



baywire

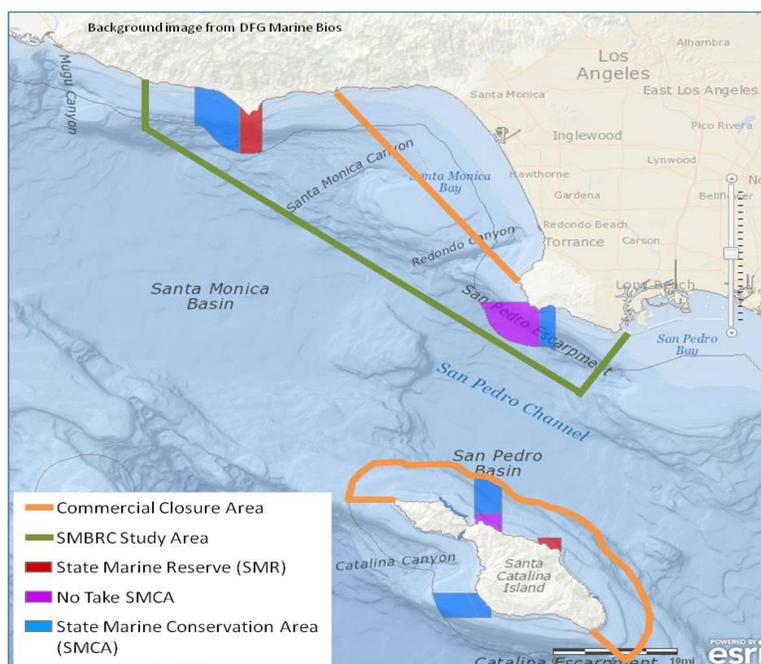
News and Updates from the Governing Board of
the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission

BAYWIRE October 2012 Edition

SMBRC Discusses Commercial Fishing Closure in Santa Monica Bay

Some of Santa Monica Bay is currently closed to most types of commercial fishing, making it a sportfishing haven. Parts of this closure date back to as early as 1931. The reasons lawmakers chose to close the Bay to commercial fishing have been lost to history, but it is likely that post-World War II industrialization of fishing fleets played a role. Recently, commercial lobster fishermen have asked that the Department of Fish and Game consider allowing commercial lobster fishing inside Santa Monica Bay and off the leeward side of Catalina as part of a developing Lobster Fishery Management Plan. (<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/lobsterfmp/>)

As the stewards of Santa Monica Bay, the SMBRC Governing Board discussed a resolution at its October meeting that would support the existing regulations that prohibit most types of commercial fishing inside Santa Monica Bay and off Catalina, including commercial lobster fishing. Some key points were raised, notably the need to study the closure's impacts on local fish populations. Also mentioned were the potential tradeoffs between the benefits of expanding specific commercial fisheries into the Bay and the impacts of that expansion on recreational fishing. The Board asked that staff get input on the resolution from the SMBRC Marine Resources Advisory Committee before bringing it back to the Governing Board in December and suggested a presentation on the status of local fisheries at the December meeting.



Malibu Lagoon Update

The Malibu Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement project is going swimmingly! As of October 22nd all grading and planting activities within the wetlands have been completed. This includes moving nearly 90,000 cubic yards of dirt and installing nearly 30,000 plants around the site. The foundations for two of the five interpretive features, the Winter Ramp/ Summer Clock (a tidal sundial) and the watershed observation platform have been completed. Four large tree snags have been installed in the newly configured Lagoon. These were the London Plane Trees that were removed from the old parking lot area which have been reused to create bird and fish habitat within the Lagoon. The swale that will filter and treat runoff from the Malibu Colony has also been completed.

Approximately 200 tons of trash and debris buried on top of the historic wetlands have been removed. This debris included large amounts of concrete, asphalt, telephone poles, general trash, and more than seven large concrete and clay pipes that ran from the Malibu Colony into the Lagoon. The only untreated discharge that will flow into the Lagoon following the restoration is the City of Malibu's "Malibu road drain".

As of October 19th the treatment plant has been turned off and all discharges to the ocean have ceased. Over the course of the project nearly 100 million gallons were treated and discharged to the ocean. Over the 90 days that water was treated and discharged to the ocean not a single exceedance of water quality standards was recorded. Water quality testing was conducted five days a week. The Beach Report Card scores at the Colony Fence (the location of our discharge point) ranged from A+'s to B's throughout the time when the treatment system was discharging to the ocean. More significantly Surf Rider Beach at the beach location reported only one B with A's and A+'s throughout the period of ocean discharge, a significant improvement over last year's water quality.

