



baywire

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

BAYWIRE **June 2012 Edition**

SMBRC Approves Funding for New Green Streets Project

Milton Street, deep in a concrete urban area of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed is about to become much prettier, while improving water quality at the same time. The SMBRC Governing Board voted at its June meeting to recommend funding for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) project to transform a vacant parcel between Milton Street and the Ballona Creek flood control levee into a natural park with native plants, public amenities, educational values, and water quality benefits.

Stormwater runoff from the project site and surrounding neighborhood currently drains directly into the Ballona Creek untreated. To improve water quality, new parkways with vegetated swales will be installed on both sides of the street, with only native shrubs and trees. They will capture, treat, and infiltrate wet and dry weather runoff from the street and from the park. They will remove trash, metals, bacteria, organics, oil, and grease from the stormwater before it flows into Ballona Creek. This will reduce pollution loads to Ballona Creek and improve the habitat potential and water quality in Ballona Creek and Santa Monica Bay.

“We are excited to be part of another Green Street project in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed,” said SMBRC Executive Director Shelley Luce. “This project is part of the Ballona Creek Greenway Plan that we spearheaded, and will help clean up Ballona Creek while giving people greater access to our waterway and beautifying the neighborhood.”

The project is a partnership including the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, and the State Coastal Conservancy. Funding will come from Proposition 84 and construction is planned for 2013.

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

SMBRC Supports Senate Bill 1066 (Lieu)

Senate Bill (SB) 1066, authored by State Senator and Governing Board member Ted Lieu, will authorize the State Coastal Conservancy to fund projects that address climate change issues. Senator Lieu states SB 1066 is needed in the wake of record-high temperatures and changing weather patterns. The SMBRC Governing Board recently voted to support the bill.

“Rising sea levels and extreme storm-driven waves pose direct risks to the state's coastal resources,” Lieu said about the need for Senate Bill 1066. “With the coastal economy contributing \$40 billion annually to the state and with 80 percent of California's 38 million residents living within 30 miles of the coast, we must take steps now to ensure the coastal economy survives. It is imperative we prepare now, and I would like to personally thank SMBRC for helping spread the word.”

SB 1066 passed the Senate and is currently working its way through the legislative process in the State Assembly. If you would like to follow the bill, go to www.leginfo.ca.gov and enter the bill number under “Bill Information.” If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Senator Lieu’s District Director, Jennifer Zivkovic, who represents him on the Governing Board, at Jennifer.Zivkovic@sen.ca.gov or 310-318-6994.

Malibu Lagoon Restoration is Underway!

The restoration of the Malibu Lagoon is in full swing, with state agency staff, biologists, engineers, and volunteers working full time to restore the health of the once-blighted wetlands. Earlier this month, the site was fenced off and native plants were moved offsite to be cared for and re-planted when the project is complete. The western arms of the Lagoon have been blocked off from the main channel and all fish have been carefully removed so that machinery can work in the channels to reconfigure them for better flow. Biologists are present at all times, tracking the heavy machinery and stopping work whenever an animal is present, until the animal can be moved elsewhere on site, out of harm’s way. Native American monitors and a state archaeologist are overseeing the work as well to protect any cultural resources on site.

The incredible efforts of staff and volunteers from the SMBRC, State Parks, the RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains, and others are ensuring the protection of plants and animals on site. Public access to Surfrider Beach is being maintained throughout the project. Keep up to date on progress by checking the project website at www.restoremalibulagoon.com and check out the video taken on site the week of June 20th, here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xW5X54NcPgU&feature=plcp>

We look forward to celebrating a healthy Lagoon in 2013!

Remaining 2012 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

All Governing Board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of even-numbered months (starting with February) at 9:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club in Marina del Rey. Agendas and a map to the facility are available on our website.

The remaining meeting dates for 2012 are:

- August 16
- October 18
- December 20

If you would like information about the meetings, agendas, staff reports, or other related items, we encourage you to first visit our website at www.smbrc.ca.gov . Otherwise, please contact Scott Valor at svalor@santamonicabay.org for further information.

Check Out Our 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, continues to support their existing website at www.santamonicabay.org and includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

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