



baywire

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

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Legislation to Improve Bay Restoration Commission Programs and Funding Passes House of Representatives

A bill to improve the National Estuary Program and potentially bring more funding to the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission cleared the floor of the House of Representatives last week on a bi-partisan vote. The bill, HR 4175 (authored by Reps. Bishop and LoBiondo), would reauthorize the National Estuary Program (NEP), of which the Bay Restoration Commission is a part, and allow the program to ask for up to \$1.2 million annually per participating program.

“This bill would allow the Bay Restoration Commission to potentially increase its operating budget by over 50% annually,” said Executive Director Shelley Luce. “We would be very excited about this opportunity to enhance our programs and services for cleaning up and restoring the Bay.”

The bill next goes to the US Senate to be considered, then to the President’s desk. If you are interested in information on tracking the bill or on how to contact the bill authors’ staff regarding it, please contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org.

Bay Restoration Commission Adopts Resolution Supporting Statewide Policies for Reducing the Sources of Plastic Marine Debris

The Governing Board approved a resolution to support state policies and legislation aimed at reducing and eventually eliminating sources of marine debris. The board approved the measure based upon recommendations it ordered staff to develop at its February 2010 meeting.

Staff research into pending state legislation and an Implementation Strategy by the State’s Ocean Protection Council produced a resolution that allows the Bay Restoration Commission to not only track state and local legislation, but to offer recommendations and support for marine debris prevention measures as they progress through the political or regulatory system.

The resolution was adopted by the Governing Board unanimously.

For more information on the resolution or existing measures aimed at reducing and eliminating plastic marine debris, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org or Guangyu Wang at gwang@waterboards.ca.gov.

MEETING UPDATE

- *Legislation to Improve Bay Restoration Commission Programs and Funding Passes House of Representatives*
- *Bay Restoration Commission Adopts Resolution Supporting Statewide Policies for Reducing the Sources of Plastic Marine Debris*
- *Bay Restoration Commission Approves Funding of Three Water Quality Projects*

SAVE the DATE

2010 Governing Board meetings will be held on:

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



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Bay Restoration Commission Approves Funding of Three Water Quality Projects

Three local projects to improve water quality in the Santa Monica Bay watershed were approved by the Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board at its April meeting. With recent funding available from Proposition 84, projects in Inglewood, Manhattan Beach, and Torrance will now be able to move forward, helping to meet the goals of the Commission's Bay Restoration Plan. The approved projects are:

Ballona Creek Watershed Trash Catch Basin Inserts

– City of Inglewood

This project will reduce trash in the Santa Monica Bay by installing approximately 200 full capture trash excluders on storm drains along Ballona Creek and Centinela Creek, in the city of Inglewood. Trash entering the Santa Monica Bay causes multiple impairments to humans and wildlife both within and outside of the Bay. The project's benefits include preventing trash from reaching local creeks and streams, beaches, and the Bay, removing a potential hazard to human health, and aquatic life, and helping to protect aesthetics of these natural areas. Implementation of the project will help meet the Ballona Creek Trash TMDL which calls for a numeric target of zero trash by 2015.

Stormwater Basin Enhancement Program

– City of Torrance

This project will improve various detention basins that drain to the Herondo Stormwater Drain in the City of Torrance. It will enable the capture, treatment, infiltration/recycling of all dry weather, and most wet weather runoff from approximately 1,400 acres entering the Bay from Torrance, through the Herondo storm drain. The project will help the city comply with the Wet and Dry Weather Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL. Additionally, this project will reduce sediments, trash, nutrients, metals, oil & grease and organics loading to Santa Monica Bay. The infiltration basins will increase groundwater recharge and reduce potable water use through the use of recycled water for irrigation. The project also includes habitat restoration and wetland habitat creation.

Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration

– City of Manhattan Beach

The project will use the linear greenbelt parkland which runs through the City of Manhattan Beach to intercept and infiltrate dry weather and wet weather low flows from existing storm drains that cross or abut the parkway. The project is designed to preserve the existing use of the linear greenbelt as a running path and will support loads associated with municipal maintenance vehicles for parkland maintenance. The Greenbelt Low Flow Infiltration system will effectively divert 100% of the year-round dry-weather and wet-weather low flows from the 55.2 acre catchment area. The city expects dry weather pollutant load reductions of 34% at the outfall. Project benefits will help the city comply with the Santa Monica Bay Beaches Bacteria TMDL. Additional benefits include groundwater recharge, flood protection, water conservation, and improved beach water quality.

For more information on these projects, contact Jack Topel at jtopel@waterboards.ca.gov.

