



baywire

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

BAYWIRE **August 2011 Edition**

Bond Money Allocated to Local Environmental Projects—Proposition 84

Three local projects for water clean-up and re-use were approved to receive nearly \$1 million of Proposition 84 bond money by the Bay Restoration Commission Governing Board last week. The projects include the installation of trash basin inserts, stormwater infiltration systems, and the development of a rain garden run-off reuse system.

The City of Los Angeles will receive up to \$510,000 to install rain gardens to capture and infiltrate dry weather and a portion of stormwater runoff from streets in the University Park neighborhood surrounding the University of Southern California. A total of thirty five rain gardens will be constructed and planted with native species.

The City of Calabasas will receive up to \$158,000 to install a minimum of 400 catch basin screens made out of 95% post-consumer recycled plastic in all stormdrains that discharge to Las Virgenes Creek. The screens will help prevent trash and debris from entering the stormdrains which eventually discharge into Las Virgenes Creek and Santa Monica Bay beaches.

The City of Santa Monica will receive up to \$300,000 for an innovative pilot project to infiltrate stormwater and urban runoff within the storm drain system itself. The City will retrofit storm drains at the catch basin and road access (manhole) locations to allow stormwater to pass through the bottom of the basin or pipe, into an infiltration area. This project is innovative because the system captures, filters, and infiltrates the polluted runoff within the storm drain system itself and will not require expensive land acquisition by the City.

The Governing Board recommended funding each of these projects to the State Water Board, which will manage the grants as the projects are developed.

For additional information, contact Jack Topel at jtopel@waterboards.ca.gov.

Dayna Bochco Appointed to SMBRC Governing Board by Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Commission filled its voting-member position on the Bay Restoration Commission's Governing Board by appointing Dayna Bochco, one of the Coastal Commission's newest members.

Commissioner Bochco is President of Steven Bochco Productions and oversees development, distribution, and marketing of new and current television series as well as business affairs and general administration of the company. She is an active member of NRDC and co-chairperson of its LA Leadership Council for the past three years. She serves on the board of Heal the Bay and is also on the City of Los Angeles Proposition O Citizens Oversight Advisory Committee. In May 2011, Commissioner Bochco was appointed to the California Coastal Commission.

Ms. Bochco graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in Drama and English, and earned a JD from Loyola Law School.
Welcome Commissioner Bochco!

Artificial Reef Development in the Santa Monica Bay Discussed

Is there an interest in developing artificial reefs to promote fish habitat in the Santa Monica Bay? A presentation to the Governing Board concerning existing artificial reefs (mostly sunken boats) and the potential for more considered the possibility.

Dave Witting, a Fish Biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), discussed how artificial reefs can serve as important fish habitat in the region. With money from the legal settlement against companies that released large quantities of DDTs and PCBs onto the Palos Verdes Shelf years ago, causing ongoing harm to ocean resources and habitats in Southern California, a group of six federal and state agencies (collectively known as the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program or MSRP) have developed plans to restore ocean resources and habitats affected by DDTs and PCBs.

The area considered for these projects extends from Long Beach into the Santa Monica Bay, including the Palos Verdes Shelf. Among those plans is the consideration of restoration of natural reef habitats and the development of artificial reefs. Witting explained how rocky reef habitat is important to a highly diverse assemblage of fish species, including providing key breeding and nursery habitat, which then leads to economic benefits from commercial fishing and diving. He noted that artificial reefs are relatively easy to create in concept, but challenges include costs and the logistics of actually developing one. However, artificial reefs can be an important method for mitigating for lost habitat, restoring impacted natural reefs, and can create opportunities for recreation.

The restoration of impaired natural reefs is currently being considered as part of the MSRP Phase 2 Restoration Plan. This plan will be released for public comment in October of this year. He noted that polluted sediment from the upstream companies

impacted offshore soft bottom fish habitats off the Palos Verdes Peninsula and restoring rocky reef habitat will help compensate for these impacts.

For more information, contact Tom Ford at tford@santamonicabay.org .

ANEP Conference

This year we will be hosting the annual National Estuary Program conference. The ANEP Program Committee, SMBRF, and EPA are developing a compelling meeting agenda. We will be discussing environmental indicators, Marine Protected Areas, new workplan requirements, audits and grants training, and much more. And of course, the crew at SMBRF have been working hard to organize some excellent extracurricular activities for all!

Conference participants will come from around the country and will take advantage of pre- and post-meeting field trips to beautiful Palos Verdes and Malibu, early morning bird-watching at local wetlands, evening wine and cheese parties and tours of cutting-edge environmental projects throughout our watershed.

The ANEP Conference runs from Sunday, October 16 at 1pm through Thursday, October 20 at 6:30pm

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

Check Out Our New Website!

The SMBRC has a new website: www.smbrc.ca.gov . To streamline access to our Governing Board agendas, schedules, and staff reports, the new website features only information that is most critical to following the month-to-month activities of the SMBRC's bodies.

The SMBRC's partner, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation, will continue to support the existing website at www.santamonicabay.org which will retain links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

If you have any questions or comments, contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org .