



baywire

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

BAYWIRE February - March 2015 Edition

The Bay Foundation & LADWP Produce Witty, Educational PSAs

As part of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) Community Partnership Grant, The Bay Foundation has produced two highly professional video Public Service Announcements (PSAs), with a third coming in April. With a focus on energy efficiency and water conservation strategies, these humor-based PSAs have been distributed to media, as well as to many of our stakeholders. They are also being offered to movie theaters, film festivals, local TV stations and online to garner as much exposure for their important messages.



We encourage you to view and SHARE them through any means you have.

PSA for Energy Efficiency

<http://youtu.be/VyVgp2KZYX0>

PSA for Water Savings / Rainwater Harvesting & Outdoor Water Use

<http://youtu.be/IC3yX253Y2k>

Participate! The Bay Foundation & LADWP Energy & Conservation 2-min. Survey

As part of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) Community Partnership Grant, and in concert with our mission, we are committed to promoting energy efficiency and water conservation strategies through various outreach efforts. To help us understand what the community is already doing and determine some of the barriers to conservation, we created a brief, 10-question survey and would love your participation if you are in the LADWP area. The survey asks for one's views on energy and water savings to help assess awareness and bring about positive behavior change. Please take two minutes to fill it out electronically, [HERE](#).

Annual Report 2014: Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program



The Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) 2014 Annual Report is now available on both the [SMBRC](#) and [The Bay Foundation](#) websites. This year's report is the first with a letter from new Executive Director Tom Ford, and includes an outline of our positive five-year review from the US EPA. There is a summary of accomplishments and ongoing projects, and highlighted project reports on the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies, wetlands scientific monitoring, the kelp restoration project, new websites, Southern California Boater's Guide app, research supporting California Halibut & other collaborations. Please be sure to check out the Report at either of the links above.

Watershed Advisory Council Meeting

The Watershed Advisory Council met on Tuesday, March 10th at the Westchester Community Room at Councilmember Mike Bonin's Field Office. The meeting included an overview of the SMBRC's [Annual Work Plan](#), a public comment period (non-WAC specific), and a facilitated rotating breakout session for group discussions and input on the work plan priorities. Each of the 15 attendees had time to share their input during the five breakout session themes:

- *Water Resources & Quality Improvement*
- *Wetland and Other Coastal Habitat Restoration*
- *Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration*
- *Education and Outreach*
- *Planning, Monitoring, and Program Management*

Input was recorded by designated staff, and will be compiled for a presentation at the June Governing Board meeting.

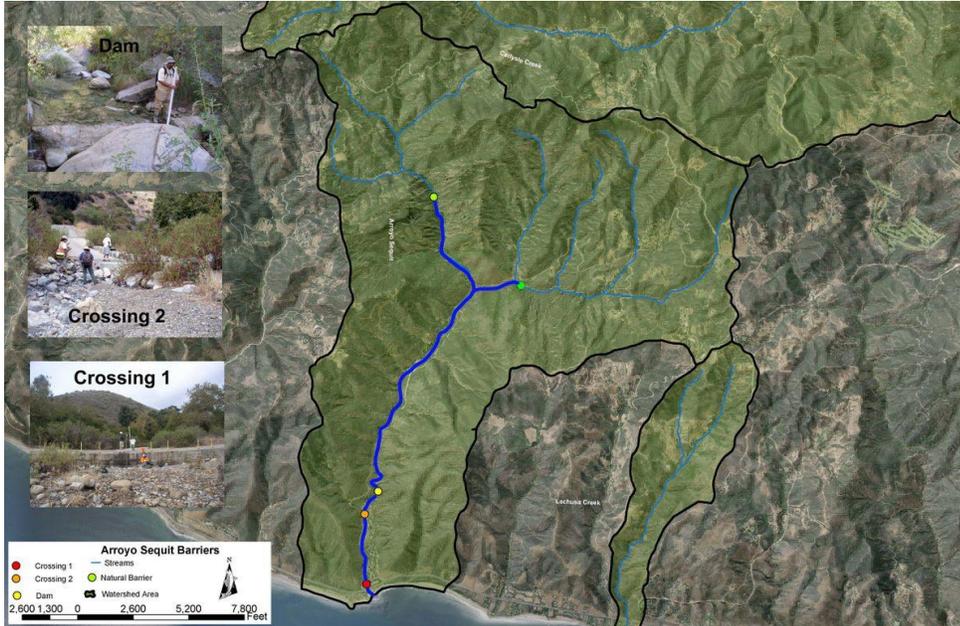
New this year, an online feedback opportunity is offered that opened on March 2nd and will close on March 20th at 5pm. This input will be compiled with the in-person meeting notes, all of which will continue to help the SMBRC and its Santa Monica Bay National Estuary Program (SMBNEP) partners achieve their mission through implementation of the Bay Restoration Plan.

Anyone wishing to provide input online until March 20th at 5pm can do so here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RFDZ966>

SMBRC Governing Board Recommends \$500,000 to Save Endangered Trout

With support from the SMBRC, State Water Board, Los Angeles County, Wildlife Conservation Board, and the National Park Service, State Parks will remove three barriers to migration for southern steelhead trout on Arroyo Sequit Creek. At its February meeting, the SMBRC Governing



Board recommended that the State Water Board make up to \$500,000 available to State Parks to ensure that the project moves forward this coming summer. Arroyo Sequit is one of only three creeks in the Santa Monica Mountains that support the endangered southern steelhead. The completed project will help to fulfill

the Bay Restoration Plan's objective to 'remove fish barriers and open 20 miles of stream habitat to migrating steelhead trout'. This project represents 22.5% of the SMBRC's overall goal. Aside from benefits to the trout, the new stream crossings will provide improved water quality, enhanced aesthetics, and improved public safety.

