nonpoint sources of trash and debris, such as littering at the beach and from boating activities. The Regional Water Board is also seeking ways to enact new restrictions on the use and disposal of packaging materials in order to control the pollution from plastic “nurdles.”

Dr. Wu noted that a CEQA Scoping meeting for the new TMDL is scheduled for March 23. Regional Board staff encourages more input and involvement from Governing Board members in the development of this TMDL.

Information on the new TMDL can be found at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4/water_issues/programs/tmdl/

Governing Board Welcomes New Member

Attending her first meeting since being elected to the Governing Board last December, Manhattan Beach City Council Member Portia Cohen joins the Governing Board as one of its two “At-Large” members.

“Living in a coastal community, I have observed how critical it is to protect our watersheds. I am honored to have this opportunity to serve the community in this capacity as a new governing board member,” said Cohen.

Sona Kalapura, Manhattan Beach’s Environmental Programs Manager, will serve as Ms. Cohen’s alternate.

Welcome aboard!

Draft EIR on Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan Discussed at Governing Board Meeting

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) have issued a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the agencies’ joint Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan - Public Works Plan. Joe Edmiston, Executive Director of the SMMC and Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board member, discussed the plan at the February Governing Board meeting.

Edmiston noted that the plan was developed with the purpose of maximizing public access and recreational opportunities for parkland and recreation areas in Coastal Zone areas in Malibu and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The plan addresses multiple components, such as: linking parklands via the Coastal Slope Trail and creating connections to the Backbone Trail (“Beach to Backbone”), trail improvements, construction and operation of park facilities (notably camping), public programs, restoration, fire protection and evacuation plans, and facilitating new opportunities and increased accessibility for park visitors with disabilities. Park sites analyzed for cold camping (no fires) include Ramirez Canyon Park, Escondido Park, Latigo Canyon Trailhead, Corral Canyon Park, and Malibu Bluffs.

Lively discussion among Governing Board members ensued, raising such issues as fire safety and the extent of public access. Such discussion will likely continue as the Public Comment period on the Draft EIR runs through March 22. The draft EIR can be viewed at www.smmc.ca.gov, www.mrca.ca.gov, and at several public libraries including Malibu Library and Pacific Palisades Library.

