



# baywire

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

## **BAYWIRE** **August 2012 Edition**

### **The Ballona Wetland Ecological Reserve Restoration Process is Underway**

The Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve (BWER) restoration project NEPA/CEQA process has finally kicked off! On Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> the Department of Fish and Game and the Army Corp of Engineers hosted an open house format public scoping meeting at the BWER Fiji Gateway on Fiji Way in Marina del Rey.

Over 70 interested stakeholders came to chat with agency representatives and share their ideas, concerns, and ask questions about the range of restoration alternatives to be explored in the environmental review. The comments received from the public will be incorporated into the draft Environmental Impact Statement & Report (EIS/R) to be prepared. The draft EIS/R is expected to be ready for public review in early 2013.

### **Los Angeles County Clean Water-Clean Beaches Measure**

The County of Los Angeles is leading the effort to implement a fee on parcels in the County to fund storm water pollution prevention. Phil Doudar, of the County Public Works Watershed Management Division, presented the details of this measure to the Governing Board at the August meeting.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the Department of Public Works recommendation to proceed with a Prop 218 hearing, scheduled for November 27, 2012. If there is no majority protest, the Board can then schedule the measure for election.

Doudar stated that, if passed by the voters, the measure will provide dedicated funds to cities and regional groups to implement water quality projects and programs. The program elements encourage the implementation of multi benefit projects that would provide for improved public health, protect local sources of drinking water from contamination, and clean up storm water in a collaborative approach. The program, which is expected to raise about \$270,000,000 in annual revenue, will have strict guidelines, requires annual audits, and includes an independent Oversight Board.

The measure has support among local municipalities, councils of governments, environmental groups, and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit [www.lacountycleanwater.org](http://www.lacountycleanwater.org) .

### **Malibu Lagoon Update**

The restoration of Malibu Lagoon is on schedule and showing great promise. The contractor has completed the first portion of the main channel and the northerly-most tributary channel. The newly created visitor access route to Surfrider Beach is on top of a temporary dike, providing a direct route to the beach and a great view of the project.

All the invasive and exotic vegetation along the Malibu Colony houses has been removed. The contractor continues to uncover the historic wetland, and beautiful alluvial soils composed of sand, gravel, and cobble that have been buried under 6-10 feet of compacted fill soil for decades. The entire project continues to be on time and on budget as we continue to restore and save the Malibu Lagoon.

For more information, visit the Malibu Lagoon restoration website at <http://www.restoremalibulagoon.com/>

### **LA's Clean Water Story: Celebrating 40 Years of the Clean Water Act**

This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Federal Clean Water Act. Across the country, clean water advocates will celebrate the many successes achieved to improve the nation's rivers, creeks, lakes, and oceans. Here in Los Angeles, the California Water Environment Association, the Council for Watershed Health, and the Los Angeles Waterkeeper (formerly Santa Monica Baykeeper) are combining forces to present a Clean Water Act Celebration, *LA's Clean Water Story*, on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> in the Bradley Room of City Hall.

Los Angeles has certainly had its share of successes! The list of esteemed speakers will share clean water stories exemplifying the successes we have collectively achieved in Los Angeles including the City's unparalleled efforts towards eliminating sewage spills, progressive stormwater control projects, and regulatory accomplishments such as establishment of bacterial standard (TMDLs) for the Santa Monica Bay to protect public health. Speakers include Dr. Mark Gold, Enrique Zaldivar, Mark Pestrella, and Dr. Shelley Luce.

Don't miss this celebratory, collaborative, and visionary event!

When & Where: Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am-1pm, Tom Bradley Room, Los Angeles City Hall

For more information, contact LA Waterkeeper Executive Director Liz Crosson at [liz@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:liz@lawaterkeeper.org) .

### **How Popular are our Beaches? Let's Do the Numbers!**

Improving ocean water quality has been a long-standing goal of the SMBRC and its partners. How important is this water quality to our beaches? Let's take a look at just one weekend's beach-goer statistics to see how popular the beaches are and why a healthy ocean is so important. The following information was presented to the Governing Board by board member Captain Angus Alexander, of the LA County Fire Department's Lifeguard Division. The data are from a recent weekend during an inland heat wave, so the beaches were a favorite destination.

- 2,265,000: Total number of visitors to LA County beaches for that weekend
- 36,000: Actions by lifeguards to prevent an accident or injury from happening
- 16,000: Number of ordinance enforcement actions (alcohol, dogs on the beach, etc.)
- 666: Total number of rescues (lifeguards physically helping someone from harm in the ocean)
- 347: Number of Emergency Vehicle Responses to a prevention, rescue, medical, or ordinance enforcement
- 493: Number of minor medical incidents (treat and release at the beach)
- 80: Number of major medical incidents (calls requiring paramedics)

Remember that these statistics are for only two days at the beach. The area covered ranges from the San Pedro LA Harbor to the Ventura County Line (virtually all of which lies within the Santa Monica Bay watershed). Is it important to protect our beaches and maintain healthy ocean water quality? You bet!

### **SMBRC Adopts Memorandum of Agreement with SMBR Foundation**

The Governing Board adopted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the SMBRC and the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation at its August meeting. The MOA is an effort by these two partners in the Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program to clearly explain how they work together to maintain a healthy Santa Monica Bay Watershed. The Foundation is expected to review and adopt the MOA within the coming weeks.

If you are interested in reviewing the draft MOA, please go to our website and select the appropriate staff report for the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, which can be found here:

[http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about\\_us/agendas/](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/agendas/)

In coming months, SMBRC staff will ask Governing Board and Watershed Advisory Council members to submit questions so that a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) document can be created and placed on both the SMBRC and Foundation websites in order to help interested parties understand the National Estuary Program's structure.

If you have any questions about the MOA or the FAQ, contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org).

### **Remaining 2012 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates**

All Governing Board meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

- 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](http://www.smbrc.ca.gov) . Otherwise, please contact Scott Valor at [svalor@santamonicabay.org](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) for further information.

### **Check Out Our Website!**

Please check out SMBRC's website: [www.smbrc.ca.gov](http://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](http://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](mailto:svalor@santamonicabay.org) .