New Study: Condition of Wetlands Habitats in the Reserve

The Bay Foundation recently released a study comparatively assessing wetland habitats across the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve using the California Rapid Assessment Method: ["Condition Assessment of the Wetland Habitats in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve, Los Angeles, CA."](#) The surveys are part of a broader, regional, site-intensive assessment to determine the health and functioning of estuarine wetlands throughout the Southern California Bight, including degraded systems like Ballona. Summary findings show that Area A had the lowest final scores, followed by the seasonal wetland habitats of Area B. The highest scores occurred in the tidally-influenced portion of Area B. However, all Reserve wetland habitats had lower condition scores than statewide or regional reference locations.



Updated Website: Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve

The lead agency for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve restoration process, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and its partners have recently updated the project website: www.ballonarestoration.org. Updates include revised alternatives and a new Draft EIR schedule.

Urban Coast

[Urban Coast](#) is currently soliciting manuscript submissions. Submissions are accepted for all four sections of the journal including:

<i>Research & Policy</i>	Feature articles on scientific or policy studies	4,000-6,000 words
<i>Perspectives</i>	Essays and editorials that review current conditions or policies	1,000-3,000 words
<i>Case Studies</i>	Reviews of detailed project reports with implications for the urban coastal environment	1,000-3,000 words
<i>Notes & Abstracts</i>	Short descriptions of research, policy, and events relevant to our urban coastal environment	250-500 words

The *Urban Coast* multidisciplinary scientific journal is a product of the Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies, a partnership of Loyola Marymount University's Seaver College of Science and Engineering and The Bay Foundation. *Urban Coast* fulfills the Center's mission to engage in multidisciplinary research on environmental and social issues affecting urban coastal areas around the world and to contribute to policies and actions that improve the environmental condition of these areas worldwide. On a local scale, *Urban Coast* also reports on issues affecting Santa Monica Bay and its watershed.

[Click here](#) for detailed submission guidelines. We encourage you to contact us by e-mail to discuss your ideas before submitting. All inquiries should be sent to Dr. Guangyu Wang at gwang@waterboards.ca.gov.

In The News

The media continue to highlight some our programs and staff, including:

UCLA Daily Bruin [produced a video](#) about TBF's Stone Canyon Creek work with volunteers as part of their "UCLA Unseen" series.

USC Sea Grant [published a piece](#) on Santa Monica Bay's halibut fishery and TBF's collaboration with anglers and others to garner data and create a citizen science database.

Dr. Guangyu Wang recently was interviewed on KSCI's "Midday Buzz", a major daily talk show for the Chinese community in the Los Angeles region. Click [HERE](#) for the first of his three segments (Note: in Mandarin).



As part of our active support of the USC Sea Grant Urban Tides Photo/Video Contest, TBF was mentioned in the [Santa Monica Daily News](#).

The energy-efficiency PSA produced by TBF with LADWP (noted above) received strong exposure through e-Newsletters CalCoast WAVE (2x), [OCA NewsSplash](#) (Feb. 2015), Sustainable Santa Monica, and Jen's List, as well as through [CityWatchLA](#). It was also actively posted on multiple social media, websites and/or e-Newsletters of fellow non-profits, Councilmembers Felipe Fuentes, Mitch Englander and Tom LaBonge, and that of Senator Fran Pavley. (If we missed anyone, please let us know!) We thank them all.

The water-efficiency PSA is beginning to receive such posts, including through the US Green Building Chapter-Los Angeles e-Newsletter, City of LA's Channel 35, and numerous non-profits.

Social Media IS Important and Fun!

If you're a social media maven or even a dabbler, we ask that you engage, share and use our Social Media avenues.

Facebook: ["Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation"](#)

Twitter: [@SMBRF](#)

Instagram: Follow us at [@TheBayFoundation](#)

YouTube: ["Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation"](#)

*Please go that extra step and invite colleagues, friends and family to also Like or Follow.

Watch our FB for “Restaurant Thursdays”, and our Twitter for twice-weekly tips on water and energy conservation!

And did you know you can find a Clean Bay Restaurant certified by SMBRC on our site? Check out your local DINING option at <http://www.santamonicabay.org/CleanRestaurants/cleanrestaurants.html>

2015 SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Dates

The SMBRC Governing Board meets on the 3rd Thursday of the even-numbered months from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Del Rey Yacht Club.

The remaining 2015 meeting dates are:

- April 16
- June 18
- August 20
- October 15
- December 17

The Del Rey Yacht Club is located at 13900 Palawan Way, Marina del Rey CA 90292.

For additional information regarding any meeting, please contact Scott Valor at 310-922-2376 or by e-mail at svalor@santamonicabay.org . You may also visit our website at www.smbrc.ca.gov .

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 Bay Foundation, has a new and improved website! Check it out at www.santamonicabay.org . It includes links to Foundation activities, reports, and other information.

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