Feedback so far has been positive. Most residents and visitors who have spoken with project representatives say that they love the project, including many of the Colony residents. The project is on time and under budget. For more information, visit the Malibu Lagoon restoration website at <http://www.restoremalibulagoon.com/>

Beach Replenishment by the Numbers

(editors note: Governing Board member John Kelly (Deputy Director, LA County Dept. of Beaches & Harbors) reported on a recently completed beach replenishment in Redondo Beach from a Marina del Rey dredging project. We invited him to share the details on "Baywire" and this is his report:)

In October 2009, the County of Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors and the USACE (Corps) joined forces to develop the comprehensive Marina del Rey Maintenance Dredging project (Project). The Project would address navigational issues and take advantage of the Port of Long Beach (POLB) Middle Harbor Fill site opportunity to deposit the Marina's contaminated sediment, allowing for beneficial reuse of clean material to nourish local beaches.

Because the channel had not been dredged to design-depth (-20ft) for over 12 years, a considerable amount of sediment had built up, adversely affecting the ability of ships and boats to safely use it. This jeopardizes the safety of nearly 5,000 recreational small craft which use the channel and adversely affected the ability of Coast Guard, County Fire, and Sheriff's craft, which are based in Marina del Rey, to perform law enforcement, search and rescue, and emergency response operations.

All sediment proposed to be reused had to be sampled, reviewed, and approved for beach placement by several regulatory agencies: the U.S. E.P.A., the Corps, the California Coastal Commission (CCC), the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and members of the regional Contaminated Sediments Task Force (California Department of Fish and Game, and Heal the Bay). Once confirmed to be suitable for beach and ocean placement, 150,000 cubic yards (CY) of clean sand was placed nearshore at Dockweiler Beach; sand that will eventually, through natural processes, make it onshore expanding the width of that popular beach. The beneficial reuse component of this project also involved the onshore placement of 75,000 CY of clean sand between the Ruby and Topaz Groins at Redondo Beach, dramatically increasing the width of the driest part of the beach by 60 to 100 feet.

The biggest obstacle to dredging Marina del Rey historically has been the high cost of disposing its contaminated sediment, which is unsuitable for nearby onshore or open ocean disposal. Through extensive coordination between the POLB, the Corps and the County, about 476,000 CY of contaminated material was dredged from the Marina del Rey entrance channel and taken to the POLB Middle Harbor Project. The material, transported by barge, provided a foundation that will allow the POLB to transform two aging shipping terminals into one modern terminal, upgrade wharfs, water access and storage areas, expand an on-dock rail, cut air pollution, improve cargo-movement efficiency and environmental performance, and add about 14,000 jobs in Southern California.

The alternative of disposing such dredged material in a landfill is prohibitively high, up to \$85 million. With the POLB's acceptance of the County's request to deposit 571,000 cubic yards (CY) of contaminated material at the POLB's Middle Harbor site, the project cost was reduced to \$13 million. The ability to barge the contaminated material to Long Beach eliminated over 47,000 truck trips from local highways and streets, drastically reducing the Project's carbon footprint. This Project was successfully completed in October 2012.



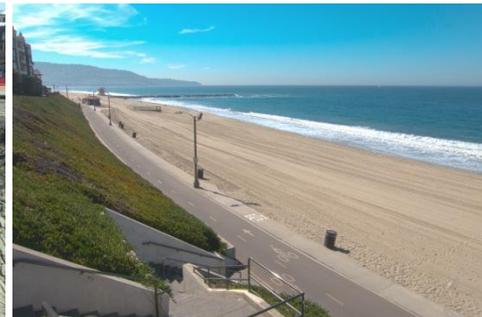
MDR Overview



Before



During



After

Heal the Bay Partners with NOAA to Monitor and Assess Debris on Local Beaches

The Tohoku earthquake and tsunami shocked the world in March 2011, and with it our hearts went out to the people of Japan. Even though more than a year has passed, there are still reminders of the devastation, including the occasional sighting of related debris washing up along West Coast shores. As part of an effort to track that debris, SMBRC Governing Board member Heal the Bay has partnered with the NOAA Marine Debris Program to conduct marine and tsunami debris monitoring at two Santa Monica Bay Beaches – Carbon Beach in Malibu and Malaga Cove in Palos Verdes.

The monitoring program began in June 2012, and occurs monthly. So far, findings have been consistent with the debris typically found on Los Angeles beaches – primarily coming from litter and urban runoff. This research will also help track trends in marine debris accumulation on our local beaches. Some of the top items found so far include plastic film, foam pieces, bottle caps, and straws. There have been no confirmed sightings of tsunami-related debris in California. However, there have been a few confirmed sightings of tsunami-related debris in Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, and Oregon, including two large docks.

The monitoring program will continue over the next two years. If you find anything on the beach that you think might be related to the tsunami, please report it to NOAA at DisasterDebris@noaa.gov, contact Heal the Bay, and contact the local authorities if you think it may be hazardous or harmful.

More information about tracking and reporting tsunami debris is available on the NOAA Marine Debris website: <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/tsunamidebris/>. If you would like to see Heal the Bay's tsunami debris presentation to the Governing Board as well as Los Angeles County's tsunami action report after the Japan disaster, they are now available on the SMBRC website at http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/news_events/ under "Special Topics".

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 date for 2012 is **December 20th**. The meeting calendar for 2013 will be adopted at the December 20 meeting and posted on our website. 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!

Please check out SMBRC's 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.