



baywire

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

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SMBRC Approves Funding for the Acquisition and Restoration of Property at Trancas Creek and Lagoon in Malibu

A portion of Trancas Creek and Lagoon will be restored and provide a connection to other upland open space and beach areas thanks to a grant approved by the Bay Restoration Commission's Governing Board in June. Up to \$1 million was awarded to the National Park Service and local restoration partners to purchase a seven-acre parcel just upstream of Pacific Coast Highway that contains portions of Trancas Creek and Lagoon. The grant will also support the initial phase of native plant restoration.

"This is a very important project that we are pleased to support," said Shelley Luce, the Bay Restoration Commission's Executive Director. "Restoring the remaining wetlands of Santa Monica Bay helps improve water quality, increase habitat and provide recreation and beauty for everyone who lives or visits here. It is one of the most important things the SMBRC can do to restore the Bay."

The project site is familiar to those who travel Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, as it is adjacent to Howe's Trancas Market on the eastern side of the road. Governing Board member John Sibert, who is a Malibu City Council member, noted that the private seller has been cooperative with and helpful to the city and the project proponents.

The grant funds will be drawn from the Bay Restoration Commission's Proposition 84 allocation. For more information, contact the Commission's grant manager, Jack Topel, at jtopel@waterboards.ca.gov.

Proposed Statewide Once-Through Cooling and Trash Reduction Policies Presented to Governing Board

The state's proposed policies for once-through cooling of power plants and for the reduction of trash were presented to the Governing Board by Jonathan Bishop, the State Water Resources Control Board's Chief Deputy Director.

Addressing the once-through cooling policy first, Mr. Bishop noted that the primary goals will be to reduce the flow of intake to the power facilities without reducing the disrupting critical electrical power generation for the state. In 2009, a state Science Advisory Team, a collective of 20 scientists, identified once-through cooling as the primary threat to marine life along the coast due to high intake adult fish and larvae.

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MEETING UPDATE

- *SMBRC Approves Funding for the Acquisition and Restoration of Property at Trancas Creek and Lagoon in Malibu*
- *Proposed Statewide Once-Through Cooling and Trash Reduction Policies Presentation*
- *2011 Work Plan Approved*

SAVE the DATE

2010 Governing Board meetings will be held on:

- *August 19*
- *October 21*
- *December 16*

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Proposed Statewide Once-Through Cooling and Trash Reduction Policies Presented to Governing Board *continued*

Bishop noted that the policy proposes using the “Best Technology Available” to achieve the intake reduction goals. He stated that the State Water Board would work with local stakeholders to reissue NPDES permits that conform to the new policy.

A statewide policy on trash reduction is also being considered, based on existing trash reduction policies and mandates. Mr. Bishop summarized the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Trash TMDL (total maximum daily load) policy as well as the San Francisco region’s municipal stormwater permit policy. Both policies require the reduction of trash by certain percentages beginning in 2014, using best available technologies.

The statewide policy would borrow from these existing programs, resulting in a zero trash policy at the source as well as a zero discharge requirement for pre-production plastic pellets.

After CEQA scoping this summer, Bishop anticipates that the trash policy will be presented to the State Water Board in the summer of 2011.

For more information, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org or Jonathan Bishop at jsbishop@waterboards.ca.gov.

Bay Restoration Commission’s Restoration Work Plan for 2011 Approved

The Governing Board unanimously approved the Commission’s Work Plan for the coming year. The Bay Restoration Commission is a National Estuary Program of the USEPA and receives its major operational funding through a grant from USEPA as specified in Section 320 of the Clean Water Act.

Each year, a work plan is prepared outlining the issues the Commission will work on, the program objectives, tasks, funding sources, and resource allocations for the work to be performed during the federal fiscal year. It is then used by USEPA to track grant expenditures and progress toward achieving the Bay Restoration’s mission to improve water quality, conserve and rehabilitate natural resource, and protect the Bay’s benefits and values.

Highlights of the 2011 Work Plan include continued oversight of Proposition 12, 50, and 84 grants, development and implementation of water quality regulations in the Santa Monica Bay watershed, and participation in a USEPA Climate Ready Estuaries Program.

For more information, contact Guangyu Wang at gwang@waterboards.ca.gov.

